

**COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2011 BUDGET
NOVEMBER 3, 2010- page 1**

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Supervisor Susan O'Rorke and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance: Councilwoman Finke, Councilmen Byas, and Norris, Highway Superintendent Jordan, Town Clerk Brooks, and 50+ members of the public who signed attendance sheet. Absent: Councilman Meredith.

Supervisor O'Rorke thanked the New Baltimore Fire Company for the use of the building and the setting up. Thanking everyone for coming, she stated the purpose of the meeting is for the Board to hear all who wish to be heard regarding the Preliminary Budget for 2011.

NYS law defines the Town Supervisor to prepare the Tentative Budget to be presented to the Town Board; the vote on the Town Budget is scheduled for November 8 or the first Thursday after Election Day. This Public Hearing allows the Board to hear from the public. Supervisor reached out to all Board members and appreciates all those who took the time to be involved in the process.

She highlighted changes: mandatory retirement contributions increased \$20,000/42%; health insurance, by working with Councilman Norris and the Highway Department and insurance professionals, has been kept to an increase of 10% and a Health Reimbursement Account has been established; Personal Services in the General Fund were lowered by \$2700, 1.5% raises for Town employees but not including elected officials other than the full-time Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk, and not including Planning Board, Zoning Board or Building Inspector; Legal Fees for 2011 are higher to offset potential assessment litigation expenses; the Supervisor's salary was lowered from \$8925 to \$7925 to allow for the compensation for a Confidential Secretary at no cost to taxpayers. The Tentative General Fund Budget was prepared using conservative estimates for revenues and expenditures. The use of the Fund Balance for 2010 was decreased by \$300. Other areas of decrease were made in building permits, interest, and tax penalties. The Tentative Highway Budget has a \$34,000 additional expenditure, over 2010, for Highway Road Repairs, allowing the Town to get closer to its 10 miles/year goal. The increase in Personal Services in the Highway Fund reflects a 1.5% increase for all Highway employees.

Sewer District No. 1 includes a rise in mandatory retirement contribution, additional \$2000 added to Capital Reserve, and 1.5% increase in Personal Services. Sewer District No. 2, Kalkberg Commerce Park, had an increase in Administrative cost due to transfer of electric and generator maintenance from the Village of Coxsackie to the Town; property tax increase results from Empire Merchants use of the pump station. Lighting Districts 1 and 2 and Water Districts 1 and 3 are relatively flat. Ambulance District 1 has small increase. Ambulance District 2 is still on hold, waiting for Coxsackie Ambulance figures; Supervisor projects \$1800 increase. Tentative Budget resulted in 1.52% tax levy increase, or \$7.59/\$100,000 assessed value.

Town Board met in Special Meeting on October 21, making the following changes: Aging programs reduced from \$2500 to \$1500; Economic Development reduced from \$1300 to \$800; Playgrounds reduced from \$17,040 to \$8,540 as a result of closing 2 parks, Joseph Wyche and Silver Lake, for 2011. For Revenues, Youth Programs increased from \$1250 to \$3050 resulting from contribution of \$30/child to participate in Summer Recreation Program; Highway Fund decrease in Contractual of \$2000 for savings on Uniforms. Upon full review, these changes result in .22% increase in tax levy or \$1.09 per home for \$100,000 assessed home. Tables, page 9 of Line Item Budget will show tax levy changes, page 10 Projected Fund Balances for end of 2010, page 11 shows Debt Tables, and reflect that the Town-wide funds have no debt.

Supervisor, before opening the floor for public, asked for Board comment. Councilman Norris has lived through the last 2 years, felt important to work with the new Supervisor, who did an effective job to reduce costs from original Tentative Budget; college chargebacks were reduced to less impact as more local students go to our community

COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2011 BUDGET
NOVEMBER 3, 2010- page 2

DRAFT

college, C-GCC, mandatory retirement contribution could not be helped, health insurance was mitigated and thanked hwy for working together with him and Supervisor to reduce that cost to the Town. Also, Consolidated Highway Improvement ProgramS has appropriated \$112,681—if we roll that back to last year, \$78,000, we could see a net savings of \$21,000 or a net savings of \$2.62 for everyone in the town. Councilman Norris thinks that's prudent since last year we expected a reduction; 12%, it is possible that new members in the state legislature could reduce it. If we do get the same amount, we could redo the 284 Agreement. It would be a tax rate reduction of .014. Councilman Norris lobbied to not increase the Youth Program fees.

Councilman Byas talked to Greene County Legislature's Wayne Speenburgh who doesn't see any money coming for youth programs, as they will cut everything they can and are laying off.

Supervisor opened the public hearing and stated:

- a Town Board member may respond to a question during the speaker's five minutes,
- attendees were instructed how to sign up to speak,
- a timekeeper was assigned,
- a speaker may speak a second time by signing up, and
- the Town Board will hear from those in attendance first and then hear the letters that were received.

In order of appearance, the following persons spoke in favor of the proposed 2011 Tentative Budget:

Bob Knighton
Toni Campbell
David Louis
Karleen Karlson
Diane Louis
Kingsley Greene
Bob Turan
John Cannon
Liz LoGiudice
Nick Jenny
Lynn Wallace
Hilary Schrauf
Jeff Ruso
Lee Davis
John Wallner
Rebecca Rosario
Joyce Schoenig
James Eckl (letter)
Janet Angelis (letter)
Cary Danaher (letter)
Alta Turner (letter)
William and Donna Girvin (letter)
William Girvin (letter)
Anthony Rago
Wendy Van Lare
Janet Brooks
Pam Trombley
Rich Guthrie

In order of appearance, the following persons spoke against the proposed 2011 Tentative Budget:

Donald Russo

COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2011 BUDGET
NOVEMBER 3, 2010- page 3

DRAFT

Sally Russo
Tim Walsh (letter)
Jeff Ruso

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, **Councilman Norris moved to terminate the hearing, seconded by Councilman Byas.** The adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE: BYAS-AYE FINKE-AYE MEREDITH-Absent
 NORRIS-AYE O'RORKE-AYE

Motion Carried

The Hearing was terminated at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet A. Brooks
Town Clerk

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