

Tentative Budget meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester was held **October 1, 2008** at 7:00pm in the Town of Chester Municipal Center, Chestertown, NY.

Roll Call: Frederick H Monroe, Mike Packer, Edna Wells and Karen DuRose. Absent - Steve Durkish. Gary Clark - Highway superintendent was also present.

Supervisor Monroe reported to the Board that a meeting was held with All Phase Electric. Discussion over the price on the decorative streetlights that were installed, the charge for "add-ons" and adjustments from the original bid. Waiting to see if a counter offer is made.

2009 Tentative Budget review:

The projected combined tax rate for General and Highway Fund for the 2009 Tentative Budget is \$.928 per thousand. \$.2727 per thousand for General Fund and \$.6706 per thousand for Highway.

This is a decrease from last year's rate, but Supervisor Monroe reminded the board that the assessment on property had increased.

Board reviewed the budget notes and some changes were made that will probably increase the overall tax rate by a small percentage. Supervisor Monroe also stated that a settlement had been reached with Word of Life (in regards to assessment) and the amount to be paid back to Word of Life was not included in the tentative budget figures.

General Fund Revenues:

2210.2 - Horicon - aid for health center \$5,000

2350 Horicon contrib. To youth budget \$6,000

Discussion on contacting Town of Horicon for increasing the above amounts.

Appropriated fund balance changed to \$75,000.

General Fund Expenses:

4.0% personnel wage increase - non CSEA. Employees are now contributing to health insurance.

1330.4 tax collector - should be \$4,500

7110.2 parks - equipment \$10,000

includes purchase of new bobcat - discussion

8010.43 zoning - change from \$3,000 to \$300

Highway expenses:

There is 60 miles of paved roads in the Town. Cost of paving material has increased. Highway superintendent Clark has been drawing tailings from Barton Mines to help cut cost.

Discussion also on grader replacement. Current equipment is over 20 years old.

9089.8 needs to be increased from 0 to \$2,750

Reviewed the water district budgets.

Reviewed Loon Lake Park District budget. Discussion on the milfoil problem. Thousands of plants have been harvested. Councilperson Wells suggested that a cook out be done next year for the volunteers that have been involved with the milfoil harvesting.

Suggest that Faxon Pond be cleaned up. Supervisor Monroe will check with DEC and see what chemicals could be used to clean up the pond.

Capital Project - well no.1 - discussion on having Jim Hutchins make a recommendation on the rehab project. The well produced 200 gallons per minute. \$98,750 is in the fund.

Supervisor Monroe stated that he has been in touch with Congresswoman Gillibrand office, in regards to the request for \$750,000 to run water line to the Peckham Industrial Park (on Rt 9). Park has been approved by APA. The extended line would also go by the Considine property where affordable housing maybe a possibility.

Mr.LaMothe, Planning and Community Development - Warren County, would like to submit a grant for the Town of Chester in the amount of \$380,000 (Governor's Office of Small Cities) for economic development. Request that a resolution be passed stating the two top priorities: Affordable housing and economic development.

The extension of the water line would be critical to the economic development of the Peckham Industrial Park and water to an area that is suitable for affordable housing.

Extension of water line would be approximately one mile and at one time Peckham offered to help dig the water line.

More documentation is needed for Governor's office of small cities grant and if the town plans to extend the water line, Mr.LaMothe recommends that the engineer do some preliminary work. Supervisor Monroe suggest that perhaps funds could be made available from the well no.1 budget.

RESOLUTION #152: PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR THE TOWN OF CHESTER ARE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Introduced by Mr.Monroe, 2nd by Mrs.Wells:

Priority projects for the Town of Chester are Economic Development and Affordable housing. The extension of the Chestertown Water line, which would run from the end of the existing water line down to the Peckham Industrial Park. This line would be passing by property which would be suitable for affordable housing.

AYE 4 NO 0

Request to have Wayne LaMothe attend October 14 town board meeting.

Municipal Center capital project fund budgeted \$25,000. Discussion on getting air handler working again and for this year having an energy audit done on the town hall building. Recommendations would be given on how to reduce energy cost.

Discussion on what is being done with wood that is cut along side of road and being left there and could the wood be made available to residents that are having problems with fuel cost. Further discussion on how the handing out of wood be done, storage, and problems that could come about.

RESOLUTION #153: SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON 2009 BUDGET.

Introduced by Mr.Monroe, 2nd by Mrs.Wells to set date for public hearing on the 2009 budget for November 5, 2008, Wednesday at 7:00pm.

AYE 4 NO 0

RESOLUTION #154: NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK PROCLAMATION.

Introduced by Mrs.Wells, 2nd by Mr.Monroe:

WHEREAS, Friends of the Chester Library raise money that enables our library to move from good to great - providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children's summer reading, and special events throughout the year;

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present;

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers' advisory, and children's services;

WHEREAS, the Friends' gift of their time and commitment to the library sets and example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Fred Monroe, Town Supervisor, proclaims October 19th - 25th 2008 as Friends of the Library week in the Town of Chester and urges everyone to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

AYE 4 NO 0

Motion by Mr.Monroe meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Town Clerk