

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Thursday, November 4, 2010

Minutes of the public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Thursday, November 4, 2010, 7:30 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY. The purpose of the public hearing as stated in the legal notice is to hear all in favor of or those opposed to any item or items in the Preliminary 2011 Budget.

Members Present: Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor
 Linda Burkhardt, Board Member
 Bruce La Monda, Board Member (arrived 7:45 pm)
 Peter Friedel, Board Member

Member Absent: Henry Rank, Board Member

Recording Secretary: Sylvia Rozzelle, Town Clerk

Others Present: Drew Boggess, Planning Board Chairman; Janice Lanzarotta, Bookkeeper & Budget Officer; Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director; Susan Horner, Clerk to the Supervisor; Carla Madsen, Assessor Clerk; Stephanie Basalone, Zoning, Building, & Planning Board Clerk; Susan Henderson, Deputy Town Clerk; Brenda Van Leuvan, Deputy Justice Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk; and Library Board representatives: Mary Ann Shepard, President; Sandra Scheuer, Treasurer; Patti Wolff, Secretary; and Freya DeNitto, Trustee

Supervisor Leifeld presented the 2011 Preliminary Budget to the approximate twenty persons in attendance. He stated that one of the things that may be bigger in the budget is the contract with the union. He stated they basically have settled on a 2% pay raise and are in the process of going in front of a mediator. He noted that for the most part this is the budget that goes to the county and if we have to amend it, we'll amend it later.

Supervisor Leifeld noted the following budget increases:

GENERAL FUND

• Total general government support	\$ 28,189.00	4%
• Police	\$ 5,420.00	3%
• Total public safety	\$ 571.00	1.48%
• Ambulance	\$ 3,000.00	3.16%
• Total transportation	\$ 1,893.00	1.34%
• Total culture & recreation	\$ 7,028.00	4.5%
• Total home & community services	\$ 6,138.00	3.05%
• General Fund employee benefits	\$ 54,547.00	12.7%
• Library	\$ 86,000.00	200%

HIGHWAY FUND

- Total Transportation \$ 31,766.00 2.33%
- Highway Fund employee benefits \$105,121.00 31%

Supervisor Leifeld noted the following total increases:

Health Insurance increased from \$397,277 to \$461,388 = \$64,111

Retirement increased from \$127,854 to \$212,960 = \$85,106

Workers Comp increased from \$82,708.00 to \$90,692 = \$7,984

Appropriations

General Fund total appropriations increased	\$ 86,786.00	4.35%
Library appropriations increased	\$ 86,000.00	200%
Highway Fund total appropriations increased	\$136,887.00	8.1%
Special Fire district appropriations increased	\$ 60,337.00	12.3%
Special Light district (Onteora Ct.) no increase		
Total Budget Appropriations	\$370,010.00	8.75%

Amount to be raised by taxes

General Fund amount to be raised by taxes increased	\$204,561.00	17%
Library amount to be raised by taxes increased	\$ 86,000.00	200%
Highway Fund amount to be raised by taxes increased	\$109,879.00	7.6%
Special Fire District amount to be raised by taxes increased	\$ 60,337.00	12.3%
Special Lighting District (Onteora Ct.) no increase		
Total amount to be raised by taxes increased by	\$460,777.00	14.45%

Town Tax Rate

2011 rate for General Fund approx. \$1.103188 per thousand

2011 rate for Library approx. \$.1014 per thousand

2011 rate for Highway Fund approx. \$1.22992 per thousand

2011 rate for Special Fire Dist. approx. \$.42551 per thousand

2011 rate for Special Light Dist. approx. \$.1403per thousand

2011 total tax rate (without Special Lighting Dist.) approximately \$2.86 per thousand

Supervisor Leifeld stated there is nothing to do but cut services, cut programs, and/or lay people off and he doesn't want to do that.

Ron Aja stated he has the feeling that this is not the end and next year is going to be even worse; but, we have to make cuts and through attrition we need to let someone go.

Supervisor Leifeld stated that he understands well. He noted they are still in arbitration but the reality is that employees will have to start paying toward their health insurance. He stated he finds the matter extremely frustrating.

Freya DeNitto stated we have a serious problem in our economy; but, what she sees here she is proud to support. She stated she wants to pay towards education and we have to stop thinking it's just us in this situation. The Town Board has done an excellent job to keep things in line. But, at this point, bitching is not the issue; we just have to keep it tight and she believes we are doing that.

Ron Aja stated he is not complaining but wants to do more than hope and pray. He feels we need to write letters, we have to question, and we have to cap property taxes for the town.

Freya DeNitto stated probably what we are talking about is being talked about all over the United States and is a universal issue.

Peter Friedel stated he is not happy with the budget; but, he can't see any place to cut and that is why he voted "no" on the budget. We can cut our employees; but, then who's going to do that job. He stated that if we cut a little bit throughout the year then that little bit would mount up.

Board Member Burkhardt stated the Town of Olive doesn't service any debt and that is a huge savings to the Town of Olive.

Supervisor Leifeld stated our Recreation Program is looked at as one of the best summer programs in the county. He stated we give these kids \$75 to \$100 per year to be a counselor and the program benefits all who attend the program. In addition it helps the parents. This program has a very positive effect on the kids and keeps them out of trouble and works well for the town.

The police department has one full time officer. With the state overseeing everything, you're either in the business of having a police department or you're not. He stated the constable department all started many years ago with a rape on New Year's Eve and there was no one anywhere around from the county or the state and everyone cried for a police department. Could we cut this? Perhaps. But, we had 154 calls for Olive last month, a shooting on Deerfield Road, and with these economic times a lot of these responses were violent calls.

Board Member La Monda stated in conversation with higher-ups in the DEP Police Department they have stated they aren't interested in being the police department for the Town of Olive as they have their own property to protect and are paid by New York City tax payers.

Board Member La Monda stated that the health insurance companies in the State of New York are allowed to run rampant and there isn't any control.

Gene Sorbellini stated his parents struggled to pay taxes, everyone is struggling to pay taxes; but, we get our money's worth. We have clean roads, a good library which now will be better, a well equipped fire department and first aid squad, a good recreation program where there is value for your dollar. He stated he is not anti-education but with the money we pay in Boiceville we are not getting value for our buck. If there is any ray of sunshine in this budget is that we

have a good police department, a good community, and it's a nice feeling to have that community feeling. We were handed the deck of cards as was the state and county; but, we aren't broke and we have valued services for the dollar.

All persons present having been heard the Town Board adjourned 8:35 pm on a Leifeld/La Monda motion.

Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk