

TOWN OF CHATHAM  
488 Rte. 295, Chatham, NY 12037  
Special Town Board Meeting  
2016 Budget Presentation  
Final Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2015 6:00 PM

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

**ABSENT:** Councilman Henry Swartz

**Others Present:** Brian Fitzgerald, Julie Veronazi, Jeanette Linville, David Levow from the Citizen's Finance Committee

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

Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel presented the 2016 Tentative Budget to the Board.

**Supervisor DeGroot** began by saying that he took a new approach this year in putting the budget together. He took all the budget requests from the department heads and plugged their figures into the budget. We'll go through this line by line. We'll have to discuss a salary which is a "bone of contention". As things stand now the budget is as follows:

Town Wide \$3.55/thousand of assessed valuation 7.62% increase

Village Wide \$1.79/thousand of assessed valuation 3.18% increase

**DeGroot** shall we address salaries or go down the list by departments?

**Lull** would like to have all department heads come before the Board to explain their budget requests as we did last year. She also wants to salaries, health insurance figures and pension contributions.

Salary print outs were printed for the Board.

**DeGroot** said that in order to get to the tax cap we'll have to eliminate one hundred thousand dollars from the budget. The light for the East Chatham Bridge could be about 80K which is not budgeted for. We'll go through the budget request sheets line by line.

Some Budget notes.....

- Salaries: Justices asked for the same as last year but we're going to have to change it to reflect an increase for the deputy Court Clerk, cost of living increase for Assessor and Assessor Clerk, Town Clerk/Tax Collector has the same salary, increase for deputy clerk position, Highway Superintendent, Deputy Highway Superintendent and Confidential Secretary 1% increase, Highway employees increase as per union contract.
- Programs for the Aging - Chatham/Ghent Seniors get \$2,000. Office for the Aging requests \$3,000. **Lull** stated that if each Town gave one thousand dollars they'd make their goal.

**DRAFT**

- Recreation – **Lull** asked if **DeGroodt** had gotten costs for resurfacing the tennis courts at Crellin Park, he said he had not, that was something Adam was talking about. **Lull** wants **Franks** to research the cost of resurfacing. **David Levow** said it cost him \$7,000 to have his tennis court resurfaced.
- Revenue figures we left the way they were. Brian should have figures by Friday.
- Planning Board has requested an increase for everyone on the Board. **Lull** asked how many meetings per year they average. A few years ago they only met half the time. **DeGroodt** said that some towns pay board members by the meeting. **Lull** stated that we should look at the trend. **Balcom** said that's hard, if we pay by the meeting it seems like there should be a minimum. If it's below the minimum there should be a decrease but we're really not talking about a lot of money. **DeGroodt** said that we would still have to budget for it in case they meet every month. **Rohde** said that the budget is pretty low, you still have to plan and this is request is not excessive.
- **Lull** asked if the Zoning Board asked for a raise, **DeGroodt** said "no", we should leave it. We have strong boards and we can come back to it if we need to. **Balcom** said that relatively speaking the Boards are paid very well.
- Highway Snow Removal budget line increased as did General Repairs line. DA is the "hurting" fund since there is no revenue in it.
- **DeGroodt** said they left the revenue figures alone since you can't be certain anything additional will be coming in. We're not sure what the Chatham Fire Department budget looks like, we don't have it yet. We have East Chatham Fire \$75,398.00, Kinderhook Lake/Niverville, we need to change to \$24,966.00, Red Rock we don't know what the apportionment is until the County figures it out since it's split between 3 towns, Tri-Village \$193,800.00. The Chatham Rescue Squad, which doesn't appear on the budget, shows a 2.5% increase over last year to \$128,520.65.
- **Balcom** asked where Chatham Rescue Squad shows in the budget. **DeGroodt** said that it doesn't have a line in our budget; it's a charge back agreement with the County, it's collected in the County taxes.

**DeGroodt** said that we could look at salaries on Thursday; we'll get the Recreation Director and the Highway Superintendent in to discuss their budgets. We'll talk to Joe about the lights.

**Balcom** stated that their budgets are the bulk of the budget.

**Lull** asked if we should bring the traffic light issue up with CSX and try to get them to pay for it.

**DeGroodt** said that we have broached the subject with them but will make a formal approach.

**Balcom** said the traffic light and the intersection change is all we can do at this point.

DeGrootd asked the Board if they had anything else, they all said “no”. We’ll ask Shari and Joe to the meeting on Thursday.

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGrootd, seconded by Councilman Lull and carried to enter executive session at 6:45 PM under Public Officers law § 105 (e) collective negotiations ...

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGrootd, seconded by Councilman Rohde and carried to leave executive session at 6:50 PM.

Motion was made by Councilman Rohde, seconded by Councilman Lull and carried to adjourn at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by,  
Beth Anne Rippel, RMC  
Town Clerk