

A Public Hearing was held Thursday, November 4, 2010, at 7:00PM at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: James C. Youmans, Supervisor
Dawn Rogers, Councilwoman
Thomas A. Boehm, Councilman
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman

ABSENT: Richard N. Touchette, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Greg Darlington, Chief of Police
Albert Deering, Highway Superintendent

Supervisor Youmans opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NOTICE
OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans will meet and hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York, at 7:00pm on Thursday, the 4th day of November 2010 for purpose of hearing comments on the budget.

Pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law, listed below are the proposed salaries of Elected Officials.

Supervisor	(1)	\$30,000.00
Councilman	(4)	\$12,000.00 each
Justice	(2)	\$17,500.00 each
Highway Supt.	(1)	\$50,000.00
Town Clerk	(1)	\$40,500.00

A copy of the Preliminary Budget will be available at the Town Clerk's Office, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York, where it may be viewed and a copy can be obtained regular business hour.

By Order of the Town Board
of the Town of Coeymans
Diane L. Millious
Town Clerk

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Youmans stated that the purpose of the hearing is to hear Public Comment and not particularly a time to insist on answers to any questions but they will hear all comments and may or may not answer questions that are presented.

AGENDA

- Public Comment on the Preliminary Budget

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Youmans invited the public to comment at this time and added that anyone wishing to speak should come to the microphone and state their name and where they live.

Donna Pasquini stated that she lives at 29 Westerlo Street in Coeymans and she had a question, which was answered by seeing the Notice for the Public Hearing, and added that there were no salaries listed in the back of the budget.

Supervisor Youmans thanked her for pointing it out and added that back by the copies of the budget that are available there are also copies of the Public Notice that was posted, which includes the salaries of Elected Officials. He continued by saying that it was an oversight and he is not an expert with the XL Spreadsheet Program and it was inadvertently omitted.

Ms. Pasquini stated that her next question is on page 24 regarding the estimated revenues for sewer rents and added that there is no revenue listed.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he is sure that there is an answer to that and added that he will have to take a look at that. He continued by saying that if she looks at SS2375, Sewer Services other Governments (CP), he thinks that it should say Sewer Rents but he will have to verify it.

Ms. Pasquini continued by saying that the other question that she has is on page 18 where there is Misc. Storm Sewer Repair, which continues onto page 19 and there is no money in DB5140.4 allocated to repair the storm sewers and they all know that there are major problems with that. She continued by saying that she has one more question, which is whether they are on track with last year in not knowing where they stood financially and if there is any deficit going into it or revenue that is leftover going into it.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he would say that they are present for the purpose of hearing comments on the Preliminary Budget and if she wants further information about the current state of the Town's finances, she can stop by tomorrow because he will be in for the entire day and will be glad to share it with her.

Ms. Pasquini stated that she was thinking that it might affect the Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it has been thought out and continued by asking if anyone else who wanted to comment.

Mr. Henry Traver stated that he lives in the Village of Ravenna in Oak Brook Manor and added that he wanted to defend himself on a couple of comments that were made last week by Supervisor Youmans in saying that there was no money for paper clips and added that he did put money in for the paper clips and it was in the storeroom. He went on by saying that in regard to salaries, they did not have time to sit down before this process and in his defense on the reason for the raises that he gave, he does not want to see the Town do what they did last year with Council 82 where Councilman Touchette and the Board, with him abstaining from the vote, had to pay out \$28,000.00 in salaries that were not budgeted for. He continued by saying that the reason that he put it in was because of contract negotiations coming up with Council 82 and CSEA and this is why he put in the money for a 3% raise across the board so they would have it and not have a shortfall coming into the budget cycle for next year and he did not want to see the Board pass something without having no money in there for salaries and this would be to prepare themselves for any anticipated raises. He added that if they plan on not having a raise at all, he

personally thinks they should put something in there just in case because contract negotiations have not even started yet and there should be something there so there it does not show a shortfall in personal services. He continued by saying that in regard to the .2 line item, for the past two years the Town Board has taken the .2 out and the reason he took it out was under the advisement of Internal Control Officer Purinton and for any major purchases as the Supervisor's Budget it was his intention to BAN them and this was the reason for the .2 being eliminated from the budget at this time. He concluded by saying that he wanted to thank the Board for putting the budget together and with the situation that is going on he is glad that it looks like it is being passed and then asked what the percentage of the tax increase is right now.

Supervisor Youmans stated that the budget reflects a 2.5% increase, which means .08 cents for every thousand dollars of assessed dollar and for a \$100,000.00 house it would be \$8.00.

Mr. Traver stated that he had a zero percent tax increase.

Supervisor Youmans stated that in fairness when he says a zero percent tax increase, he also projected a \$30,000.00 decrease in health insurance cost and projected a \$600,000.00 fund balance in the B Fund and added that he could go on and it is not fair for him to stand there and say that and it is self serving for him to say that there was a zero percent increase because he did not have a budget either.

Ms. Virginia Pearson stated that on page 10 it says Other Employee Benefits and continued by asking what it is and added that she believes that it should be itemized for \$62,892.00.

Supervisor Youmans stated they probably should be itemized and added that he has a book inside that has them listed and he would be glad to share it with her later.

Ms. Pearson stated that she wishes he would because it is a lot of money and it is reflected on page 15 for \$2,788.00, which brings it up over \$70,000.00 and she would like to know what they are.

Supervisor Youmans asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Mr. Bill Bailey stated that he lives in the Village of Ravena and added that his questions are on the sewer and continued by asking what the administrative fees are because on page 22 there is \$25,000.00 and half way down the page there is \$61,250.00.

Supervisor Youmans stated that the \$61,250.00 is for Town only and added that he believes that it is money that was set aside for Town only for engineering and repairs and added that he was not prepared to dissect it now but he would be glad to cover it with him at another time.

Mr. Bailey reiterated that there is also \$25,000.00 under SS1220 for administrative fees and continued by saying that he is confused and he might be looking in the wrong place but he is looking at the Town only and Village only and he believes that even though it is under tentative, it is a breakdown of the whole and what is planned.

Supervisor Youmans stated that with what he is looking at on page 23, he can't really tell him what it is because he didn't do it and it is the Tentative Budget and the budget that he constructed is on page 22 and 24.

Mr. Bailey stated that on page 22 and 23 it says Town and Village only and added that he thought they corresponded to the totals on the Preliminary Budget and this was his way of breaking them out.

Supervisor Youmans stated that was not true and added that if he looks down the column it shows the Tentative Budget and in the Preliminary Budget there is not much broken down between Town only and Village only because he could not make heads or tails of it and why it was done.

Mr. Bailey inquired as to if he was going by the numbers at all in the Tentative Budget.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he was not.

Mr. Bailey inquired if he should only be looking at the Preliminary Budget on page 22 on the top.

Supervisor Youmans stated that was correct.

Mr. Bailey stated that he was really confused and added that he liked the Tentative Budget breakdown and could follow it and continued by saying that it indicates that \$140,000.00 jointly is what he believes they are going to share between Village and Town on contracts for next year.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he will be available all day tomorrow with the exception of a couple of hours in the morning if he would like to sit down and go over it line by line he would be happy to do it.

Mr. Bailey stated that when he looked at the Tentative Budget he knew there was a slight difference but he was able to follow how it was broken down and what the differences were and that made it easier from the Village's end. He continued by saying that he wanted to comment on the bills that he just received for July, August and September and based on what he has seen so far, and he needs to review them in detail, they are looking as of right now that as of the end of October the Village will have a credit of between \$35,000.00 to \$37,000.00 from January and if the spending in the last two months continues like the last four, it will be \$45,000.00. He added that he is not sure how they are going to reflect that in the budget but it is a new item that needs to be reflected in next year's budget somehow because there is going to be income expected from the Village and they will be subtracting that amount of money per their contract.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he understands that and it is how the contract reads and added that he would caution him that there are some engineering costs that date back some time that the Village has not been billed for yet and he will go through them with him shortly and it has to do with the H35 project. He continued by saying that they talked about bonding the entire project and the money has already been paid and some of that is prior to the Contract Agreement and some of it the Village is only going to be responsible for 50% of, so if they try to go into a Bond it would muddy the waters in a big way so it is something that they have to sit down and go through. He concluded by saying that he will break it out for him and show him what it is and he understands his concerns and it makes sense but there is the other issue that they need to address and discuss before the end of the year.

Mr. Bailey stated that they are going to adopt a budget very soon and it has to be reflected in the budget too in some way no matter what decision is worked out between the two parties.

Supervisor Youmans asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Ms. Starr Ross inquired as to if Supervisor Youmans was going to be available all day tomorrow and asked if he would prefer to talk then.

Supervisor Youmans stated that if she wants detailed answers it would be more appropriate to talk then and added that when he said he was going to be available all day, he expects to be in a meeting from roughly 10:00am to 12:00 and then suggested that she call and make an appointment so he makes sure he is available. He continued by saying that the meeting was for public comment and added that if Highway Superintendent Deering wanted to discuss his budget and items in his budget he did not think that this was the appropriate forum for it.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that sidewalks is always put somewhere else and it is not in the budget and there is no money for it and he wanted to let him know.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he took it out.

Highway Superintendent Deering inquired as to if they are going to do sidewalks next year.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he does not think that they are.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that they had a good start.

Supervisor Youmans asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Virginia Pearson inquired as to if the salaries in the Tentative Budget are reflected in the Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Youmans stated that the correct salaries are in the Notice that was posted and it reflected the salaries of the Elected Officials. He continued by saying that with no further public comment at this time he would ask that Mr. Horton take the sound down and they will give it another 5 minutes in case anyone else wishes to speak.

Supervisor Youmans asked that Mr. Horton bring the sound back up and added that with no further members of the public desiring to speak at this Public Hearing, he would thank those who spoke for their participation and will insure that all questions and comments were taken seriously by himself and the Board and then asked if there were any comments from the Board.

Councilman Boehm stated that he would offer a motion to adjourn.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Touchette) – SO MOVED

Time – 7:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED:

Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk