

**Public Hearing – 2016 Proposed General Budget  
November 4, 2015**

The Town Board held a Public Hearing on the above date at 7:50 p.m. at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear comments for/against the Proposed 2016 Budget for the General Budget.

**PRESENT:**

Richard Shea	Supervisor
Nancy Montgomery	Councilwoman
John Van Tassel	Councilman
Michael Leonard	Councilman
Robert Flaherty	Councilman

Town Clerk Merando read the Public Notice.

Supervisor Shea stated that the current increase is 1/3 of 1%. He reviewed the guidelines for the cap. He stated that many line items are not changing in 2016.

He then reviewed the Philipstown Ambulance's proposed budget which reflects a 17% increase. He stated that these increases are not in their control, as new ambulances are needed and insurance costs have risen.

Chris Tobin stated that with the 20% decrease a few years ago, the corp. has used all of their reserves, so they have nothing to work with.

The Garrison Ambulance will see a slight increase, solely due to the increase of salaries for the paid EMT. There was some discussion with regard to increased training requirements.

The Recreation Department has just purchased a new vehicle and that lease payment is reflected in the 2016 budget. Supervisor Shea stated that he would like to see the Buildings and Fields line item restored to \$23,000.00. These monies will be used for maintenance on the town's fields. He also noted that salaries for all departments will be further reviewed.

Supervisor Shea reviewed the Fish Library line, noting that there will be an increase from 15,000 to 20,000, as they provide a valuable service.

Nick Angell expressed his appreciation for the library and the services they offer, as he utilizes it on a routine basis.

Supervisor Shea stated that the Code Administration Clerk will be increased from \$6,800 to \$8,000 as they need assistance in that office, along with the need to clean up the files. On the fire marshal line, an increase will not be considered this year; however, the zoning flood administration line will be increase from \$0 – \$1,200. It was noted that there may be additional hours approved for the Deputy Administrator. A new vehicle has been leased which is reflected in the proposed 2016 budget line.

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Supervisor Shea then addressed the highway's budget stating that there are three major projects that need to be completed. Indian Brook Road, Avery Road Bridge and Manitou Station Road are priorities. Avery Road Bridge is an approximate \$200,000 project, which has been flagged by New York State, so it must be completed.

Supervisor Shea stated we are also looking at the Manitou Station Road Project, which is a much larger project, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$900,000. We have to get started on it, we can't keep going the way we are going. We did reach out to the County to partner with us, we got rebut there. We did reach out to Metro North, there has been some idea about cooperation with shared services, maybe shared equipment, some engineering, things like that. No money though. Nobody is offering anything. We are going to have to take it on ourselves. We do have a fund balance in Highway, we can bond out, and go ahead and start the project. It's going to be done in two phases anyway. I mean the engineering and the plan is done. We do have a plan. The first year maybe, we are looking to splitting it up, maybe driving pile and getting it set in year one and then go raising it up in year two. Or perhaps doing the whole thing in one season. It obviously is not going to happen this season, but we can look at it in the Spring.

Councilman Van Tassel added that it would seem to him that more damage would be done to that area if it were done in two phases.

Supervisor Shea reported that we are talking about raising the road six feet. And its driving sheet piles, I don't know how many feet down into the marsh.

There was some discussion with regard to the fuel line, as historically, we haven't used it all. Supervisor Shea noted that the usual purchases of highway materials will remain the same, however, at this time, the town is not considering any paving. This is largely due to the fact that the town will spend large sums of money on the above noted projects. Councilman Flaherty interjected that there are some topping projects slated for 2016. Supervisor Shea noted that outside contractors would be utilized for the Manitou Station Road and the Avery Road Bridge.

Supervisor Shea continued to review the highway budget noting that machinery and contractual work have never come close to \$180,000, so that has been reduced to \$150,000. The highway department is in need of a new office trailer, which will cost \$150,000 or more, this will be bonded out over a ten-year period.

Nick Angell expressed his appreciation to the board during the budget process and the difficult issues before them. Mr. Angell brought up the matter of South Mountain Pass and what was done and what was said. He stated that Roger Chirico always includes his plans for drainage, paving, etc. There was a statement made this evening, that there is no more new paving in the 2016 fiscal year, particularly portions of South Mountain Pass. Mr. Angell asked if that was a correct statement, Supervisor Shea responded saying that is true. He hopes that if a drainage project is completed in 2016, he doesn't want to see the scenario which occurred this year. He went on to say that

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this year it was pointed out that now that the drainage is completed, we have to pave in order to protect the drainage. Mr. Angell asked if there are any drainage projects slated for 2016. Supervisor Shea responded saying that there are always drainage projects needed on town roads. Mr. Angell reminded the Town Board that an offer was made to consider different options to maintain dirt roads, and assured them that that offer is still on the table for the future.

Carl Dushin stated that the stakes that were installed to mark the culverts are dangerous when traversing the road on a motorcycle. Supervisor Shea asked Mr. Dushin if he had addressed this with the Highway Superintendent, and if not, he should contact him.

Terence Zaleski congratulated the candidates on their win and thanked the Town Board for their efforts when reviewing the proposed budget. Mr. Zaleski stated that following up on a point that Mr. Angell addressed with regard to piping and drains. It is his feeling that drainage on dirt roads don't work, they only become a point source of pollution. He suggested that this be removed from the budget, and if not, it could be a source of potential savings in the future.

Mr. Zaleski then addressed the amount of materials and the expense of Item 4. He stated that some members of the Old Road Society submitted a FOIL request to review the actual costs of item 4 and found that over the past few years there has been a fifteen % reduction in the cost.

Finally, Mr. Zaleski asked for a workshop in the coming year to discuss signage, speed limits and maintenance procedures.

Joyce Blum asked if there is monies allocated in the highway budget for speed limit signs on South Mountain Pass? Supervisor Shea responded saying that there is always money for signs in the budget.

Supervisor Shea once again began to review the highway's budget stating that snow removal will be reduced, as the town hasn't used that amount in some years.

Supervisor Shea pointed out that there has been a decrease in the benefit cost, due to retirement, health benefit reductions and retired personnel who have passed away.

The Continental Village Fire Department will remain with a 0% increase. Supervisor Shea stated that Garrison Volunteer Fire would become a district with five commissioners and one treasurer. Councilman Van Tassel stated that there are some concerns with the complexity of the transfer. He spoke with both attorneys involved and they are confident that there are no flaws in the plan. He noted that for one day, the town would be overseeing the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department, the rest of the year; the five commissioners will do the oversight.

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Both Supervisor Shea and Councilman Van Tassel gave a brief explanation of the Garrison Fire finances for 2014 and 2015, noting that in 2014 there fund balances were in the minus, as they had indicated, and approximately \$3,000.00 balance for 2015.

Supervisor Shea noted that mortgage tax would be larger revenue than anticipated. The bottom line of the proposed budget is 1/3 of 1%.

There being no further comments from the public, Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Van Tassel to close the Public Hearing at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina M. Merando  
Town Clerk