

**Tentative budget meeting** of the Town of Chester Town Board was held on **October 3, 2016** at 7:00 pm at the Town of Chester Municipal Center, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, New York 12817.

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

**Proposed Budget Highlights:**

Supervisor Leggett opened the tentative budget meeting at 7:02 pm. Mr. Leggett presented the Town Board with a copy of the budget and a copy of the excel spreadsheet presentation. Mr. Leggett explained the spreadsheets gave a comparison of fiscal year 2016 budget and fiscal year 2017 budget, then the a dollar amount difference and then the percentage difference, followed by actual for fiscal year 2015.

<b>2017 BUDGET SUMMARY: COMBINED GENERAL &amp; HIGHWAY FUNDS</b>				
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>2017- 2016</b>	<b>2017- 2016</b>
REVENUE				
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE	\$1,975,415	\$1,827,006	\$148,409	8.12%
TOTAL: HIGHWAY REVENUE	\$1,908,641	\$2,032,314	-\$123,673	-6.09%
GRAND TOTAL: TOWN REVENUE	\$3,884,056	\$3,859,320	\$24,736	0.64%
<b>APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE</b>	\$140,000	\$127,500	\$12,500	9.80%
TOTAL: REVENUE AND AFB	\$4,024,056	\$3,986,820	\$37,236	0.93%
EXPENSES				
TOTAL: GENERAL EXPENSES	\$2,115,415	\$1,954,506	\$171,322	8.77%
TOTAL: HIGHWAY EXPENSES	\$1,908,641	\$2,032,314	-\$123,673	-6.09%
GRAND TOTAL: TOWN EXPENSES	\$4,024,056	\$3,986,820	\$37,236	0.93%

<b>2017 BUDGET TOWN TAX LEVY: COMBINED GENERAL &amp; HIGHWAY FUNDS</b>				
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>2017 -2016</b>	<b>2017 -2016</b>
REAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY- GENERAL	\$291,883	\$166,545	\$125,338	75.26%
REAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY - HIGHWAY	\$780,325	\$921,742	-\$141,417	-15.34%
TOTAL: TOWN PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$1,072,208	\$1,088,287	-\$16,079	-1.48%

**Minor Funds:** The appropriated fund balance for Chestertown Water District would be \$140,000.00, \$100,000.00 of that money is a carryover for a water tank not purchased in 2016. The cost for renovation of the pump house in the Pottersville Water District was not included. The Town has applied for a grant for the pump house. The Real Property Tax Levy went up 19.33% for Loon Lake Park District. There is an increase in the budget, up \$40,000.00 for Loon Lake Park District for milfoil control as requested by the Loon Lake Park District Association.

**General Revenue:** Real Property estimated at \$208,010.00. Right now Sales Tax is up but the year started off slowly. The landfill revenue is down for 2016. State Aid is estimated to be lower than 2016.

**General Fund Expenses:** Town Board Members and Supervisor salaries were increased by 0.5%. Attorney for the Town amount was increased to \$28,000. Loon Lake Constable hours will increase by 50%. Mr. Leggett stressed that education is important, but budgeting for it is a tough decision. The new garage, ~\$41,000.00 would fall under capital outlay. Electricity Cost would decrease if we changed over to LED bulbs. Parks Department has \$110,000.00 for a new loader to replace a 1993 loader. The new loader will allow Town to buy attachments such as the much needed man basket and forks. Assessor Clerk and Zoning Clerk were increased to \$15.00 per hour. 11% of total expense over last year is due to wage increases.

**Highway Fund Revenue:** Snow removal for Warren County increased. There is only an increase of 0.87% in the Highway Revenue Budget.

**Highway Fund Expenses:** Added \$300.00 for safety training. Training is very important since we are self insured. A new tractor/mover is under highway equipment. Employee Benefits are up 2.66%. Personal services for Highway depends on winter road conditions.

**Summary of Total Budget:** The total unexpended Balance is \$336,327.00. The Town needs to keep enough money for cash flow of two if not three months. The Town needs to have \$383,000.00 for one month of expenditures. Mr. Leggett is estimating ending 2016 with a \$307,000.00 Fund Balance. If we do not appropriate as much as estimated then taxes would need to be raised or cut would need to be done.

Supervisor Leggett stated that the overall budget was 0.64% and remained within the 0.68% tax cap, which is very cutting it close. Mr. Leggett was conservative on the income estimates and holding steady on expenses.

The Town is looking at bringing in \$3,008,412.00 in Revenues plus use \$336,327.00 of the Fund Balance. This will raise taxes by \$1,251,752.00 for the Town's Budget. In 2016, the Town raised \$1,239,405.00.

Mrs. DuRose asked about the Time Warner Franchise money.

Mr. Leggett said if the Town decided not use as much appropriation from Fund Balance the Town would need to override the Tax Levy Limit. Al Muench asked how it would affect taxpayers if the Town did exceed the Tax Cap. Mrs. DuRose said you would not receive a rebate check. However, both your School District and the Town would need to be under the tax cap to receive a rebate check. The Town needs to adopt a budget by November 20, 2016.

Summary of Town Budget 2017					
Code	Fund	Appropriations	Less Estimated Revenues	Less Unexpended Balance	Amount to be Raised by Taxes
A	General	\$2,115,415.00	\$1,683,532.00	\$140,000.00	\$291,883.00
DA	Highway	\$1,908,641.00	\$1,128,316.00	\$0.00	\$780,325.00
CD	Community Dev	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
L	Library	\$76,625.00	\$73,298.00	\$3,327.00	\$0.00
V	Debt Service				\$0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,103,681.00</b>	<b>\$2,885,146.00</b>	<b>\$146,327.00</b>	<b>\$1,072,208.00</b>
CW	Chester Water	\$238,307.00	\$54,975.00	\$140,000.00	\$43,332.00
PW	Pottersville Water	\$50,043.00	\$26,565.00	\$0.00	\$23,478.00
SF	Riverside Fire	\$12,000.00			\$12,000.00
SF	North Creek Fire	\$30,000.00			\$30,000.00
SP	Loon Lake Park	\$160,260.00	\$41,726.00	\$50,000.00	\$68,534.00
SP	Schroon Lake Park	\$2,200.00		\$0.00	\$2,200.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$492,810.00</b>	<b>\$123,266.00</b>	<b>\$190,000.00</b>	<b>\$179,544.00</b>
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,596,491.00</b>	<b>\$3,008,412.00</b>	<b>\$336,327.00</b>	<b>\$1,251,752.00</b>
-	Chestertown Fire	\$442,480.00	\$8,000.00		\$434,480.00
-	Pottersville Fire	\$319,747.00			\$319,747.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$762,227.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$754,227.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,358,718.00</b>	<b>\$3,016,412.00</b>	<b>\$336,327.00</b>	<b>\$2,005,979.00</b>

Mr. Muench ask what would happen if we did not exceed the tax cap after a Local Law was passed. Supervisor Leggett said the Local Law could be rescinded. Mrs. DuRose asked if the money left over from 2016 for the Highway Fund would be rolled over to the Highway Fund for 2017.

**RESOLUTION #171: SET OCTOBER 11, 2016 AT 7:00 PM AS DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT.**

Introduced by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mrs. Wells, set October 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm as date of Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law to Override Tax Levy Limit.

AYE 4 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #172: SET NOVEMBER 3, 2016 AT 7:00 PM AS DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PRELIMINARY BUDGET.**

Introduced by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mrs. Wells, set November 3, 2016 at 7:00 pm as date of Public Hearing for Preliminary Budget.

AYE 4 NO 0

On a motion by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mrs. Wells, Board went into Executive Session at 9:10 pm to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article Fourteen of the Civil Service Law.

On a motion by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, Board came out of Executive Session at 11:16 pm. No action taken.

On a motion by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, meeting adjourned at 11:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Town Clerk