

PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008; 7:00 P.M.
NEW WINDSOR TOWN HALL
NEW WINDSOR, NEW YORK

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Green, Councilwoman Mullarkey, Councilwoman Weyant, Councilwoman Biasotti, Councilman Lundstrom

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Comptroller Finnegan, Town Attorney Blythe, Highway Superintendent Fay, Deputy Police Chief Hovey

SALUTE TO FLAG

Supervisor Green called to order a Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2009 Budget and the Town Clerk presented proof of publication as required by law.

Supervisor Green said that the Comptroller had prepared a worksheet that explains the budget and copies were available in the front of the room. Supervisor Green said that this was one of the most difficult budgets he has ever had to prepare and he thanked the comptroller and the former comptroller who came in to help with the budget preparation for all their hard work. He said the 2009 General Fund tax rate will be \$13.08 as compared to last year's rate of \$12.41 which is an increase of \$.67 per thousand and the Highway Fund rate is a \$.23 increase over last year, for a total rate increase of \$.90 per thousand. He said the water district rates, sewer district rates and special district rates are all listed separately on the worksheet. The 2009 user charges for sewer increased for the first time in six years and will be billed in quarterly segments of \$35.00. The charge for metered water usage still has a quarterly minimum charge of \$21.66 and the quarterly charge for Beaver Dam Garbage will be billed in quarterly segments of \$103.25. Supervisor Green asked if anyone present wished to comment on the budget.

William Steidle questioned the proposed salaries for the Supervisor and Town Board and he feels that due to the current economic situation no salary increases should be taken this year.

Leo Braun asked what a surplus is and what the Town is proposing to do with it. The Supervisor said it was surplus revenue not spent in prior years, a portion of which is usually put towards the upcoming budget. He noted that the Highway Department had no surplus money this year.

Rebecca Jones asked in what ways the Town is cost cutting beside emailing Planning Board minutes as opposed to printing them out. Supervisor Green said numerous cutbacks have been made including using town vehicles more economically, cutting back on equipment, supplies and road repairs and the implementing of a hiring freeze last January. He said that when the budget was first received from the department heads it had a 43% increase, but it is now down to a 5.4% increase.

She also wanted to know what departmental income was. Supervisor Green said that the fees charged by departments for different services such as municipal letters by the building department, permits issued by the Town Clerk's office, police report fees, and justice court fines are all examples of departmental income.

Mrs. Jones then asked about a line item in the comptroller's office and why it was higher than other lines. Supervisor Green said that was the personnel line and it covered the comptroller and two employees with a provision for one part timer. That office over time has gone from four employees down to two plus the comptroller.

Barney Bedetti wanted to know how the tax base changes from year to year. Comptroller Finnegan said that the assessed valuation rolling average is 3% per year. Last year it dropped down to .2% and this year it only increased by .65% so that has a pretty big impact.

Supervisor Green responded to Bill Steidle's comments about elected official's salaries and said that anyone running a corporation with an operating budget of \$28 million, would be making more than \$95,000 per year. He said that historically, at least when he has been Supervisor, elected official salaries were increased based on whatever the CSEA received as their annual

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salary increase. He said that based upon a recent newspaper article, many area supervisors are not being paid what they deserve. Mr. Steidle said that he worked for the public sector for many years, and his contracts were generally negotiated based on the economy and at times he received no increase. Supervisor Green said that if the CSEA was getting no raise as has happened occasionally in the past, the salaries would reflect that. Bill said that he is not saying that the Supervisor and Town Board do not deserve a raise, just that if money is tight, the leaders should be the first to sacrifice.

Rebecca Jones wanted to know who is covered by the union contract and is it everyone that isn't elected. Supervisor Green said that department heads, certain exempt employees named at the January organization meeting and part timers are not covered by the union contract.

Hearing no one wishing to speak, Supervisor Green entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

MOTION – CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Councilwoman Mullarkey, seconded by Councilwoman Weyant that the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2009 Budget at 7:31 P.M.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried: 5-0

MOTION – ADOPT PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET

Motion by Councilwoman Mullarkey, seconded by Councilwoman Weyant that the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor adopt as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor met on November 5, 2008 as specified in the Notice of Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget and heard all persons interested in same; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT said Board does hereby adopt the Budget, as the Annual Budget of the Town of New Windsor for the fiscal year beginning the first day of January 2009, and that said Budget as so adopted be entered in detail in the Minutes of this meeting as is hereto attached, marked #1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town Clerk of the Town of New Windsor shall certify in triplicate, copies of said Budget as adopted, pursuant to Section 202, Subdivision 2 of Town Law and shall file one certified copy in her office and transmit two (2) certified copies to the Town Supervisor who presents said budget to the Orange County Legislature. Further, that the Town Clerk be authorized to advertise same as required by law.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

DEBORAH GREEN
TOWN CLERK

/clc