

TOWN OF CHATHAM  
488 Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
November 6, 2014 ..... 7:00PM

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Councilman Jean Rohde, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel

**ABSENT:** Councilman Henry Swartz, Jr.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Several community members.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas re: postponement of scheduled open houses for November and December.

**RES #115-14** to schedule public hearings on fire protection contracts for 2015. Supervisor DeGroot offered RES. #115-14 and moved its adoption to schedule public hearings for Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to consider fire protection contracts between the Town of Chatham and the Chatham Fire Department, Niverville Fire Department and Tri-Village Fire Co. Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

**VOTE**

AYE: DeGroot, Lull, Balcom, Rohde    NAY: None    Resolution adopted.

The public hearing on the 2015 preliminary budget was opened at 7:04 PM.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

- As of now rates are as follows:  
Town-wide (outside the Village) 2.43% (3.28/thousand)  
Village 5.77% (1.72/thousand).
- Who are the raises for? Councilman Lull asked for this information several times and still doesn't have a list.
- As of now Comptrollers salary will go from 23,400 to 28,000. 1.5% raises to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Highway Superintendent, Deputy Highway Super., Confidential Secretary, Court Clerks, Assessor, Assessor Clerk. Highway as per union contract. Councilman Balcom stated that 1.5% is less than the cost of living.
- Councilman Lull objects to any and all raises. Raises are proposed on base salary not on salary + benefits figure.
- Mr. Hart was happy to see that the budget process seemed to move more smoothly this year with the help of the Citizens Finance Committee. He would like to complement Aven, Jeff and David for all their hard work. It's important for Town Board to understand what it takes to run a town.
- Mr. Kelsey believes it's not how the information is presented but what's behind it. Health insurance costs are the problem. Employees should be asked to share in the cost of their health insurance as they do at most other businesses. You can't expect taxpayers to continue to shoulder the full cost.
- Supervisor DeGroot stated that the finance committee (Balcom, Swartz) will try to come up with an equitable solution to address the high cost of health insurance. Councilman Balcom said that management must lead with changes or the union won't follow.
- Councilman Balcom stated that health insurance is going up by 2% this year. Budgets over the years have been going down.

There was not more comment on the 2015 preliminary budget so the Public Hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m. The Town Board will bring the budget to a vote at the Regular Town Board meeting on November 20, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

Motion was made by Councilman Rohde, seconded by Councilman Balcom to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel  
Town Clerk