

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295
CHATHAM, NY 12037
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
2015 BUDGET
October 27, 2014 7:00PM

PRESENT:

Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Henry Swartz, Jr., Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Councilman Jean Rohde, Recreation Director Shari Franks, Comptroller Deborah Cesternino, Tammy Shaw, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Lick from the Citizens Finance Committee (CFC) and several community members.

Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

- Supervisor DeGroot suggested the Recreation Director salary be set at \$30K. After some discussion the Board seemed to be OK with that. Shari agreed to the \$30K/year salary for the full time Recreation Director position.
- Councilman Balcom said that for years he has proposed a cut to this salary. He is asking for another \$9K reduction somewhere due to the additional amount they'll be adding back to the Rec. Director salary.
- In a handout to the Board Councilman Balcom outlined his health insurance premium pay proposal. This proposal would only affect non-bargaining employees with a possible savings of about \$5,000. It does not affect highway union employees. We should be making changes now.
- Councilman Swartz thought this could cause more problems by asking just the non-bargaining employees to contribute to the health insurance costs and not asking the same of the unionized highway employees.
- Supervisor DeGroot asked Shari if she could find another \$4K to cut from the Recreation budget.
- Councilman Balcom agrees that the Comptroller is underpaid and suggests a chunk in 2015 then 2 5% increases in subsequent years. That would be a savings this year while getting closer to what the true salary should be.
- Councilman Lull stated that other towns have book keepers at half of what our Comptroller makes.
- We don't have a book keeper, we have a Comptroller which Supervisor DeGroot feels makes us much stronger fiscally.
- Councilman Lull didn't hear anyone on the Board discuss raises. It's too late to consider Councilman Balcom's health insurance proposal so there should be no increases for anyone.
- Union employees will still get an increase as per their highway union contract.
- Councilman Rohde feels that it's not fair to ask some employees to bear the brunt of the budget
- Councilman Balcom suggested a 1.5% raise as opposed to the proposed 3% increase.
- Supervisor DeGroot said if the Board gives a 1.5% raise as opposed to the 3% raise it would breakdown as follows, showing no significant change:

Current 1.74 to 1.739

Village 6.68 to 6.33

Town 3.30 to 3.29

- Councilman Balcom stated that in order to make a significant difference we have to cut \$90K.
- Supervisor DeGroot proposed \$30K/yr. for Rec. Director and an additional 7K/yr. for the Comptroller.
- Councilman Balcom said leave REC. at \$30K and Comptroller at \$2K and cut an additional \$4K from the Rec budget.
- A Comptroller should be worth at least \$23,000.
- Tammy Shaw stated that when Deb Cesternino was hired she came in at \$7K higher than the previous Comptroller.

-Councilman Balcom stated that there have to be offsets or he'll go back to the original proposal of cutting the Rec. Director position to 20,500. The Board needs to come up with another \$9K in offsets.

PROPOSAL

- Cut another \$4K from the Rec. budget.
- 3% salary increases to 1.5%.
- Comptroller from \$23K to \$28K.
- Court revenue from \$180K to \$185K

There will be no vote on the 2015 budget until the November 20th regular town board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jim Carroll spoke on behalf the kids and parents in the community. He has a 6 year old so he spends quite a bit of time at the park. It's a wonderful resource and Shari is the face of Crellin Park. He understands there's a budget and he's mindful of that. However, the park is an important piece of the community. Park employees are good people and do a great job.

- Matt and Ida Drake came to the Town of Chatham in 2001 and have seen many changes. They've worked with Shari on numerous occasions over the years and spoke highly of her. There is need for the park and the recreation programs happening there during the summer. The disc golf course and the skate park is all Shari's doing. Building a community starts with our kids.

- Tammy Shaw is hurt. The Town Board takes from hard working town employees to give to others. She is resigning from her duties at the town hall relinquishing all her responsibilities to the Comptroller. She stated that she will now be working full time for the Highway Superintendent at the highway garage.

Motion was made by Councilman Rohde, seconded by Councilman Balcom to adjourn at 8:05 PM.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel
Town Clerk