

Town of Washington
Town Board
November 6, 2008

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 6, 2008 on the proposed 2009 Budget. Supervisor Florence Prisco opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes and Robert Audia, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Laura Hurley and Planning Board Chairman Tom Beaumont.

At 7:00 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia the Public Hearing on the proposed 2009 budget was opened. All ayes were recorded.

Supervisor Prisco asked Mrs. Hurley to review the highlights of the budget.

The total tax levy increase is 2.1%. Appropriations are down \$90,000.00 with a 2.7% reduction in spending. Reductions have been made by all departments. This budget has an across the board, employee salary increase of 3%, with no overall increase in overall town salaries. Employee benefits have decreased by \$30,000.00.

The A Fund expenditures see attorney fees shifted partly to the B fund, a reduction in liability insurance, recreation program fees reviewed and increases in non-resident fees, the town pool will close at 6:00 PM on weeknights and will be fully closed the last two weeks in August. Also, one transfer station employee will be funded as a part time highway employee. The 2009 contribution to the employee retirement fund is reduced; however it will be increased in 2010. Medical health insurance for employees has been reduced by about \$30,000.00. This budget sees an increase of \$30,000.00 due to the first installment payment for the parkland BAN.

The B fund appropriations have been reduced by \$5,000.00 even with the increase from \$30,000. to \$50,000. for the Comprehensive Plan Update. Taxes are not being raised in the B fund; all expenses will be paid using fund balance.

The DB fund is the Highway fund, which has an increase of \$41,000. due to increases in the price of salt and fuel. Supervisor Prisco said it is important to note that other towns, such as the town of Pawling pay their Superintendent a separate salary to run the transfer station. Highway revenue is decreased \$33,000. The B fund contribution to the DB fund helps reduce the highway portion of taxes.

Supervisor Prisco also discussed the recent email from Dutchess County Executive Steinhaus. It outlines his proposed 2009 budget, which shows revenues from the municipalities for Sheriff patrols in the amount of \$4,700,000. and Election charge backs in the amount of \$1,300,000.00. There is an emergency meeting of the Supervisors and Mayors Association on Monday to discuss these proposals.

Also important to note is that the assessed values have decreased due to court cases and there has not been much new construction to show an increase in assessed values. It is quite possible that in 2009 assessed values will decrease again due to ongoing court cases.

Mrs. Hurley suggested that the Board adopt the budget as presented.

Mr. Beaumont said the Town Board should be commended on their budgetary efforts, especially during the economic issues we are facing.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the Board moved to keep the Public Hearing open until the November 13th meeting. All ayes were recorded.

In other business, bids were received from Reardon Briggs and Adams for a tractor for the highway department. The bids were as follows:

Reardon Briggs Lawn and Garden \$8,800.00

for a Kubota BX 25 4 WD 23 HP Tractor

Adams Power Equipment \$8,908.20

For a John Deere Model 2305 – 4 WD, R4 Tires

On a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia the Board accepted the bid from Reardon Briggs in the amount of \$8,800.00. All ayes were recorded.

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia, the meeting was closed at 8:15 PM. All ayes were recorded.

Mary Alex, Town Clerk