

October 22, 2024
Public Hearing
5:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Council Members: Lynn Parnell, Amos Smith, and Jason Swede

Absent: Frank Rose Jr.

Others: Sandra Curran and Justin Bennett (Baldwin Business Services), Dustin Geiger, Henry Fuller and Kirk Richenberg.

Supervisor Deming opened the Local Law Public Hearing at 5:00 pm and stated that the hearing was called to propose Local Law #3 of 2024 to override the tax cap. Mr. Deming commented due to the upgrades to the Retsof Sewer District, we are over the tax cap by \$21,488.00.

Councilman Smith inquired what the sewer debt is for the Retsof Sewer District customers. Supervisor Deming replied that Retsof does not currently have a sewer debt service, but starting with the January 2025 County/Town tax bill, the Retsof customers (115 units) will have a \$297.23 debt service on it.

Mr. Richenberg asked if this charge is only for Retsof, which Supervisor Deming answered it is because the other sewer districts have their own debt service amounts.

Mr. Richenberg asked what the total tax cap limit is for 2025. Mr. Bennett replied that the cap limit for 2025 is \$1,800,597.00.

Mr. Richenberg inquired what was added this year, which Supervisor Deming answered New York State Retirement.

Mr. Richenberg questioned, if the Town Board decides to make changes, which can only go down after the budget notice was advertised, will this affect the actual budget numbers?

Supervisor Deming replied he is correct, numbers in the budget can only be lowered not raised after the notice was published, but ultimately any changes will not affect the overall budget numbers.

Mr. Richenberg asked what the assessed value is of WNY Cheese?

After review of documentation, Supervisor Deming answered 4,105,750.00. Mr. Richenberg's follow up question was who will get the bill this year? Supervisor Deming replied the County will prepare the bill and the Town will be sending to them directly.

Mr. Richenberg clarified, the only guarantee was with water, correct?
Supervisor Deming replied, yes that is correct.

Supervisor Deming asked the Town Board if anyone had any questions...
Supervisor Deming commented if we had an already existing contract with White Creek, we would have budget numbers reflecting the upcoming revenues, but the meeting with them is not until November.

Mr. Fuller asked when the assessed value takes affect?
Supervisor Deming answered, the assessed value begins in January.

Mr. Bennett commented the levy is not based on assessment, it is based on Tax levy.

Mr. Fuller asked if the Highway truck had arrived yet?
Councilman Smith replied that Highway Supt. Mr. Worden informed us that the build date will be in November of this year. Mr. Fuller inquired what is so different in the truck we ordered from other towns? Supervisor Deming and Councilman Smith answered absolutely nothing.

Mr. Fuller inquired what happened to the money from two years ago for the truck?
Mr. Bennett answered the money is still available and has been making more money in the NYCLASS account. We are approaching \$40,000 in total interest we have accrued in the Town's NYCLASS account.

After no further questions or comments...

ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Swede to close the Public Hearing at 5:14 p.m. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine M. Harris
Christine M. Harris, Clerk

Budget Hearing
October 22, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Councilmembers: Lynn Parnell, Amos Smith and Jason Swede.

Absent: Frank Rose Jr.

Others: Sandra Curran & Justin Bennett (BBS), Dustin Geiger, Henry Fuller, Kirk Richenberg, Dennis House and David Deuel.

Supervisor Deming opened the 2025 Budget Hearing at 5:30 p.m. and informed the Board and the public of one correction to the Budget Hearing notice. Under #4- The Fire Contract shall expire **December 31, 2025**.

Supervisor Deming then opened the hearing up for comments and questions.

Kirk Richenberg- Mr. Richenberg asked for clarification on a number of budget items:

Q- "What is A1220.2...Supervisor Equipment and Cap Outlay?"

Supervisor Deming answered this line item is for equipment (computers) for the Supervisor and Supervisor's Clerk. Mr. Deming commented that it was not used last year but we will keep it in for 2025.

Q- Can we trim down the legal expenses line item; A1420.4 from \$50,000?
Supervisor Deming replied he is not comfortable reducing that line item at this time.

Q- Under A1620.4; Buildings, Contractual Expend" is this all of the town buildings?
Supervisor Deming responded that in A1620.4, it covers the Town Hall and the Highway Building.

Q- So many major repairs have been done to those buildings, can we trim the budget number ?

Mr. Bennett replied the big expenses have been for the Highway building, and suggested the Town keep the numbers as is because it also covers all the utilities for both buildings as well.

Q- Can you explain A1910.4 "Unallocated Insurance, Contr. Expend?"
Mr. Bennett answered, that line item covers all insurance policies through Tompkins (auto, liability, etc.), but not the employees health coverage.

Q- Is A5010.1 Mr. Worden's wages? And how does the Town Board consider raises?
Supervisor Deming replied that A5010.1 is Mr. Worden's wage and the Board usually will go by a standard percentage when it comes to raises.

Mr. Richenberg commented setbacks of many projects have taken place and they are not getting completed, maybe the wage should be reviewed.

Q- Under A5132.2; "Garage Equipment & cap Outlay," what is this line item for?
Mr. Bennett answered this line item for \$7,500.00 is for the garage doors.

Q- For A5182.4; "Street Lighting," where did that line item go?
Supervisor Deming replied it is now rolled into the General Fund; A1620.4.
Mr. Richenberg inquired if we could trim this down as well.

Q- "Other Econ & Serv, Contract Expend;" A6989.4 \$33,575.00 now down to \$0?
Supervisor Deming answered that this line item was for the Comprehensive Plan and we did receive a grant for this.

Q- For A7110.4; "Park, Contr Expend;" \$4,000?
Supervisor Deming responded that the monies are for Kiwanis.

Q- Did we receive a budget from them to warrant allocating funds?
It is not fair to the public not to ask for figures. Giving \$4,000 to non-profit without seeing a budget is not right.

Supervisor Deming commented when we initially met with members, they outlined what they do for the community, but we did not request an updated document. Mr. Bennett stated that the money is in the proposed budget, but has not been disbursed, if the Town Board chooses not to.

Mr. Richenberg commented once again the money is in the budget now, and feels it is unfair to the taxpayers to fund non-profits.

Q- For A7520.4; "Historical Property," \$2,000, is this the Historical Society property?
Supervisor Deming answered it is.

Q- Is A7510.4R "Historian Office Rent;" \$4800, this is the old bank, and the amount is going that much higher?
Supervisor Deming replied this money is allocated for Historian's rent.

David Deuel inquired as to the hours for the Town Historian, Mr. Gates.

Supervisor Deming answered that Steve is usually in his office every day or every other but always willing to schedule appointments to meet with the public.

Q-In General Fund "NY CLASS interest; is this the running tally of solar funds? Supervisor Deming replied that A2401F is the interest for NY CLASS. We originally estimated \$54,000 but reduced to \$40,000.

Q- Is money being used out of the NY CLASS account? Supervisor Deming responded money is being utilized from NY CLASS.

Q- Under Highway, DA5110.1 and DA5110.4, is that equipment? Mr. Bennett replied DA5110.1 is for Highway summer help and DA5110.4 is summer projects to be fixed, not out of the CHIPS money (CHIPS is DA5112.2). Mr. Bennett added that consolidation of line items did take place.

Comment: Kirk Richenberg stated that the Fire Department's PowerPoint presentation was great, giving the Board a great deal of information, they owe it to the Town Board to see previous numbers to justify the increase(s). Their fund balances did not reflect what is actually there. The Fire Department originally asked for 15%, now its down to 10%, maybe the Board should trim down further.

Comment: David Deuel stated that he shares Mr. Richenberg's concern regarding the increase to the Fire Department contract. This number (10%) is out of line with the other figures. The overall town budget has an increase of 2.7%, inflation for 2024 is at 3.2 %, inflation for 2025 at 1.9% and Social Security at 2.5%. A 10% increase for fire protection is a large increase.

Mr. Deuel asked if the fire department has ever come to the Town Board meeting or have one Town Board member sit in at a fire department meeting to see how monies are allocated? What would happen if the Town Board did not fund the Fire Department?

Dennis House- As a member of the York Fire Department for many years, any person is welcome to join to fully see the working operations of the department, all you have to do is fill out an application to join. No one personally benefits from the money the Town approves, almost all of the money goes into serving this community.

David Deuel- Mr. Deuel feels a member of the Town Board should be able to sit in with the Fire Department when it comes to budget related requests but they refuse to share information.

Dustin Geiger- Mr. Geiger stated he has always had a great working relationship with the Town Board and will continue to share information to justify the fire departments increases. People previously refusing information 20 years ago is not what is happening now.

Supervisor Deming commented that the Board hears the concerns regarding the 10% increase, but in the presentation, it clearly showed the needs of the department.

Mr. Deuel asked with a 10% increase this upcoming year, what about future years, what are the options if you can't come to an agreement? Mr. Deuel added other towns have consolidated their fire districts due to lack of volunteers, what happens going forward if this happens, is there a plan?

Mr. Bennett replied, when volunteers are no longer participating, coverage will ultimately have to go to a County paid service.

David Deuel stated the Fire Department has the Town over a barrel then.

Dustin Geiger- If the Town Board no longer wanted to contract with the Fire Department, there are options. They can contract with a neighbor department, start their own department and pay them or get the County as a paid service.

Henry Fuller- Twenty years ago we did not have the extra equipment, why do we need so much now?

Dustin Geiger- The gear required is mandatory, and you cannot expect fire department personnel to go into a burning building to rescue someone or save the property without proper equipment. Mr. Geiger added that turn-out gear cost in the neighborhood of \$4,000 for just pants/coat, not to mention additional costs for other necessary equipment.

Henry Fuller commented that the Board should require receipts in order to see how the money is being used, \$32,000 for maintenance is high.

Dustin Geiger- That figure is for fuel and maintenance.

Kirk Richenberg- Sometimes when conversations happen, it gets turned into a personal attack, which should not be the situation. The Town Board should be making decisions on actual figures and real data, not estimates. The amount of \$245,000 is a lot of money, which should require accountability. The Town does not know what the numbers were in previous years to see what actual expenditures were. The Board should not only require this of the Fire Department, but for the Historical Society and Kiwanis as well.

Henry Fuller- What about the money from the ambulance?

Dustin Geiger- All assets and liabilities were officially given to the York Fire Department, which was awarded by the NYS Comptroller's office as a non-profit.

Kirk Richenberg- In A1081 Revenues, "Other payments in Lieu of Taxes", the number has decreased from 2024 to 2025?

Supervisor Deming answered in 2024 it was for the re-evaluation.

Q- For A1170.1, "Franchises", in 2024 it was estimated at \$31,000 then the Preliminary at \$30,000 ?

Mr. Bennett commented we could increase it if the Board chooses to.

Q- The Town could probably increase A2130; "Refuse and Garbage charges", it seems low.

Q- In A3089, “State Aid-other”; it was estimated in 2024 for \$68,999.00?
Mr. Bennett answered part of it was for the grant money for the Comprehensive Plan. Also, with the 2024-2025 enacted State Budget, it included a one-time TMA (Temporary Municipal Assistance) for all cities, towns and villages that receive AIM (Aid and Incentives for Municipalities). The Town can obtain \$7,000.

Q- In Highway, DA2665; “Sales and Equipment”, you have \$50,000 slated in revenues?
Supervisor Deming replied we will be selling the old truck next year.

Q- Is there a guarantee as to what the amount we will receive?
Supervisor Deming answered, according to Mr. Worden this is what we will be receiving.

Q- Under Consolidated Water revenues, SW2140.6 CV, .6 LT and .6R all have \$0 revenue projected?
Mr. Bennett stated that all those line items previously in the budget are now listed into one line; SW2140.6 “Metered Water Sales” (\$833,000.00).

Q- Is SW2142; “Unmetered Water Sales” the meter at the Town Barns?
Supervisor Deming responded, yes, it is the coin machine at the barns.

Mr. Richenberg concluded by saying after reviewing the budget and pointing out revenues that could be adjusted, he hopes the Board will consider doing so.

David Deuel- Is there a desire or plans to expand Spectrum?
Supervisor Deming answered that the County received a \$23 million Federal grant that will assist homes in Livingston County.

Kirk Richenberg- With recent changes, are they going to be paying more in Franchise fees?
Supervisor Deming replied, at this time we are not sure about the fees.

Henry Fuller- Any updates on Livingston County water?
Supervisor Deming responded there are no new updates.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Swede and seconded by Mr. Smith to close the Budget Hearing at 6:24 p.m. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Harris
Christine M. Harris, Clerk

Regular Town Board Meeting
October 22, 2024
6:24 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Councilmembers: Lynn Parnell, Jason Swede and Amos Smith

Absent: Frank Rose Jr.

Others: Sandra Curran & Justin Bennett (BBS), Dustin Geiger, Henry Fuller, Kirk Richenberg, Dennis House and David Deuel

Supervisor Deming opened the Regular meeting at 6:24 p.m. and invited Councilwoman Parnell to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Local Law #3- 2024:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Swede to approve Local Law#3 of 2024; to override the Tax Levy limit established in General Municipal Law 3-C.

Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0, Absent-1, Frank Rose Jr.

Councilmember Lynn Parnell- Aye
Councilmember Amos Smith- Aye
Councilmember Jason Swede- Aye
Supervisor Gerald L. Deming- Aye

2025 Town Budget:

The Board discussed a number of comments and suggestions made this evening regarding revenue line items in the budget and agreed to implement several. The Board also agreed to keep the Kiwanis and Historical Society budget line items as is, but stated they will meet with them before checks are issued to discuss their budget needs.

Councilman Smith commented after viewing the Fire Department's presentation (September 23rd) he was very impressed with the detail submitted justifying the departments need for funds. As a business owner, he has witnessed in the last 2-3 years the dramatic increase in costs of equipment and machinery. The Board discussed and came to the conclusion to reduce the percentage from 15% to a 10% increase for 2025, which he is comfortable with. We will be reviewing this again next year.

Councilman Swede added, the last contract was a 3 year one, with this upcoming year as a 1-year contract, it allows us to re-negotiate next year once again.

Councilman Parnell stated she is comfortable with the percentage we have in place for the Fire Department.

APPROVAL

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Swede to approve the 2025 Town of York budget. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

MINUTES

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Parnell to approve the minutes of the October 8th Town Board meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Swede and seconded by Mrs. Parnell to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 6:39 p.m. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine M. Harris
Christine M. Harris, Clerk