

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Thursday, November 6, 2014

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Thursday, November 6, 2014 7:00 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY. The purpose of the Public Hearing as stated in the legal notice was to hear all comments regarding proposed Local Law #1 of 2014 A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c.

Members Present: Sylvia Rozzelle, Supervisor
Don VanBuren, Board Member
Scott Kelder, Board Member
Jim Sofranko, Board Member
Peter Friedel, Board Member
Recording Secretary: Dawn Giuditta, Town Clerk

Others Present: Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; Janice Lanzarotta, Bookkeeper & Asst. Budget Officer; Gene Sorbellini. Recreation Director; William Cook, Assessor

Supervisor Rozzelle called the meeting to order and presented proposed Local Law #1 of 2014 A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c.

The Town Clerk was asked to read the legal notice that was placed in in the Daily Freeman.

Supervisor Rozzelle advised the residents in attendance that this public hearing was to address the Tax Cap which was set at 1.56% by New York State. The proposed 2015 Preliminary Budget was a 2.7864% increase.

Supervisor Rozzelle suggested recessing the public hearing on the Tax Cap Override until after the budget public hearing. She felt having the budget public hearing first would be beneficial and informative to the public to base their comments on the Tax Cap public hearing.

Supervisor Rozzelle asked for any comments or questions from the approximately 18 persons in attendance.

Out of the 18 people in attendance the following residents in spoke against going over the Tax cap: Vincent Barringer, Bob Barringer, Alice Barringer, Ruth Halstead, Bob Conyea, Jeff Davis

Bob Conyea stated he would like to see the Town stay within the Tax Cap. He stated in the past 10 years his taxes have doubled, which brings him to two questions. First, in the next ten years are they going to double again and what is the Town doing to prevent that from happening?" Mr. Conyea remarked "that there is a lot of stuff that we are facing down the road that we really don't have a choice on like the mold situation in the town offices. There are some things that just have to go, there has not been enough effort made on cuts in my view. We have a transfer station that 20% of the residents use and the rest of us are paying for it. The question is how many days does it have to be open and how many employees do we really need there? The Police Dept. is getting more professional and getting unionized, a lot of that is good. But, where are the projections, where is that going to go, is it always going to be a ramp up. The biggest offender in my opinion is that swimming pool. I'd be surprised if 10% of the people in the Town use that pool, how many of the people in this room have even been in it, but we're all paying for it. I don't see how you justify that expense. It's only open two months out of the year. We're not in Florida; we don't swim all year long. I know someone is going to say, well that's for the kids, but that's the same rational that has our school taxes where they are. I just think you have to take a look at some things that

are going to upset some people but there is just no way with the amount of people that use it for the expense involved for two months. To me, that's a hard thing to justify. Those are the kinds of things that no one really wants to take a look at cause when you get into it you can't touch this. You can't touch that because when you get into these administrative rolls you're focused instead on keeping taxes under control. Each department says they need this or we need that. What's more important; a kid's ability to jump in the swimming pool or some of the seniors in here to eliminate some of the tax burden and the stress on them. Where is that going to be in ten years? How many of these kids that can jump in the pool today are going to be able to afford to live in this Town when they grow up. Well, yeah, we can't afford to live in Olive; but, we had a great place to swim. We have a fairly young highway crew and I know a couple of guys that have bought or built houses and these guys are fairly well paid and it wasn't easy for them. That's the kind of long range thing you can't do without making some cuts. If we ran our home budgets with what you all put in for you'd have to get a part time job, if you ran a business this way you'd be out of business.

Vincent Barringer commented that "since he was Supervisor back in 1980 we have increased our taxes eight times. In the next 30 years are we going to be paying eight times more again? It's like our police department. I think we need a police department but a very small one. The Town of Marbletown, Town of Hurley, and Town of Rochester have no police department and we're spending \$300,000 on a police department.

Bob Barringer stated "he agreed with Bob Conyca. You guys have to sharpen your pencils and cut. I don't care where, the police, the recreation, the highway department, we can't stay in this town if you continue to raise taxes."

Vincent Barringer stated he believed the Town Board was doing a good job. We are the highest paid people on our Town Board, we have the most people on our highway department per mile of road and the police department has gone totally out of kilter we have 10 or 11 people.

Bob Barringer advised the Town Board that social security just came out with a 1.7% increase.

Supervisor Rozzelle stated that the Town Board worked hard to address each department's need. One of the things we realized is that we need to get under one roof. The Board put in \$20,000 for an engineer to help us achieve that goal. As for the swimming pool the Recreation Committee came to the Board to resurface the pool. We knew this was needed several years ago. They put it out to bid in 2012; the bids came back at between \$60,000 and \$90,000. The Town Board at that time chose not to do it. They put money last fall in the capital reserve to fix the pool. At this time the Town Board has put money in the budget to match that.

Supervisor Rozzelle at 7:13 pm recessed the public hearing on the Tax Cap to continue on with the public hearing on the budget. The Town Board was in agreement.

Dawn Giuditta, Town Clerk

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Thursday, November 6, 2014

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Thursday, November 6, 2014, 7:15 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY. The purpose of the Public Hearing as stated in the legal notice was to hear all comments on any item or items in the 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Members Present: Sylvia Rozzelle, Supervisor
Don VanBuren, Board Member
Scott Kelder, Board Member
Jim Sofranko, Board Member
Peter Friedel, Board Member

Recording Secretary: Dawn Giuditta, Town Clerk
Others Present: Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; Janice Lanzarotta, Bookkeeper & Budget Officer; Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director; William Cook, Assessor

Supervisor Rozzelle called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Supervisor Rozzelle presented the 2015 Preliminary budget to the approximately 18 residents in attendance.

• Total Appropriations	\$5,079,429.00
• Less Estimated Revenues	\$ 619,382.00
• Less Unexpended Balance	\$ 450,300.00
• Amount to be Raised by Taxes	\$4,009,747.00

Supervisor Rozzelle proceeded through the 2015 budget line per line.

Vincent Barringer asked, what do we pay the police an hour? Supervisor Rozzelle informed him it was \$21.04 for the part time officers.

Vincent Barringer commented that the Senior Adult Recreation has about 10 or 12 people in those classes.

Alice Barringer wanted to know if there is money in the budget, then why they pay. Supervisor Rozzelle stated the Town pays the instructors and her supplies. Alice Barringer responded she went to that when it first started and you bring your own supplies.

The Board stated the fees that are paid are turned into the Town and it goes back into the General fund.

Board Member Kelder stated the revenues that have been collected for senior recreation are \$1700.00. The Recreation Committee has addressed this because we were very unsure about the program once we looked at the budget. It is being addressed for 2015, the amount of people who use it, the fees, and is it cost effective and beneficial to the whole community.

Vincent Barringer questioned spending \$ 5000 and get back \$1700.00. The Board stated that is for two instructors.

Bob Barringer asked who collects unemployment for the Town. Janice Lanzarotta, Asst. Budget Officer, informed him that the parks crew collects unemployment during winter and right now there is a secretary collecting unemployment.

Ruth Halstead commented they had an increase in social security of \$15.00 a month, for this budget to go up you're not looking at what's happening in the Town of Olive. Number one, population is shrinking which means those of us that are here have to take a bigger bite. Even though we have a good retirement it's getting smaller and smaller. There is no work in this area, there's mostly old people, which you can testify to what's happening to our schools. There are no young people having children. I really feel that to have this go up as much as it has it's going to drive people out of the Town of Olive rather than entice them to come in.

Vincent Barringer: Does the Town Board have any idea of being able to reduce this within the tax cap? I can see a couple of spots where cuts can be made. That \$5000.00 senior recreation, what about the people who use the pool. Let them pay a little more.

Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director: You're talking about two things here. If you're talking about opening up the pool to the masses; it's not out of the question; it could be done. If you're talking about having others in other towns join our recreational programs, we are capped so to speak. Our most popular program, some of your kids may have attended, is our day camp. We service over 300 children, which go through some quick math is approximately 200 families within our Town. Some will say it's a babysitting service, some will say its recreation, and whatever it is it's a service that the town has chosen to provide for many, many years. We are capped off at how many children we can have in our program at 250. So, if we open it up to the masses and Town of Olive residents pay \$50 per child and Town of Shandaken residents pay \$250.00 per child most would pay it. So, how do I tell the Town of Olive resident that their child can't come because I'm now maxed out? So that's the first hurdle. The swimming pool you can certainly do that, as long as I've been a part of this town as a child, resident and employee the town has never looked at the pool as a revenue generator. So, Bob's point that only 10% use it, well maybe less than 10% use the library, or the fire department. Those are choices, it's there as a service if you want to use it, you can pay to use it. The fees do need to be elevated and our approach to the new fees schedule was you can't go from \$40 to \$100 in one sweep. We want to progressively raise them to where they should be. Right now we are within 10% of fees charged by the County at the County pool, Kingston City pool, and Zena Recreation. We are not that far off. Once again the thought process, was let's not go from 0-100, let's go from \$40 to \$60 to \$80 ultimately trying to get to \$100 in a step process.

Bob Barringer: Ok, we worry about the increase in the fees, we can't do it too quickly. But when we pass these budgets like that we don't worry about the taxes increasing. We can do that so quickly.

Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director: Listen, I'm writing a check just like everyone else, but I'm not here to beat up on anybody. But when you make an investment, personal or public, there are certain things you need to take care of.

Bob Barringer: Well, I make investments but there's a time I have to stop making these investments. I withdraw from them.

Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director: So there is a choice made. We made a choice 12 years ago as a Town to rehab all of West Shokan Park, with bath house, pool, pavement, and pavilions whatever. You have to take care of that stuff. Now for whatever reason it's been deferred, and deferred, and deferred and all I'm going to tell you is reality. Look at Rosendale they deferred, deferred, deferred and their pool collapsed and now they have nothing and now they are begging and pleading on how to rebuild it, put it back. They have two choices, they can fill it in and have the biggest chunk of concrete around or put it back. We were told when we built this pool 12 years ago that routine maintenance is 10 to 15 years. You have to resurface it. It's normal maintenance. It is a big expense. It's not popular and I'm not here to justify the budget as a whole, but when you make an investment in your infrastructure and you build it

you've got to take care of it. Whether it's your car or your house. We bought this building 30 years ago, look at it, the carpet, I'm embarrassed. I'm embarrassed I live in this town and I look at this room and it's the same as it was 30 years ago. I am very proud of our parks and not because that's my job. But we are envied that are parks are great and they're taken care of. I went to Shandaken Park a couple of weeks ago; it's awful, awful. So, that's my pitch we have tennis courts here, they need to be maintained or we make a decision not to have it and then you just have a place where people sleep and leave.

Bob Barringer: They're leaving anyway. The kids can't stay, the old people can't stay. They're leaving anyway.

Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director: They may; but, at least the people that are here have services that we provide and take care of.

Vincent Barringer: I think the Town Board is doing an excellent job, but I think somewhere along the line you can find someplace to cut that. We have almost \$300,000 in a police department that other Towns don't even have, I think it's ridiculous. I'm not against having a few police officers. But I think that's ridiculous to pay someone \$21.00 for them to sit around and wait for a call. What are we paying, \$42,000 for a police car. I was the Supervisor when they formed the police department, but it was going to be small. We had one officer that worked during the day, he monitored the schools at the time and he was on call 24 hours and it worked pretty well. Then we started to add a couple part timers and it has gone totally out of control over the last 30 years. Totally out of control, now the Town of Hurley has none, the Town of Rochester has none and the Town of Marletown has none. I wonder how they survive. Think about it if you made a 911 call right now the first one that would be here is the City DEP police. They tell you they will not cover the Town of Olive; but, they're always there. We have State Police barracks in our Town. We have Sherriff's going through. We are pretty well covered with police just about as well as the Town of Hurley.

Supervisor Rozzelle: There are some people that would want 24 hr. coverage in this town.

Alice Barringer: We had something happen across the street from us. There were 2 State Police, 2 or 3 Sherriff and the Town of Olive. Five for one incident.

Board Member Friedel: Was there a weapon involved?

Bob Barringer: Why pick on any one group. You guys cut it 1.5 right across the board and you'll be doing well, and if you guys can't do it come down here and sit and the five of we will sit in your seat. Come on there's a lot of fat in there, a lot of fat.

Vincent Barringer: How much are you over, how many dollars?

Supervisor Rozzelle: \$46,626.00

Bob Barringer: Would bring it back to 1.56? It's \$46,000. It can be done.

Jeff Davis: You just saw election happen and people are sick and tired of paying higher taxes. At the County Mike Hein cut everything, he cut us on the Highway Department. He cut everything. I am a young guy, I've been here my whole life and you can't tell me you can't cut because if Mike Hein can cut and the government can cut, I have to cut my budget you guys can cut to.

Vincent Barringer: Cut \$41,000 of the police department.

Bob Barringer: Is that all it is \$46,000? Come on.

Bob Conyea: Some of the building situations down the road, those are going to be unavoidable. You girls are not exactly working in a healthy environment over there with all that mold. Some of these things are necessities that's where I was going with my comments, cut the luxuries.

The Town Board started looking at what could be reduced or removed from the budget.

Janice Lanzarotta: You would have a major tax increase if the Highway Department unexpendable balance went down. Every year we have been chipping away when we've been cutting, cutting, cutting and we're getting to the point where now we'll have to pay the piper, because we cut. This is the growing pains were going through now.

Supervisor Rozzelle asked if there were any further public comments on the 2015 Preliminary Budget.

On a Rozzelle/ Sofranko motion the public hearing on the 2015 Preliminary Budget was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Aye: VanBuren, Kelder, Sofranko, Friedel, Rozzelle **Nay:**

Dawn Giuditta, Town Clerk

At 8:35 pm Supervisor Rozzelle reconvened the public hearing on Local Law #1 of 2014 A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c.

Supervisor Rozzelle asked for any further comments on Local Law #1. Vincent Barringer stated he would like to see the Town Board try hard to remain within the tax cap.

Supervisor Rozzelle announced that an emergency budget workshop meeting would take place immediately following the close of this public hearing. She stated that a vote on the budget would take place on November 10, 2014 at the regular monthly meeting at 7 pm.

With no further comments being made a Rozzelle/ Friedel motion was made to adjourn the public hearing on Local Law #1 at 8:37 pm.

Aye: VanBuren, Kelder, Sofranko, Friedel, Rozzelle **Nay:**

Dawn Giuditta, Town Clerk

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
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Thursday, November 6, 2014

Minutes of the Emergency Budget Workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Thursday, November 6, 2014, at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY.

Members Present: Sylvia Rozzelle, Supervisor
Don VanBuren, Board Member
Scott Kelder, Board Member
Jim Sofranko, Board Member
Peter Friedel, Board Member

Recording Secretary: Dawn Giuditta, Town Clerk

Others Present: Janice Lanzarotta, Bookkeeper & Asst. Budget Officer; Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director; William Cook, Assessor

Supervisor Rozzelle called the meeting to order at 8:53 pm.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the 2015 Preliminary Budget to find reductions that will bring the budget within the 1.56% tax cap.

After a lengthy discussion the Town Board made the following reductions to the 2015 Preliminary Budget:

A1420.4	Attorney	\$3,000.00
A1440.4	Engineer	\$5,000.00
A1450.4	Elections	\$8,000.00
A1460.4	Records Management	\$3,000.00
A1620.4	Buildings	\$8,000.00
A3120.2	Police Equipment	\$5,200.00
A3120.4	Police Contractual	\$1,000.00
A6103.4	Aid to the Disabled	\$ 500.00
A7180.1	Special Recreation Facilities (pool) Personal Services	\$4,000.00
A7180.2	Special Recreation Facilities (pool) Equipment	\$6,000.00
A7620.4	Senior Adult Recreation Contractual	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Deductions:		\$45,700.00

Supervisor Rozzelle polled the Town Board for their feelings on the reductions made:

Donald VanBuren: We did what we had to do. It's hard and it makes you wonder 2 years down the road where we're going to be.

Scott Kelder: I think this will probably be one of the easiest ones we're going to have and there are going to be growing pains and lots of hurt coming down the road. We cannot continue at this rate and not improve our infrastructure. We have to communicate that to everyone even if they don't like the idea. That we're going to have to spend money to keep and make our stuff better and some of these buildings we are just throwing it away and one of the ways to stop throwing it away is to go above the cap.

Jim Sofranko: I agree with Scott Kelder. We're on the buildings committee together and we see firsthand what's coming down the pike, and it's not pretty. I have concerns that cutting it so much that when we do have to raise the budget it's going to look like a much larger increase. That we cut a percentage that maybe we shouldn't have. I hear what the audience is saying, I agree we have to keep the taxes low and I do believe that we have gone beyond what we had to do. But, I have concerns about putting the Town in jeopardy and the financial base of the Town. That's part of our responsibility as much as anything else. I'm glad we got the budget down and I hope it doesn't bite us in the ass in the long run.

Peter Friedel: I'm scared to death about it. It's what the public that came here said to us, we have to do it. I think we did a pretty good job this year. I think our new goal is to start educating the public, to get them out to hear from them and possibly start moving ahead with some capital projects. If we start fixing things like they should have been for instance insulating it will start paying for itself.

Janice Lanzarotta, Asst. budget Officer & Bookkeeper: Pretty much you know how I feel. We have been doing 2% budget caps for a while now. Last year we didn't meet it. Eventually what happens, you have to spend money on things. I thought that the Town Board this year worked really hard and put a lot of effort into carefully considering where we needed to go with expenses, and making a real budget. Now it's not really a real budget, and I live in fear that as we whittle away, and whittle away that we won't have that unexpendable balance at the end of the year.

On a Friedel/Rozzelle motion the Town Board approved the reductions to the above line items.

Aye: VanBuren, Kelder, Sofranko, Friedel, Rozzelle **Nay:**

The Town Board audited the monthly bills.

All pertinent business having been discussed the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 pm on a Rozzelle/Friedel motion.

Aye: VanBuren, Kelder, Sofranko, Friedel, Rozzelle **Nay:**

Dawn Giuditta, Town Clerk