

Public Hearing – General Budget
November 9, 2016

The Town Board held a Public Hearing on the above date at 7:55 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 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 noted for the record that the Town Board has met with all departments to review their proposed budgets for 2017. The end result is approximately a 1% decrease overall. The town will see \$146,000.00 below the cap, while achieving budget line items to address some renovations to the Town Hall and Dahlia House (Town Hall Annex.)

Supervisor Shea then reviewed the proposed budget, noting that one of the Judges will see a small increase, as he has covered the position of two judges. He continued to review each line item. The Tax Collection is seeing an increase due to the upgrade of the tax program, which will now offer online credit card payments. Property Records Management has been eliminated as a result of each department categorizing their purchases under \$5,000.00, anything above that falls under the GASB fixed assets program. Buildings will remain the same, as the Town has monies from the sale of the VFW and a bond will end in 2016. Central Data Processing has increased due to some upgrades for municipal software. Supervisor Shea continued to give an overview of the proposed budget pointing out the following:

- Monies have been allocated towards a revaluation, (\$10,000.00,) the Town Board intends to sit down with the Assessor to determine where to begin, keeping in mind to impact to Continental Village's residents.
- Both ambulance corps increased by 1%. Funds have been added to increase the salaries of the paid drivers who are also EMT's.
- The Highway Budget has been reviewed at length, some of the items have been eliminated, however, there are some capital improvements that will move forward in the amount of approximately \$751,000, Manitou Station Road being one of them. Supervisor Shea also noted that there are some bridges that need to be repaired.
- Recreation shows an 8% increase, however, their revenues have increased, thereby leaving a 0% increase. They intend to add new programs in 2017.

- The Fish Library reflects a \$5,000.00 increase, this will assist in the elevator project. They had asked for more funding, however, the town is not in the position to do that at this time. A small increase is also seen for the Historical Society. Supervisor Shea stated that these organizations are a great community hub.
- Home and Community Services is allocated for the Recycling Center. Supervisor Shea noted that Councilman Flaherty had suggested a voucher program for residents to bring household waste to Royal Carting, which resulted in a \$10,000.00 increase for that purpose.
- Cemeteries have a slight increase to assist the Committee to continue the great work they have started, such as repairs and mapping. It was noted that Putnam County reduced the amount allocated to all the towns with regard to cemeteries.
- Debt Services will be adjusted, looking to decrease the amount of time that the boiler at recreation will be paid off. This an effort to be able to do some capital improvements to town properties.
- It was noted that the mortgage tax will increase by approximately 7%.
- Supervisor Shea then addressed the Code Enforcement Office, noting that when the town merges with the Village of Cold Spring, Greg Wunner will have increased fire inspections. It was also noted that the new software program that has been purchased to streamline the efficiency of the office and will aide in the revaluation.
- There was a slight increase in employee benefits, approximately 5%. New York State Retirement, which the town has no control of.
- Emergency Services were reviewed. Supervisor Shea noted that he is disappointed in the large increase in the Garrison Fire District. There was some discussion with regard to the 2% cap and how for the first year, the fire district was not obligated to stay within that limit. The Town Board discussed some of the bonds that they held and when they would be paid off. Joe Regele expressed his dissatisfaction with the increase, as well as the upcoming elections and their hours of operations. The other Fire Companies came in at 1% increase, Cold Spring at 7% due to an increase in their LOSAP.

Supervisor Shea stated that there is 1/2% decrease in the town's budget. Supervisor Shea asked if there were any comments from the audience, there being no comments, Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilman Flaherty to close the Public Hearing at 8:45 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by,

Tina M. Merando
Town Clerk