

Public Hearing – General Budget
November 6, 2019

The Town Board held a Public Hearing on the above date at 7:52 p.m. at 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison, New York. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear comments for/against the Proposed 2020 Budget.

PRESENT:	Richard Shea	Supervisor
	John Van Tassel	Councilman
	Michael Leonard	Councilman
	Judith Farrell	Councilwoman
	Susan Kenney	Town Comptroller

ABSENT:	Robert Flaherty	Councilman
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Supervisor Shea stated that there were no wild swings in the budget. He added that the “cap” limits what can be done - the “cap” prevents the budget from rising. Supervisor Shea added that right now the Town was under the 2% cap and has been since it has been instituted.

Supervisor Shea stated that the biggest project the Town was facing was the Town Hall renovation, which is going to require funds. He added that it has taken about 10 years to put together the funds for the project while remaining within the “cap.”

The town board is still looking at some additional funding for the HUB and do a little more with the Climate Smart Coordinator, as well as some tweaking of some salaries. We’re looking at about \$12,000/\$15,000 left over to play with.

Councilman Leonard added that the Town was stuck with additional costs for compensation insurance, contracts and payroll. He stated that these costs automatically rise so the Town Board is already “in a hole.”

Supervisor Shea stated that the Town is already dealing with a problem with the Garrison Landing Water District, and the Town is purchasing water and putting resources into it. He stated that a well was just drilled 1,050 feet and no additional water was obtained. Supervisor Shea reiterated that these were not little or huge expenses but they were additional expenses.

Councilwoman Farrell stated that she felt it was a good budget and well put-together with minimal increases and was pleased with the increase of additional resources for the Emergency Response position.

Audience member stated that they weren’t expecting revenues to be down. Supervisor Shea replied that the mortgage tax rebate is expected to be lower than in previous years.

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Another audience member mentioned the Cold Spring Fire Department being down a little. Supervisor Shea replied that he thought their Workman's Compensation insurance went down.

David Marzollo stated that he was in his 20s eighteen years ago and now feels like there has been a great change in the exposure and what young people are facing. He added that more modernized young people weren't doing opioids – they were drinking beer and smoking joints. It was his feeling that the substances that the young people are being faced with, has been a dramatic shift from that in the past. The dangers then were getting in trouble with the law or our family; getting arrested or throwing up! Now the danger is "facing death." He added that he was thrilled when he was asked to join the HUB and wanted to applaud the Town Board for selecting Danielle Pack McCarthy for this position.

Supervisor Shea stated that there are many worthy projects that the Town Board would like to see and then there's reality. He added that if the Board didn't do something about Town Hall then eventually there would be no Town Hall.

There being no further comments from the public, Councilwoman Farrell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Leonard to close the Public Hearing at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina M. Merando
Town Clerk