

**Tentative Budget Meeting
October 27, 2014**

Supervisor Votra called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Supervisor Votra opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Supervisor Votra, Councilwoman Robinson, Councilwoman Tremper (6:08 PM), Councilman Cook, Highway Superintendent Remington, Town Clerk Maguire

Others Present: Cassie Hayes, Denice L. Votra, Yvonne Cook, Larry Page, Robert White, Dan Maguire, Jerry Hayes, Melvin Sweeney, Gloria Sweeney, David Richardson, Edwin Cool, Rick Perkins, David Nelson

Supervisor Votra indicated there was a \$3,700.00 decrease to budget item 1220.1A and an increase of \$4,067.00 to 1340.1A. Supervisor asked the Town Board if there were any changes they would like to make. No suggestions were offered.

Supervisor Votra asked for public comments.

Cassie Hayes questioned different items within the budget and the proposed tax increase of 1.35%. Mrs. Hayes also questioned the fact the Fire District budget was not included in the Town budget as in previous years. This was explained that the NYS Comptroller recommended this not be included in the Town Budget presented since this is a separate budget prepared and approved within the Fire District and not the Town. Mrs. Hayes also indicated she would like to see the water bill be included in the resident's tax bill instead of the quarterly bills being generated now.

Robert White stated he was a very pleased taxpayer and believed the current board has worked well together and believed the budget was a good one and the raises given were warranted. He believes the Board is a very conservative board and is pleased there are more checks and balances in place.

Mrs. Hayes stated she is not a pleased taxpayer because of the raises proposed for Town employees, the 4 week recreation program. She is also unhappy with the board meetings being held during the day.

Councilwoman Tremper spoke about being on the board for a number of years and feels that this Town Board works well together and this budget meets her approval. She feels the Town officials and employees deserve a raise since none have been given in recent years and the added work load within the offices warrant one as well. The 4 week recreation program has been revisited numerous times and a survey that was sent out did not indicate residents were unhappy with the 2 week cut. Councilwoman Tremper feels the Town Board has more control over the budget than in the past and the raise for the Highway Superintendent is well deserved for all the work done and money saved for the Town. Councilwoman Tremper stated she would be the first

one to vote something down if she did not agree with it. Councilwoman Tremper also addressed the daytime meetings stating the Board would be willing to change the time of the meetings if people would ask to have it changed. As of right now, the attendance is better during daytime hours but could be alternated with evening to make it accessible for everyone. The Town Board will discuss this and try to come up with a plan going forward that will work for everyone. Councilwoman Tremper stated she is very pleased with the increased money made available through donations and grants to help with improvements for the park and recreation departments. Going forward, the budget should be able to maintain and improve the facilities without the need of outside donations.

Councilman Cook stated he approves the budget as it stands and is happy with the way the Board is working together. He is very pleased the old highway garage has finally been removed and the Town Hall roof was painted.

Melvin Sweeney spoke in favor of the budget and the raises proposed.

Supervisor Votra indicated the 2015 budget reflects an increase in money for sidewalk repair which has been neglected and increases in the recreation equipment and improvements at the park. Supervisor Votra indicated that he was pleased this is the first time in a long time the entire board has been involved in the budget process.

David Richardson spoke in favor of the budget and was pleased to see an increase in money proposed for recreation and park.

Fire Chief Ed Cool spoke in favor of the proposed budget and indicated how pleased he and the Fire Department have been with the cooperation with the current Town Board and his Board of Commissioners. He reported a grant has been applied for to build a new Fire/Rescue Station that is much needed. Fire Chief Cool also reported on the mandatory training that was required for the Ebola virus.

Larry Page stated he appreciates everyone's cooperation in keeping the costs down at the transfer station by breaking down all the cardboard and crushing the recyclables. He also is grateful to the Town Board for helping to enforce the taxpayer use only regulation and is happy with the current board and the direction the town is headed.

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:51 PM by Councilwoman Robinson and seconded by Councilman Cook.

All in favor.