

Special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester was held **November 8, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Municipal Center, Chestertown, NY.

Roll call: Frederick H. Monroe, Edna Wells, Karen DuRose, and Mike Packer. Absent, Steven Durkish.

Public Hearing on budget opened at 7:00 p.m. Discussion on some items that needed clarification, and a general review. Projected combined tax rate for General and Highway Fund in 2013 would be \$1.31, broken down as \$0.41 per thousand for General and \$0.90 per thousand for Highway. By comparison, the tax rate was \$2.291 per thousand in 2001. There will be a 3% personnel wage increase for non-CSEA employees, with employees contributing to health insurance costs. A couple of items need to be changed, and Supervisor Monroe wanted to give the bookkeeper the opportunity to revamp the pages. Budget will be adopted at the regular meeting on November 13th. Bruce wants a chance to double check the numbers to be sure that we are within the tax cap.

Discussion on Capital Project for costs associated with the Pine Street building to be able to assess the building demolition and removal costs against the property. Attorney for the Town will draft a resolution with the correct amount indicated, and resolution will be made at the regular meeting of the Town Board on November 13th.

Supervisor Monroe reviewed the Health Insurance again, and went over the increases and decreases that we have had since 2003. Under the current Union contract, we are obligated to reimburse for the co-pays, and we are supposed to have a roughly comparable plan to what was in effect in 2010. Part of the reason for reimbursement is to make up for increase in co-pays. The closest plan to what was in existence in 2010 is the MVP Option 6, and we can save \$50,000 over that by going with the BSNENY Sky Plan I. By the Bargaining Unit agreeing to go with this plan, it is reasonable for the Town to share ½ of the savings with the employees. The problem is, if the premiums go up over the next 3 years, we could be paying substantially more in 2013, 14 and 15. Mr. Monroe spoke with Jamie Dunkley about it, and the Bargaining Unit has agreed to go with the reimbursement plan for 2 years instead of 3. It is either that, or go with the MVP Option 6, costing us \$50,000 more.

RESOLUTION #178: AMEND RESOLUTION #175 OF NOVEMBER 5TH TO EXTEND THE HEALTHCARE REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT FOR TWO YEARS INSTEAD OF THREE.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, amend Resolution #175 of November 5th to extend the Healthcare reimbursement account for two years, instead of three years.

AYE 4 NO 0

On a motion by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Monroe, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk