

A special meeting of the Town of Chester Town Board was held on **October 3, 2013** at the Town Municipal Center, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, NY. The purpose of the meeting was to review the preliminary budget for 2014.

ROLL CALL: Mike Packer, Frederick H. Monroe, Karen DuRose and Edna Wells. Absent was Steve Durkish.

Review preliminary budget.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Monroe. Mr. Monroe explained that the effort put forth in computing the budget hinges on the 2% tax cap, or, the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower. This year it is at 1.66%, not just on the Town tax, but also on the Special Districts, such as the two Water Districts, the Fire Protection District, Loon and Schroon Lake Park Districts, etc. The total has to come in below 1.66%, otherwise we would have to have a hearing and pass a Local Law to exceed it. The Supervisor then calculates the rate, then has to divide the amount to be raised by taxes by the Assessed Value. The State tells us that we are currently over-assessed, so Mr. Maniacek has lowered all the assessments by 3%. To raise the same amount of money that we had last year, we have to increase the tax rate by 3%. Assessments went down by 14 Million, from 746 Million to 732 Million. This proposed budget stays within the tax cap, but because we are at a 1.07 equalization rate, our full value went down, which means we pay a smaller share of the County tax. The average taxpayer's tax bill should go down, despite the fact that the Town Tax may go up, because the County Tax will go down. In 2001, we were at \$2.91 per thousand, and this year we will be at \$1.41 per thousand. Unfortunately, our share of the Sales Tax Revenue will also go down.

Mr. Monroe reviewed the budget notes, beginning with the General Fund, for which the Real Property Taxes would be \$0.29 per thousand. (On a \$100,000 house, property owner would pay \$29 toward General Fund). We expect Revenue of \$35,000 from Occupancy Tax, \$25,000 from Warrensburg Cooperative Assessing Agreement, Horicon Aid for Health Center in the amount of \$5,000, Horicon reimbursement toward a Meal site worker in the amount of \$2,500, and Horicon contribution to the Youth Budget at \$6,340. Program for the Aging, \$3,771, Interest, a mere \$1,500, Fines, Forfeitures & Bail \$118,000, Per Capita Aid \$18,055, and Mortgage Tax, \$80,000. (In 2006 it was \$147,476). Mr. Monroe will approach Town of Horicon regarding increase of their contribution for the Health Center, as we propose reconstruction of the sidewalks there which will run about 10,000. Any Star Program Aid for the Town is now non-existent.

Mr. Monroe went through General Fund Expenses, which included putting some money aside for the Town hall roof, energy saving equipment (biomass boiler project) & masonry work in the amount of \$40,000. It

also includes about a \$10,000 reduction on anticipated repairs to the highway garage building, as Jason stated that only one garage door needs to be replaced, and the second one can be repaired from material out of the door that will be removed. Discussion on the loss of revenue from the Landfill as opposed to the expenses, which are much greater. The advantages of the re-use center was discussed, and the fact that due to private haulers, most of the towns in Warren County are experiencing loss of revenue, as well. John West was looking to build a picnic pavilion at the beach, which money will come from Occ. Tax.

Highway Revenues would affect Property taxes at \$1.12 per thousand tax rate. CHIPS money (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) reimbursement is always anticipated for road construction, and revenues from the snow and ice contract. Highway will be buying a new Dump truck, plow and sander this year. They do have a truck to trade in.

The water District revenues come from Real Property Tax, Chestertown in the amount of \$15,532, and Pottersville at \$32,171. The balance of revenue is received from both metered and un-metered sales in both districts. Jason is looking to buy a "tow-behind" compressor, which, in the past, they have borrowed from the Town of Horicon, and the cost of \$7,000 will be split between both water districts and the Highway.

Loon Lake and Schroon Lake Revenue comes from Real Property Taxes, and, for Schroon Lake, a Dept. of State Schroon Lake Grant in the amount of \$15,000.

For Loon Lake, the anticipated work on solutions to the milfoil problem will be increased from \$45,000 to \$53,000. The extra \$8,000 will come from the reduction in the cost of replacing the highway garage doors.

The North Creek and Riverside Fire protection districts will remain as in previous years, being:

North Creek Fire Protection District at \$30,000;
Riverside Fire Protection District:
 Riverside contract at \$7,000, and
 Chestertown contract at \$5,000.

Any amendments will be reviewed at the October 8th meeting.

Other business:

Chestertown Rotary. John Nick, representing the Chestertown Rotary, stated that they had a real good year on fund raising. They are looking for something specific in the Town of Chester to which they can contribute. There were several ideas, but contributing toward the

new signs to the entrances of Chestertown and Pottersville could be considered. We are not the only recipients.

Dan Smith. Data Collector for the Assessor's office, inquired of the Board whether they had a problem with him collecting unemployment for the day that he lost working for the Town of Horicon. When Horicon hired a new assessor, she was asked to do the data collecting and Dan was laid off from his one day a week position there. Supervisor Monroe stated that if it affects our town, as the bookkeeper thinks it will, we'll just deal with it and try to get an exemption, as we are still paying him for his duties with us.

Supervisor Monroe, in talking with John West regarding the budget, stated he had been informed that we will be needing a new compacter at some place in time, at an estimated \$60,000. There is no money budgeted for that this year.

Discussion on re-advertising for some of the Town's Highway and Parks & Rec. equipment that was not bid on in July.

RESOLUTION #153: AUTHORIZE CLERK RE-ADVERTISE BID TO PURCHASE.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, authorize Clerk re-advertise for bid to purchase on certain town equipment available, minimum bids approved by Board.

AYE 4 NO 0

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk