

Notes of the Public Hearing on the 2009 Fiscal, Water & Sewer Budgets held on October 22, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. PRESENT were: Councilpersons Simmons and Stewart, Supervisor Jones, Town Highway Superintendent Payne, Town Clerk McMichael.

Excused: Councilpersons Folts and Hopkins.

Guests: Seth Syke and Mark Serrett of Camp Good Days, Dennis Karalow, Sandy & Dick Mytych, Gary & Jan Molyneaux, Leonard & Delores Lang, Howard DeMay, Don & Judith Wilson, Doug Tickner, Jackie Tickner, Bob & Norma Evans, Don & Bev? Mead, Bill Pringle, Glenn Herbert, Max Parson.

Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor Jones welcomed the public and announced the guidelines for conducting tonight's meeting. Councilperson Stewart noted the absence of Councilperson Hopkins, the Bookkeeper and the Water & Sewer Clerk due to illness. Councilperson Folts had a prior commitment.

The Town Board held four budget workshops to review department submissions. The preliminary 2009 budget increase in tax dollars over last year is 3.87%.

Numerous questions were posed regarding the water and sewer budgets. Discussion points included:

The water department has realized substantial reductions through monitoring and streamlining operations.

The Town conducted a water rate study which resulted in a reduction of the minimum from 12,000 to 10,000 gallons/quarter while still enabling us to maintain a healthy fund.

A complaint was made about the water quality that was felt to be a result of the water system not being looped. The amount of water being flushed by the Water Department and the minimum charge billed to customers making them pay for water they do not use was questioned.

The water rate was adjusted at time of consolidation. If Penn Yan raises the cost of water to the Town, the Town has the option to reflect that increase in our rate at that time.

Water rates are the same for the consolidated district. Seasonal rates are not offered because the water is available to residents giving them the option to use it year-round. The consolidating water district expenses need to be allocated across all customers.

The significant expenses we are anticipating related to needed revisions at the Village of Penn Yan Water Treatment Plant, along with the Town inability to have any representation or say on these matters were discussed at length.

The major factor in the increased sewer budget is related to the fixed cost of sewage treatment we pay to the Village of Penn Yan per our contract and debt service.

We anticipate conducting a sewer rate study this year.

There are different capital charges for each sewer districts

We are experiencing a cash flow problem with some sewer customers and they need to pay their fair share of the costs.

The rate for Sewer #2 customers will increase at this time based on a recommendation by our financial consultant. The Town Board chose to implement the increase on an incremental basis.

Sewer #3 District includes the Keuka College athletic field and houses on Assembly Avenue.

All water and sewer customers received a post card notifying them of the public hearing on the water and sewer budgets. The general budget public hearing is advertised in the local newspaper as required by law.

It was the Board's desire to continue discussions on the water and sewer budgets at a later time when staff could be present to answer questions in detail.

Comments were taken on the 2009 Fiscal Budget.

Even though there were major reductions in expenses, there was an overall increase in the Town budget related to fuel costs in general which greatly impacts the largest part of our budget, the Highway Department.

During preliminary discussions in August, employee salaries were increased at 3% with no lay offs anticipated.

The Highway Department cut two roads from the road work scheduled for 2009. The Highway Department has realized savings by narrowing the width of road surfaces, reducing the amount of dust oil on dirt roads and installing a wood furnace at the Highway Barn. The cost of salt is expected to increase in 2009.

Councilperson Stewart and Councilperson Simmons commended Highway Superintendent Payne for being cost conscientious, noting the hard work done to keep the highway budget down.

Councilperson Stewart extended his commendation to the Water and Sewer Department as they have also identified a number of items that will save the Town money. Water Maintainer Gary Dinehart does a lot of work that the Town used to hire out. In response to an inquiry regarding doing more in-house such as work on the grinder pumps that is contracted out, it was noted that a cost savings has been realized by rebuilding them instead of replacing them like we used to.

An explanation of the account object code as stated Uniform System of Accounts for Towns was given:

- .1 salaries
- .2 equipment \$500 or more with a useful life of 3+ years
- .4 contractual - all other expenses beyond salaries and Equipment

Pleas were made to the Board to keep spending in line as the community experiences increased costs that are out of their control and need to make sacrifices in their personal life.

Given the State and County mandates, the Board was commended for keeping the budget under 4%.

The need for a grant writer for the Town has been discussed. It was suggested the Supervisor talk with Steve Griffin, IDA Executive Director.

The public hearing was left open and will be continued Monday, October 27, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

The hearing was adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk