

A Public Hearing was held Wednesday, November 10, 2011, 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

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

Supervisor Youmans asked that Town Clerk Millious read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Town Clerk Millious read the following Notice.

**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 10th day of November 2011 for the 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
Council	(4)	\$12,000.00 each
Justice	(2)	\$17,500.00 each
Highway Super.	(1)	\$50,000.00
Town Clerk	(1)	\$40,500.00 each

A copy of the 2012 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 during regular business hours.

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

AGENDA

- Public Comments - 2012 Preliminary Budget

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Youmans invited the public at this time.

Mr. Gary Bogardus stated that he sees that most Departments have taken a hit except the Police Department and added that it appears to be up and if the rest of the departments are going to take a hit and sacrifice a bit he believes that they all should.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he appreciates what he is saying and although it does appear to be up, it actually is not and the reason that it appears to be up is that last year there were things in the Employee Other Benefit Line that should not have been, which was his call to do it that way. He continued by saying that the things he is talking about is holiday pay for employees, medical insurance buy-backs and longevity pay. He added that they have moved them into the .1 account and he did the math and it actually comes out a little less when you look at it that way, than the budget was last year if you added that back in.

Mr. Bogardus stated that he was looking at the overall figures and it looked like it was up and added that \$700,000.00 + is a lot of money to run the Police Department and that he is not telling them where to cut or what to cut but with people being laid off at Lafarge and the general economy the way it is, he thinks that they are going to have to do some serious cuts. He continued by saying that maybe they can get the State Police and the Sheriffs to help out a little bit and with attrition, when someone leaves, if they don't have to, don't replace them right away. He concluded by saying that he would appreciate it if they would try to do something to get the budget down a little bit more.

Supervisor Youmans thanked Mr. Bogardus and then asked if there were any additional comments.

Ms. Donna Pasquini inquired about on page 5 where under Contingency, the Contractual went from \$22,345.00 to \$45,781.00.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is just what is says and is Contingency, which is for unforeseen things that come up such as last year when they had to put a roof on the building and when they had to spend \$8,000.00 to put a motor in a truck for the Beautification Department.

Ms. Pasquini inquired as to if the roof was covered under insurance.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it was not.

Ms. Pasquini continued by saying that on page 10 under Employee Benefits, Retirement has gone up every year and this year it went up \$76,000.00.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is exactly what it went up.

Ms. Pasquini questioned Retirement going up that much every year.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he would not say that it goes up that much every year but it did go up that much this year and added that it is something that they have absolutely no control over whatsoever.

Ms. Pasquini stated that it went up a certain percentage this year and reiterated that it seems like it is awful high.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he would agree with her that it does seem awful high, and it is awful high and \$70,000.00 on top of that this year was a lot of money. He continued by saying that with that said, they are working under a 2% tax cap and 2% of the tax levy was \$39,000.00 and the Employee Retirement System payment alone went up \$70,000.00. He added that it is very difficult and they have it down to a 1.18% increase opposed to the original 2% that they talked about.

Ms. Pasquini stated that on page 21 under Sewer the Retirement Benefit went from \$13,962 to \$21,229.00, which seems like a lot for three employees.

Supervisor Youmans agreed that it does seem like a lot.

Ms. Pasquini interjected that it is for 3 employees that are not retiring.

Supervisor Youmans stated that they will retire someday and this is what it costs and added that if she is asking if there is anything extra built into that, the answer is absolutely not.

Ms. Pasquini stated that she is not sure what the percentage is that they raise the Retirement every year and added that she knows that it is done by percentage.

Councilman Dolan stated that it is not done by percentage but rather by a calculation from the Comptroller's Office that says this is how much money the Municipality needs to contribute this year, which is done on a yearly basis.

Ms. Pasquini interjected that the Retirement Employees are way up there for retirement money because the Sewer Department is listed separately.

Supervisor Youmans stated that they are listed separately because it is a Special District, so they have to.

Ms. Pasquini inquired as to if it is a "bare bone" budget.

Councilwoman Rogers interjected that the increase is down to 1.8%.

Ms. Pasquini interjected that 0% would have been nice.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is actually 1.18% and then thanked Ms. Pasquini. He continued by asking if there were any additional comments.

Councilman Dolan interjected that the actual rate increase is found on page 25 of the Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Youmans stated that if no one else wished to comment he would add that the process in moving forward is that the Town Board takes the public comment under consideration, make final adjustments and then they plan on adopting the budget with any changes that they make at Monday's Town Board Meeting. He continued by saying that if no one else wishes to comment he would ask that Mr. Horton take the sound down and give it another 10-12 minutes for anyone else who wished to make a comment.

Supervisor Youmans asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Mr. Ivan Millett stated that Justice Personal Services went up \$10,000.00 from last year and then asked why.

Supervisor Youmans interjected that it came down.

Councilman Dolan inquired as to if he was referring to last year.

Mr. Millett stated that he is going from last year.

Supervisor Youmans stated that Judge Reilly actually performed the duties of a Court Clerk and they knew that it was going to be a possibility because Judge Reilly said if he was still here, he was no longer going to do that and in turn they knew that they were going to need an extra person in that office to handle the volume.

Mr. Millett inquired as to if this for an extra person.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is for a half-time person and added that they originally budgeted in the Tentative Budget a full-time position, which was double what he is actually seeing and then the Board decided on a half-time position.

Mr. Millett stated that the Leachate has gone up \$16,500.00 and inquired as to if it is what's on Jarvis Road.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is on Jarvis Road.

Mr. Millett stated that they ran it for \$10,000.00 but now they need \$26,500.00.

Supervisor Youmans stated that they didn't really run it for \$10,000.00 and this was the problem.

Mr. Millett inquired as to what is done out there.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is actually a miniature Waste Water Treatment Plant and he may recall that when they capped the landfill, they put a system in the ground to capture the liquids that come out of the facility.

Mr. Millett interjected that he knows what it does and what it is about and added that he thought that it was dormant and they were not treating it.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is not and added that they still have to treat it and added that it is frustrating to him because he believes that they originally said that after 10 years they were not going to need to operate it anymore and added that it has been double that and is increasingly costly.

Mr. Millett stated that he was under the impression several years ago that it wasn't even needed anymore because the water is clear.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it certainly is not and added that he wishes that they were at that point, but they still need it and no one can tell them how much longer it will go on and it could be anywhere from 2 – 100 years because they just don't know. He thanked Mr. Millett and continued by asking if there were any additional comments, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

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

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

Time: 7:24pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED:

Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk