

**Tentative Budget** meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester was held **October 4, 2011** at 7:00pm in the Town of Chester Municipal Center, Chestertown, NY.

Roll Call: Frederick H Monroe, Mike Packer, Edna Wells, and Steve Durkish and Karen DuRose. Gary Clark - Highway superintendent and Jason Monroe - Water superintendent.

### **2012 Tentative Budget review:**

The projected combined tax rate for General and Highway Fund for the 2012 Tentative Budget is \$1.28 per thousand. \$.36 per thousand for General Fund and \$.92 per thousand for Highway.

Supervisor Monroe stated that he has kept the budget within the 2% increase. A 2% tax cap has been declared and should the town budget be more than the 2% a local law would need to be passed.

Board reviewed the budget notes and brief discussions on various issues:

1. Reviewed Loon Lake Park District budget. This is the biggest increase because of the milfoil. Lycott has been doing a good job and most sights are under control, with the exception of the south end of lake that are very dense (do to the warm fall). Lycott has informed Supervisor that for Renovate to be used, APA needs a study done in the spring, so renovate may not be able to be used next year, but funds should be leftover for the following year budget.
2. With highway purchases for equipment, the paving schedule is falling behind. No major purchases after 2012 and funding for paving may be done then. Approximate cost for 1 mile of paving now is over \$80,000.
3. Health insurance - is going up
4. Assessor will be retiring and has proposed a part time schedule.
5. Request to have Town of Horicon increase their payments for health center, etc. Supervisor will make another request.
6. 2% pay raises
7. Discussion on sign for town hall. Town may not need sign permit, but application was filled out. Zoning officer felt that sign was over the size limit - depending if supporting structure is included in over all measurement. Variance was applied for. Further discussion on size of the sign, and if all information will fit. Supervisor Monroe will ask for redesign of sign.
8. Decrease in revenues mortgage tax. Sales tax is up (4%).
9. Doors on library side of town hall need repairs and also consider automatic door openers for handicap.
10. Boat for Loon Lake constable. Boat has been found for \$8000 - could be paid for in 2 years (one payment per year)
11. Water district - wages to be reviewed in Executive session
12. District 1 and 2 - to do a second grant application (Local Waterfront Revitalization). this would be for a complete study

for both districts. What is needed within the districts (tanks), expansion in districts, and see about a well on "this" side of Route 8, and also an estimate to run water line down to Peckham, and review problems in Pottersville.

13. Schroon Lk Park District - bond on Starbuckville Dam should be paid off in a couple of years.
14. Energy audit was done - cost \$400. Suggestions made: light bulbs and ballast replace; windows are ok; exit lights change to LED; fix windows in the auditorium and report will be done and given to town.
15. Solar panels - Supervisor reported that APA may have jurisdiction in some of the locations. Mr.Schachner is reviewing contract.

Town Board was pleased with the proposed budget.

Two quotes for labor on repairs to ramp: Millers Masonry INC., Box 32, Chestertown, NY for \$520 a day and Adirondack Masonary, 190 Valentine Pond Rd, Pottersville, NY for \$500 a day.

**RESOLUTION #126: ACCEPT QUOTE FROM ADIRONDACK MASONARY.**

Introduced by Mr.Monroe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs.Wells to accept quote from Adirondack Masonary, 190 Valentine Pond Rd, Pottersville for repair work to be done on handicap ramp (library side of building). Labor rate is \$500 per day, approximately 10 days labor and Town of Chester will provide materials. AYE 5 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #127: ADVERTISE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.**

Introduced by Mrs.DuRose, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs.Wells to advertise for animal control officer for Town of Chester. 2012 budgeted amount for personal services is \$6,658 and \$1,200 for contractual. AYE 5 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #128: NON-UNION RETIREES RECEIVE THE SAME CONSIDERATION AS UNION RETIREES IN REGARDS TO HEALTH INSURANCE.**

Introduced by Mr.Monroe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr.Durkish approving the request from town clerk that non-union retirees receive the same benefits/consideration as union retirees in regards to health insurance, as stated in union contract: Active employees who retire on or after December 4, 2006 will contribute towards their health insurance premiums at the rate for the applicable year in which they retire unchanged for the lifetime of the retiree. AYE 5 NO 0

Motion by Mrs.Wells, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr.Durkish the Town Board went into Executive session at 8:15pm to discuss terms of employment for a particular person. Mr.Monroe abstained from Executive session. Motion by Mrs.Wells 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr.Packer Town Board resumed regular session at 9:15pm. No action taken.

**RESOLUTION #129: CONTINUE FOR JASON MONROE TO BE WATER SUPERINTENDENT AT REDUCE SALARY.**

Introduced by Mrs.DuRose, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs.Wells to continue for Jason Monroe to be water superintendent at a reduce rate. Combined rate of \$20,000 for District 1 and 2.

Roll call: Frederick Monroe - abstain; Edna Wells - Aye; Karen DuRose - Aye; Steve Durkish - Aye and Michael Packer - No

Motion by Mr.Packer meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

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Town Clerk

Further discussion will be done at the next regular town board meeting (October 11), at which time date for public hearing will need to be set.