

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2010; 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, Police Lieutenant Farbent

**SALUTE TO FLAG**

Supervisor Green called to order a Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2011 Budget and the Town Clerk presented proof of publication as required by law.

Supervisor Green said he would quickly go through the budget and started out by saying that when this budget first reached the Comptroller's desk it had a 43% tax increase, when it hit his desk it was down to 36%, today there is a total increase of 13.69% or \$3.01 per thousand. One of the things the Supervisor pointed out was that the assessed value of the town has only gone up three tenths of one percent. He said there has been no housing starts or any building, so our assessed value is down as a result.

Comptroller Finnegan said that a typical house assessed at \$37,000 is being used to illustrate how your taxes are applied. He said using that example, the total increase in the town taxes for that house is approximately \$161.00. He said anyone can use these rates to figure out their own tax bills using the assessed values of their own homes.

Supervisor Green said this has been the absolute worst budget in memory. He said the total expenditure for labor has been reduced by \$466,800 and that was not an easy figure to get at. Full time labor went up in the Highway fund because of reallocation of some positions. Labor charges are up in both the Water fund and Garbage fund. A notice was just received that our workers' compensation cost will go up about 17% next year. He said that over the past three years, the town has lost over one million dollars in mortgage tax revenue alone.

A resident asked why labor costs are going up, and why doesn't the town spend less as he has to do at home with his own budget. He said he has to adjust his budget to compete in business, but the town doesn't, it just raises taxes, and tough decisions are not really being made. Supervisor Green asked how you make up a loss of a million dollars in tax revenue.

Another resident said that the Town Board scared everyone with a 36% increase published in the paper, just to make it look better when the new rate is introduced. Supervisor Green said he wasn't happy with the rate. The resident said the town doesn't put information out there for everyone to see, the town has to cut their bills and the town isn't being run efficiently. Supervisor Green said we are spending less this year, as an example the CSEA who are negotiating their contract right now have just agreed to no increase this year.

A resident said the town makes money from tickets or water bills, but we don't see that, we only see waste. Supervisor Green said you certainly do see it, it is right in the budget, it is right in the sheets that are available in the front of the room. He said the Recreation Department generates revenue through programs and the concession stand, safety inspections and our fire inspectors generate revenue, so there are revenues coming in but the Town Board cannot help that we are in a recession. Leo Braun asked about salary increases and the Supervisor said that elected officials and department heads have not had a raise in two years and things don't look good for next year either.

Barney Bedetti said that last year he had the same comment that he feels not enough information is given to the public beforehand so they can make comments at the budget hearing. He said that he saw \$206,000 for a special Recreation facility in a budget packet and wants to know what it is for. Supervisor Green said that it is done every year, it is just an allocation of money. He also said that next year the budget will be on the website for anyone to look at. Mr. Bedetti said that there are municipal board members who even though they don't show up for meetings, are still getting paid and he doesn't think that's right. Supervisor Green said they have been discussing that and it is hard to correct because they are paid annually, not per month, but you are absolutely right. He also said that the budget is very hard to understand and it is difficult to find things in it. Supervisor Green said the budget lines and account numbers are dictated by the state.

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A resident said that she just found out about tonight's meeting earlier today and why aren't residents notified of meetings better. She said she is going door to door to all her neighbors to get them to attend future meetings. The supervisor said the meeting dates are published in the paper every January, and every public hearing is advertised prior to the hearing date, the information is also available on our website.

Rebecca Jones said that when she moved here, she took it upon herself to find out what the local newspaper was so she could get the local news. She also asked about the 17% increase in workers compensation. Supervisor Green said he spoke to someone today about that, but that figure seems to be the norm this year.

Mr. Melendez said he had a problem with the gentleman who said he had been complaining for a whole year, but the town only decided now to do something about it. "My question is what have you done for us, I'll answer for you, you have done nothing. We will do your job informing the people."

Hearing no one else 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 budget for the year 2011 at 7:28 P.M.

*Roll Call: All Ayes*

*Motion Carried: 5-0*

**MOTION – ADOPT PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor met on November 3, 2010 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 2011, 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 advertize same as required by law.

*Roll Call: All Ayes*

*Motion Carried: 5-0*

Respectfully submitted,

**DEBORAH GREEN**  
TOWN CLERK

/clc