



## **Town Board Budget Workshop Meeting October 17, 2017**

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The Town Board of the Town of Chester convened at the Town of Chester Municipal Center, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, New York at 4:30 pm.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Craig Leggett, Mike Packer, Edna Wells and Steve Durkish. Karen DuRose absent.

### **Budget Workshop Meeting:**

Supervisor Leggett opened the Budget Workshop Town Board Meeting at 4:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Leggett started by explaining the proposed highway budget for 2018. The big increases are benefits which we cannot do a lot with. Mr. Leggett stated we were lucky to have Jason Monroe as the Highway superintendent. Mr. Leggett asked Mr. Monroe if there were any changes that he would recommend. Jason recommended buying the pickup this year if there was money. Mrs. Wells stressed the need to keep the equipment updated. Jason agreed to cut \$60,000 from Permanent Improvements which would mean taking less money from the fund balance. Jason asked how this change would affect 2019, because the new trucks are not as reliable as the old ones with the new trucks being computerized they have to be sent out for service which can be costly. Jason stated we were good on general repairs and roads and stated the cost for CHIP Seal was \$15,000 per mile. Jason stated that it is recommended that a town should repair about 12% of your roads a year.

Supervisor Leggett introduced Jeff Finch from the North Warren Emergency Squad (NWEMS). Jeff stated the NWEMS is requesting an increase of \$41,717 in addition to the \$75,000 appropriated in 2017. The increase is due to the paid staff. Mrs. Wells asked about volunteers. Supervisor Leggett stated the contract with the Town was for BLS (Basic Life Support). David Gross stated the EMT class was expensive and time consuming. Jeff stated they are researching forming an EMS District. Jeff stated the budget was at bear minimum and he hopes nothing breaks down. Jeff went over all expenditures and a lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Packer asked to see and expenses and payroll for 2017. Mr. Leggett stated that the Town values their services. Supervisor Leggett thanked Jeff Finch and David Gross for coming.

Supervisor Leggett stated the has not gone over the tax cap before. The proposed budget is \$22 under the tax cap by using \$100,000 from the fund balance.

Supervisor Leggett talked about the Transfer Station. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Supervisor Leggett asked what direction the Board wanted him to take. Mr. Packer said he would like to stay under the tax cap. Mrs. Wells agreed as long as was were fulfilling our duties.

On a motion by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Town Clerk