

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Thursday, October 10, 2013

Minutes of a workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Thursday, October 10, 2013 7:30 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY.

Members Present: Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor
 Linda Burkhardt, Board Member
 Bruce La Monda, Board Member
 Peter Friedel, Board Member

Member Absent: Don VanBuren, Board Member

Recording Secretary: Sylvia Rozzelle, Town Clerk

Others Present: Drew Boggess, Planning Board Chairman & Town Board Candidate; Janice Lanzarotta, Bookkeeper & Budget Officer; Thomas Vasta, Jr., Police Chief; Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; Scott Kelder, Jim Sofranko, and Craig Grazier, Town Board Candidates; Dawn Giuditta, Court Clerk & Town Clerk Candidate; and Sharon Wood, Town Clerk Candidate.

Supervisor Leifeld stated there are two areas we need to look at which is Police Department and Highway. He stated the tentative budget is a 6.829% increase and we need to get it down to a 1.66% cap which is set at the inflation rate. Supervisor Leifeld stated we will start the local law process for overriding the tax cap and will need to shave off \$162,725.00. Janice Lanzarotta stated they are looking at increasing the amount of unexpended balance to be added to the budget which would lower the amount.

Supervisor Leifeld stated the budget format comes from the State and he explained the salaries, equipment, and contractual lines. He noted that personal salaries are at a 2% increase as per the union contract with the highway. He stated that through the years they have always given the general fund employees the same amount. He explained that revenues are a shot in the dark. They take the last three years and hope the average holds true for revenues. Sales tax and mortgage taxes are down and health insurance figures aren't in yet.

Janice Lanzarotta stated that workers comp is 1/3 assessed value and 1/3 experience. She presented correspondence #93-13 outlining budget notes for 2013. She stated that unallocated insurance could go up as there are quotes being requested. Board Member La Monda stated for years he has been harping that the Police Department is underfunded and stated that Police Chief Vasta has done a work sheet the way the budget should be. Police Chief Vasta presented correspondence #94-13 Police Department budget stating the biggest problem was with personal services as the number was not an accurate one. Board Member La Monda stated that Audit and Control wants police cars to come out of the budget and not out of reserve funds noting that \$38,000.00 is put in this year's budget for a vehicle.

Olive First Aid did not make a change in their budget. They have now established a billing process.

Supervisor Leifeld stated regarding the police car we could do what we always did and take it out of reserve funds.

Supervisor Leifeld stated it's been the practice to give all employees the 2% as per the Union Contract. Board Member La Monda responded "yes" and Board Member Burkhardt responded "yes" starting she has a problem telling other employees they are less valuable than the highway department. Board Member Friedel stated he does not feel elected officials should get the 2% and it should not be geared to any union contract. Highway Superintendent Fugel stated there is a difference in that his Town Board position is a part time job but this is his livelihood where he cannot work another part time job as he is on call 24 hours a day.

Board Member Burkhardt stated the rest of the town employees should get the same as the highway department and doesn't want to see them treated less than anyone else.

The Town Clerk outlined the budget calendar dates. General consensus is to draft a local law to override the cap in case it would be needed.

Michael VanDeBogart stated that he is here to invite everyone over to his property on Chris Lane to check it out noting there is no race track at his house. He stated he has had issues with Mr. Csurics in the past and they are not happy with his children riding dirt bikes. Supervisor Leifeld stated he was over at their house and feels the biggest issue is the noise though he feels the town will never have a noise ordinance. Michael VanDeBogart stated he has lived there since his child was 5 years old and now that he's cleared the land there is a problem. Supervisor Leifeld stated there is also a dust issue. Mr. VanDeBogart stated that it's about respect and they never came over to talk to him. Supervisor Leifeld stated that perhaps the families could get together and come up with a time so the other family can sleep during the daytime. Supervisor Leifeld asked if it would be okay to come up his driveway and talk to him as he hopes this can be worked out. Mr. VanDeBogart stated that would be fine but he doesn't like to have people tell him what he can do on his own property.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 9:02 pm on Leifeld/Burkhardt motion.

Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Minutes of a budget workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 7:30 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY.

Members Present: Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor
 Donald VanBuren, Board Member
 Linda Burkhardt, Board Member
 Bruce La Monda, Board Member
 Peter Friedel, Board Member
Recording Secretary: Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk
Others Present: Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; Janice Lanzarotta, Bookkeeper &
Budget Officer; Thomas Vasta, Jr., Police Chief; Sharon Wood, Town Clerk Candidate; Dawn

Giuditta, Court Clerk & Town Clerk Candidate; Jim Sofranko, Town Board Candidate; and Craig Grazier, Town Board Candidate arrived at 9 p.m.

Supervisor Leifeld stated that the Highway issue is basically resolved as there is a \$50,000.00 increase to that fund's unexpended balance.

The Town Board reviewed the police department budget and discussed the options regarding the police car purchase being put into the budget or using the reserve account which has approximately \$33,000.00 in it. It was noted that this won't cover the cost of the car. Lengthy discussion occurred on funding the police car and on the entire police department budget. The general consensus of the board was to reduce \$18,000 off the car, \$7,000 off overtime, and \$2,000 off firearms. Police Chief Vasta stated they will deal with the old firearms this year but wanted to keep the range fee in the budget.

With respect to the Police Chief's salary, Supervisor Leifeld stated Chief Vasta was hired at \$18,000.00 and thinks the increase is too much for the first year. It was noted the previous Police Chief's salary was \$24,500.00. General consensus of the Town Board was to set the Police Chief's salary at \$21,500.00. Board Member La Monda stated that for the first time in a long time the Police Department is presenting a realistic budget.

Janice Lanzarotta stated originally the increase was 6.829%. With the \$50,000.00 from Highway going into unexpended balance the increase was reduced to 5.496% and with the above adjustments the change would be 4.68%.

Proposed Local Law #3 of 2013 A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c was distributed to Town Board members.

Supervisor Leifeld stated the biggest unknown is Health Insurance and feels that will probably increase. He also requested any comments on the budget.

The Town Board reviewed the General Fund budget.

Supervisor Leifeld stated the Supervisor's Association wants to form a Coalition of Lower Esopus Watershed Towns. The lower Esopus towns did not get satisfaction from the State on the turbidity issue. He noted that Olive is a small portion of this area and wanted to know if the Town Board wants to join or not. Board Member La Monda stated there is a potential of problems between the Coalition of Watershed Towns that we are already in and want to make sure we don't have any conflicts. Board Member La Monda stated the CWT has spent millions in lawsuits and that is the purpose of our being involved. He stated that lawsuits are currently funded by the City but the area below the spillway is not in this jurisdiction for funding. Board Member La Monda stated the new coalition could engage in lawsuits which could cost Olive money. He stated the CWT is willing to partner with them; but, the Lower Esopus hasn't approached them yet. Supervisor Leifeld stated when a town in the watershed goes to the CWT or the CWC that board tells them whether or not the issue is funded through the MOA.

Board Member Friedel asked if the board is doing anything for salaries for elected officials as he doesn't feel that elected officials should be taking the raise. Sharon Wood stated that all our salaries are higher than most towns with the exception of the Town Board and Town Justices. Board Member La Monda stated you shouldn't choose one elected official and not another. Supervisor Leifeld stated that some of these elected positions are not their livelihood but the Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent positions are where these people make their money.

Board Member La Monda stated he doesn't think they should be picking and choosing it's either all of them or none.

Supervisor Leifeld asked if it's necessary to come back. Board Member La Monda stated if they do it's to determine the elected officials' salaries. Board Member Friedel stated he said his piece. Board Member Burkhardt stated that with new people coming in they really are getting the salary that the person before has earned for the past 20 years and perhaps should look at new salaries for the new officials. Board Member Friedel stated that keep in mind the position is the position and there won't be any 2% increase during that term. He also stated he has a problem negotiating a union contract that he is also included in. Supervisor Leifeld stated what is wrong with putting it to the cost of living increase. Craig Grazier stated that salaries should be negotiated annually exclusive of the union contract. Sharon Wood stated that taking a raise is not showing the taxpayers good faith. Board Member La Monda stated that with having to put a law in front of the people that we can't stay within the cap then it's a matter of respect. Scott Kelder stated we haven't set a salary for each elected officials' term. Janice Lanzarotta stated she isn't sure you can bind the hands of future Town Boards as salaries are to be reviewed annually in the budget. Board Member La Monda stated with the exception of the Town Justices the new elected officials are still going to take the same heat and have the same responsibility as their predecessor. Scott Kelder stated if you start playing with the salaries too much then you won't be attracting qualified people for the jobs. Board Member La Monda stated this year is different as you will definitely have a new Town Board, a new Supervisor, and a new Town Clerk, and the possibility of a new Highway Superintendent. Supervisor Leifeld stated this is what is called growing pains and somewhere along the line you have to bite the bullet. Board Member Burkhardt suggested voting on it. Board Member Friedel made a motion whether the elected officials will get a 2% increase. Board Member La Monda revised the motion to freeze elected officials salaries. This motion was seconded by Board Member VanBuren. Roll vote being: VanBuren, yes; Burkhardt, no; La Monda, yes; Friedel, yes; and Supervisor, Leifeld, no. On a 3-2 vote the Town Board approved a freeze on elected officials' salaries for the 2014 fiscal year.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 9:30 pm on a Leifeld/Burkhardt motion.

Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Monday, October 28, 2013

Minutes of a budget workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Monday, October 28, 2013 7:30 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY.

Members Present: Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor
 Bruce La Monda, Board Member
 Peter Friedel, Board Member

Members Absent: Linda Burkhardt, Board Member
 Don VanBuren, Board Member

Recording Secretary: Sylvia Rozzelle, Town Clerk

Others Present: Janice Lanzarotta, Bookkeeper & Budget Officer; Drew Boggess, Planning Board Chairman & Town Board candidate; Jim Sofranko, Town Board candidate; Highway Department Employees, Bob Olsen, Jimmy Henderson, Andy Martin, Thom Martin, Joe Minew, David Faulkner, Jack Giuditta, & Chris Winne

Supervisor Leifeld presented the preliminary budget to the Town Board and those present.

Supervisor Leifeld asked for any comments on the budget. Janice Lanzarotta stated we are at 4% overall and cap is 1.66%.

It was noted that 1% of the budget would be around \$80,000.00 and 2% would then mean you would have to cut a major program or employees.

Supervisor Leifeld stated we need to determine elected officials' salaries. He stated there are two subjects tonight the 2% raise and the Town Clerk's salary as there will be a new person assuming this position. Board Member La Monda stated we determined what was good for one would be good for all employees with the 2% increase. Board Member Friedel said that it should not be automatic because of the union contract. Supervisor Leifeld stated that you now have two people that don't have the experience of a Town Clerk. He asked what is that position worth and feels it is too high for a new Town Clerk. Board Member Friedel gave the salaries of officials from other towns. Supervisor Leifeld stated that other towns will put figures under different funds. Town Clerk Rozzelle stated the Town Board years back decided to put the total salary under Town Clerk 1410.1 instead of spreading it out under tax collections and records management. Board Member Friedel stated this is not a career; it is a term that you are running for. Supervisor Leifeld stated this is the time to take a look at it as you're starting out with a majority of new people and this is the time to set those salaries. Board Member La Monda stated the full time position salaries are good salaries for the Town of Olive and feel that the Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent are basically full time positions and he doesn't feel the Town Board should take anything away from these folks. Board Member La Monda stated he doesn't think they are way over but they are good salaries for the Town of Olive. Board Member La Monda stated that none of the elected officials got a raise this year; but, if we sit here and have to override the tax cap then it shows good faith from elected officials. Board Member La Monda stated they should leave the salaries where they are this year. Jim Sofranko stated you have a work force getting a 2% raise and other people don't get a raise for political reasons noting this could happen again next year. Mr. Sofranko stated that by compounding this you will have someone who works as a head of a department and doesn't make as much as those who

work for him. Board Member La Monda stated the Highway Superintendent has a truck amounting to \$50,000 and uses it for personal use. Board Member Friedel stated when the storm hit we couldn't find him for several days and his men did the inventory and when it was handed to him he threw it away. Drew Boggess stated you need to keep those two salaries attractive to get good people. Board Member La Monda stated he is not going to override the tax cap and then give people a raise. Board Member Friedel stated it should not be attached to the union contract stating your supervisor doesn't get the "me, too." Jim Sofranko asked what the incentive is to hire an experienced person from your department if they make more money not being the supervisor. Board Member Friedel stated that Jim Fugel was using the truck for personal reasons until the insignia went on it. Supervisor Leifeld stated the Highway Superintendent has to ride all around town to see what's happening on Bostock Road before he can call these guys in. Supervisor Leifeld stated he feels we should take a look at these salaries and set something now as you will now be having four new elected officials in these positions and now is the time to look at it. Board Member La Monda stated he feels it is fair compensation packages right now. Supervisor Leifeld stated he is trying to get conversation going as to what people have been saying to him. Board Member Friedel stated we voted on it last week to freeze the elected officials' salaries. Board Member La Monda stated we voted to freeze the salaries. Supervisor Leifeld stated that Board Member Burkhardt wanted it to know that she would not change her vote in that she opposed the freeze on elected officials' salaries. Board Member Friedel stated we are not going to raise the salaries and maybe we will reduce them. Supervisor Leifeld stated that is why he called this meeting to get a final determination from the Town Board on salaries and you now say you might do it later. Town Clerk Rozzelle asked if they are waiting to see who wins the election to decide whether or not to change the salaries. Supervisor Leifeld stated that every position is what the person chooses to put into it and that incentive comes from the individual person. He stated he feels the Town Clerk salary should be around \$50,000.00 and he feels the Supervisor could go down a little, too. Supervisor Leifeld stated to Board Member Friedel that we're trying to do what you've been talking about for 6 years noting he is trying to jump on Board Member Friedel's side and now is the time to set them. Town Clerk Rozzelle stated the learning curve for Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Records Management Officer is 5 years. Supervisor Leifeld stated that anyone that works for NY State or the school, \$50,000.00 is not that high of a salary. Drew Boggess stated that \$220,000.00 in salaries is hardly a percentage affecting the budget. He stated you could knock it down 10% and that is only \$20,000.00. Board Member La Monda stated that the salary for Supervisor is low for the work that has to be done for it.

Supervisor Leifeld asked the Highway Department employees (#65-13) present if they had any comments. David Faulkner stated it's peanuts in the budget cutting the salary of one individual. Board Member Friedel stated it's not a cut. Jack Giuditta stated the Highway Superintendent should be making more than the department he oversees or none of them would want the responsibility of that position. Supervisor Leifeld stated one Town Board cannot tie the hands of another Town Board in regards to salaries. Jack Giuditta stated the board is arguing a 2% salary which is not astronomical. Board Member Friedel stated the union contract is 2% and we don't have to give anything to anyone else. Jack Giuditta stated they are here tonight in support of Jimmy Fugel.

Supervisor Leifeld stated to Board Member Friedel for years you have said we need to set the salary for these positions and that's what we're trying to do.

Drew Boggess stated you are kicking the can down the road and anyway you cut it, 2% cap is going to be difficult and still maintain services. He stated at some point you're going to get into trouble. He stated he agrees with not tying it to the contract but it could be a set figure.

Supervisor Leifeld stated you tell the Town Clerk now that she's worth \$56,000.00 and next year you tell her you're going to cut the salary.

Drew Boggess stated from a business point of view a job is worth what it is. Supervisor Leifeld stated that no one is getting rich here but it is a good salary and a good job.

On a Leifeld/La Monda motion the Town Board approved leaving the salaries of elected officials as they are in the preliminary budget.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 9:00 pm on a Leifeld/La Monda motion.

Sylvia Rozzelle