

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
Public Hearing on the 2014 Preliminary Budget
November 6, 2013
6:00 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Henry Swartz, Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Comptroller Debbie Cesternino, Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Tammy Shaw, Earl Kelsey and community members
ABSENT: Councilman Jean Rohde

Supervisor Jesse DeGroot called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the pledge to the flag.

The public hearing on the 2014 preliminary budget was opened at 6:00 PM.

Budget Discussion

- Deirdre Henderson asked the Supervisor to explain the budget since not everyone can get to the town hall to get a copy. She wants an easy to understand summary of what the budget contains.
- Supervisor DeGroot stated that the budget is complicated. There are funds within the Village as well as outside the Village so a simple summary would be difficult to achieve. He would like to know what exactly people are asking to see in the summary.
- Jeff Lick would also like a simple summary. He created a spread sheet using totals he extracted from the budget. It does not show the revenue stream. Each line will require its own explanation. The summary should show trends over a 5 year period.
- Councilman Balcom would like to see the budget in the format the Village of Chatham uses.
- Jim Temple finally went to the State Comptrollers website, he gave up on the town's.
- Jeff Lick stated that the trends over the years show just what kinds of challenges the Board faces at budget time.
- The bi-partisan finance committee (Balcom, Swartz) did an in-depth study of the budget and found very few places to cut which would make any significant difference.
- Supervisor DeGroot suggests a citizens committee could determine what format and information the public is interested in seeing. Perhaps Jeff Lick, Aven Kerr and David Levow would be interested in volunteering to work with Debbie Cesternino on this.
- Is it possible to post the newly reformatted budget information on the website at some point?
- Carol asked about the "over billing" last year. Supervisor DeGroot stated again that it was not an "overbilling". The assessment number going into the budget process was wrong. The budget dollar numbers were correct. The Town collected the money that the budget called for, nothing extra.
- Jim Temple is concerned about the Town's debt. Is the Town borrowing? Yes, \$260,000 for highway equipment. Does the Town have a list of spending priorities? Yes, as established by the highway departments replacement schedule.
- Supervisor DeGroot suggested that the citizens finance committee create a priority list.
- Deirdre Henderson recommended that the Board meet with the Village mayor on budgeting.
- Councilman Balcom stated that last year he presented the Board with a five year plan but it didn't go anywhere. He is pleased that maybe this time it will get some attention.
- Carol thought maybe a comment field would be helpful to explain any increases or decreases from year to year.
- Councilman Swartz felt there were a lot of great ideas thrown about at this meeting and would like to keep the public hearing open until the citizens finance committee has a chance to meet with the comptroller on possible budget format changes.

Discussion tabled at 6:50 PM. The public hearing will remain open. The next meeting on the 2014 preliminary budget will be held on Thursday, November 14th at 6:00 PM.

RES. #126-13 to authorize the Highway Superintendent to install weight limit signs on the Niverville Rd.. Supervisor DeGrootd offered Res. #126-13 and moved its adoption;

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the Highway Superintendent to install 5-ton weight limit signs on Niverville Road to reduce damage to the Town road due to heavy trucks and equipment traveling on road. (Vehicle and Traffic Law 1660, 1683)
Councilman Swartz seconded the motion.

VOTE

AYES: DeGrootd, Swartz, Lull, Balcom NAY: none Resolution adopted

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGrootd to enter into executive session at 7:00 PM under Public Officers law §105f for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; Councilman Swartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Supervisor Jesse DeGrootd to leave executive session at 7:15 PM. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Balcom and seconded by Supervisor DeGrootd to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel
Town Clerk