

**TOWN OF WESTFORD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2015**

At 7:00 p.m., Supervisor Davis called to order a Public Hearing on the Town of Westford 2016 Preliminary Budget.

Town Board members present: Supervisor Brad Davis; Councilpeople Ralph Ritton, Delphine Kerzick, Phillip Strong, Robert Huntington.

Absent: None.

Supervisor Davis read the notice of Public Hearing as printed in the legal column of The Oneonta Daily Star. Copies of the 2016 Preliminary Budget of \$391,438.00 were made available.

The Town Board worked on the 2016 Preliminary Budget. Supervisor Davis read each line item aloud. The following amendments were proposed for 2016:

Highway Fund Appropriation & Provisions:

DA5112.2 – Improvements (CHIPS) \$115,861.00 to \$116,117.00
DA5142.4 – Snow Removal (contractual) \$43,000.00 to \$50,000.00
DA9010.8 – State Retirement \$13,500.00 to \$13,900.00
DA9060.8 - Hospital & Medical Insurance \$22,500.00 to \$24,750.00
DA9901.9 - Capital Reserve \$15,000.00 to \$10,000.00
DA9720.6B – Debt Principal \$9,000.00 to \$9,005.00
DA9720.7B - Debt Interest \$1,500.00 to \$1,200.00

Highway Fund Estimated Revenue:

DA3501 – CHIPS Capital Improvement \$115,861.00 to \$116,117.00

General Fund Appropriations & Provisions:

A1620.4 - Buildings (contractual) \$11,000.00 to \$10,000.00
A1910.4 - Unallocated Insurance \$11,555.00 to \$12,017.00
A5132.4 – Garage \$30,000.00 to \$25,000.00
A8160.4 – Refuse & Garbage (contractual) \$30,000.00 to \$28,000.00
A8810.1 Cemeteries (personal) \$500.00 to \$800.00
A9010.8 – State Retirement \$4,500.00 to \$4,635.00
A9060.8 - Hospital & Medical Insurance \$7,500.00 to \$8,250.00
A1110.1 – Justice (personal) \$2,995.00 to \$3,495.00
A1220.4 – Supervisor (contractual) \$900.00 to \$600.00
A1310.4 - Director-Finance (contractual) \$600.00 to \$700.00
A1330.1 - Tax Collector (personal) \$7,000.00 to \$7,500.00
A5010.1 - Superintendent of Highways (personal) \$32,000.00 to \$33,000.00
A5010.4 – Superintendent of Highways (contractual) \$700.00 to \$800.00
A8160.1 – Refuse & Garbage (personal) \$12,500.00 to \$13,000.00

General Fund Estimated Revenues:

A2544 – Dog Licenses \$700.00 to \$500.00
A2610 – Fines & Bail \$2,000.00 to \$1,500.00

Special District Appropriations & Provisions:

Fire District Budget submitted \$39,887.00 to \$40,167.00

Total amendments resulted in a proposed amount to be raised for taxes of \$394,524.00 reflecting an increase of .35% over the 2015 Town Budget. The floor remained open for discussion. There were no comments.

A roll call vote was taken to adopt the 2016 budget as proposed. Ayes: Councilman Ralph Ritton, Councilwoman Delphine Kerzick, Councilman Phillip Strong, Councilman Robert Huntington, Supervisor Brad Davis. Noes: none. 2016 Budget was adopted.

Supervisor Davis declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:27 p.m.

The Town Board reviewed and signed the following bills for payment at 7:29 p.m.:

Highway Fund #88 - #100 = \$45,058.19, as set forth in Abstract 11H.

General Fund #155 - #174 = \$ 9,324.73, as set forth in abstract 11G.

Supervisor Davis called the regular meeting of the Westford Town Board to order at 7:50 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.

Town Board members present: Supervisor Brad Davis; Councilpeople Ralph Ritton, Delphine Kerzick, Phillip Strong, Robert Huntington.

Absent: None.

Other Town Officials present: Assessor Douglas Gohde, Deputy Pam Dyn; Planning Board member/ newly elected Supervisor Bryan Larrabee; Town Clerk Louisa Platt.

Guests: Sign in sheet on file at Town Clerk Office.

Minutes of the October 2, 2015 Town Board Meeting were read. Motion by Councilman Ritton to accept as read. Seconded by Councilman Huntington. All in favor. Carried.

To renew Health Insurance under CDPHP, the premium will increase 18.31%. MVP offered a plan with a 6.39% premium increase and similar coverage. Councilman Huntington moved to accept the MVP Health Plan for employees for 2016. Seconded by Councilman Ritton. All in favor. Carried. Supervisor Davis will meet with the Insurance Agent and Town employees to review the new plan.

Councilman Huntington moved to raise Highway Superintendent Martin Peeters' salary to \$33,000.00. Seconded by Councilman Ritton. All in favor. Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Supervisor Davis advised due to personal reasons, Becky Sears officially resigned as Dog Control Officer. Following discussion, motion by Councilman Huntington to appoint Mildred Marullo as Dog Control Officer assisted by Joseph Marullo. Seconded by Councilman ~~Huntington~~. **Strong**. All in favor. Carried.

2. Joan Martindale advised Town Clerk that she is willing to continue serving as a member of the Town Zoning Board of Appeals.
3. 930 yards of sand has been delivered to the Town Highway Department, however concern was expressed that it includes blow sand. Bid specifications state “No Blow Sand to be included” .

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NYS Department of Transportation will allow the town to roll over \$13,013.44 CHIPS Extreme Winter Recovery funds and be able to apply for \$129,130.83 CHIPS next year.
2. Town Board proposed Ryan Salisbury’s Eagle Scout project for Gopher Field to be done next year rather than at the present time, due to lack of sufficient funding and the winter season approaching.
3. Motion by Councilman Huntington for Town Clerk to publicize the Town Seasonal Road closures as listed by the Town Highway Superintendent. Seconded by Councilman Ritton. All in favor. Carried.
4. Concern was expressed as to the location of the breaker for heat in the hallway. Supervisor Davis will contact Jim Fiel for this information.
5. Councilman Strong offered appreciation to Councilman Ritton and the Fire Department on a successful Junior Firefighter’s program, noting that the children who attended appeared to know more about Fire Safety than other children.
6. There is \$580.00 left in the Assessor’s contractual budget of which approximately \$200.00 will be used for envelopes & postage. Assessor Gohde advised an updated computer will be needed for Assessor business. Following discussion, approval was given to Assessor Gohde to purchase a computer.
7. Assessor Gohde requested when the time comes for 2016 appointments, to consider appointing Pam Dyn as the Assessor and appointing him to serve as Deputy Assessor.
8. From the floor, a question was asked why the Highway Department placed huge stones in a ditch on Gately Road. Upon learning the answer to be for safety and drainage, Mr. Natilus noted that they can do the same by his property, if necessary.
9. For information purposes, Bryan Larrabee advised the county recycling contract will be up and that the County Solid Waste Management Committee would like to have the towns be responsible for recycling which would defer costs from the county to the towns. He also explained that the Solid Waste User Fee was reserved to pay the difference in gap but is now used for Solid Waste expenses.

Since there was no further business to come before this meeting, motion by Councilwoman Kerzick to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Huntington. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Louisa M. Platt,
Town Clerk

***Amended at 12/4/15 Town Board Meeting:
Unfinished Business #1 “Seconded by Councilman Huntington.”
corrected to read: “Seconded by Councilman Strong.”***