

A regular meeting was held October 2, 2012 at Hutchinson Hall, Newark Valley at 7:00 P.M. The following were

PRESENT:

Stuart Yetter, Jr., Supervisor
Donald Thomas, Councilman
Ronald Graham, Councilman
Joe Tomazin, Jr., Councilman

ABSENT:

Dan Cheresnowski, Councilman

Also Present: Mike Maxwell; Sole Assessor, Tom Larson; Code Enforcement Officer, Del Mock, and the following Berkshire EMS personnel: Cheryl Galluzzo, and Cliff Alexander.

Supervisor Yetter called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Yetter led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of Tentative 2013 Budget

Supervisor Yetter explained that there is a 4.71% increase in the tax levy, but it is under the 2% cap by around \$200.00. He said if we do go over, we will need to find a place to cut some money, add an increase of revenue, or pass a local law for going over the 2% cap.

Included in this tentative budget is a 3% increase for the Highway Superintendent and appointed positions. Also included is \$.55 increase for highway employees and overtime for highway employees.

There are no extras for anyone; it only covers bare bones of what we have to do. The increases in the budget are for worker's compensation, Berkshire EMS and retirement contributions. There are minimal increases for the Highway Department. We may be able to do some of things the departments would like to do. We will be looking at everyone's budget requests.

The computation of surplus is not yet completed, but if someone wants the information, Supervisor Yetter said they could stop in for a copy when it is done.

As always, we are trying to keep the budget down.

There was discussion about the Tentative Budget.

There was discussion about assessments related to taxes.

Our goal is to try to have a consistent level of taxes. Dollar wise, appropriations are 4% or \$51,000.00 increase.

Supervisor Yetter wants the Board to go through the budget requests and decide what would be feasible.

There was a question about what the Town is worth – highway equipment, buildings, etc. Supervisor Yetter said he didn't know right off the top of his head, but could look at the insurance information. We are supposed to have a value on roads, equipment, buildings, etc.

Councilman Thomas noticed in the tentative budget that no money had been allocated for highway equipment. Supervisor Yetter said Highway Superintendent Meade may request

that we roll money over into Capital Reserve Equipment. FEMA will be going into the equipment line. Supervisor Yetter is waiting for Superintendent Meade to give him those figures.

Supervisor Yetter asked that the Board go over everything and they will work on the budget from there.

The Board discussed a few line items.

Department Reports

Planning Board

The Chairman, Hans Peeters could not attend the meeting tonight. Supervisor Yetter said the Planning Board had a productive meeting on Monday evening. They have a draft Road Use Law. The attorney has it and will look it over. We should have something next Tuesday.

Heidi Mann has had to resign from our Planning Board and as the representative from Newark Valley on the County's Planning Board due to family issues. We need to replace her. Do we want to advertise for these positions or does the Board want to try to find people that are interested? The consensus was to advertise the positions.

Code

Tom Larson said things are slow. He is working on delinquent permits. No big news. There is a variance hearing on October 10, it is a hardship case.

Dog Control

The dangerous dog case has been put to rest. The County Judge made his decision. We are waiting to hear from Cheryl Jones' attorney for compliance.

Assessor

Mr. Maxwell handed out an information sheet for the Town Board to look over. (This document is on file in the Town Clerk's office). He explained how assessments work for gas drilling.

There was discussion about revaluation.

(Councilman Cheresnowski arrived at 7:30 P.M.).

There was discussion concerning full market values and the equalization rate.

Berkshire EMS

Cheryl Galluzzo and Cliff Alexander said they came to see if there was any input from the Town Board.

There was discussion about a new contract and language.

There was discussion about how to get the patient to pay their portion of the bill. (The EMS is looking at new billing companies. There is a preliminary increase of \$50,000.00 for next year).

There was discussion about the EMS budget, how to split the cost of the budget between the three towns, collection and billing, the average cost to transport a patient to the hospital, copays, and ambulance transports from Dr.'s offices to a hospital.

The Board would like the EMS to put something in the Town's Newsletter explaining how the billing works.

Supervisor Yetter said he was pleased with the communication between the Town and the EMS.

Mr. Alexander asked what way the Board thinks the cost should be distributed amongst the three towns, by population, by call volume, or by assessed value. The Board said the call volume is as good as anything at this time.

Items of Interest to Board Members

The Town Clerk asked the Board to consider increasing the dog license fees because Stray Haven has increased their contract fees to the Town and because of the cost of the dangerous dog case. The Board will take a look at the request.

The Board discussed the budget a little more. The Board scheduled a Work Session for October 30, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. so if it is needed we will be prepared. It will be advertised in the Tioga County Courier if it is needed.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM., offered by Councilman Graham and seconded by Councilman Cheresnowski.

The next scheduled meeting is October 16, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Mock
Town Clerk