

Town Board Meeting -7:00 p.m. Hamilton Library

Present: Eve Ann Shwartz, Supervisor; Peter Darby, Deputy Supervisor; David Holcomb, Chris Rossi, Carolyn Todd, Town Council; Bert Glazier, Highway Supt.; Deb & Harvey Kliman, Russ & Sally Lura, Jennifer Servedino, Sam Cooper, Hillary (Library), Mayor Miller, Gere & Sue Meres, Sue Collins, Mrs. Upton, Regina & Granton, and Wanda Berry.

Eve Ann welcomed everyone and said the meeting would be Public Hearings on the 2 Fire Contracts: with the Village of Hamilton and the Village of Earlville, and the 2014 year Preliminary Budget.

She said they would be starting out with an Informational Session on the proposed Local Laws # 1 & #2--Highway Supt. & Town Clerk/Collector positions going from Elected to Appointed positions; and asked if the public had any questions about them. She explained it would be a Referendum for the voters, and if passed, would become effective January 1, 2014. These positions require a high level of qualifications, folks need to have a lot of information, a lot of training, a lot of experience, and we would like to make those positions Appointments of the Town Board to de-politicize them; taking them out of the political realm, and professionalize them Eve Ann said. People currently running for these 2 positions (Bert Glazier & Sue Reymers) both support the proposition; and if the referendum is passed at the election-those 2 elected positions will be abolished and the Town Board will appoint the 2 individuals that are here, Eve Ann said.

Questions:

Mayor Miller: 1) Would they be appointed every year? Eve Ann said they would like a 1 year appointment and then renew that appointment as a 2 year appointment in 2015 – so they would then be appointed to overlap the change of Town Board members. They would be appointed by the full Board, Eve Ann answered, also.

Eve Ann said she had a question which she has not researched yet-she got an email asking her whether or not these positions would become Civil Service positions –they need to speak with Eileen (at County) about this. Russ Lura said he would have thought they were Civil Service positions. Regina thought if it is an

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appointment – it is not a hire; Civil Service is a hire. They will review and evaluate everyone that works for them on an Annual basis in an appointed position, Eve Ann said.

Russ Lura asked about the Town Clerk/Tax Collection position. Eve Ann said by NYS Law the position is both; and Sue would be appointed as the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Eve Ann said the Town intends to collect taxes this year, even though they think it is going to be a Joint Collection with Madison County. If Madison County ever takes over fully the Tax Collection activities-we would get rid of the Tax Collector position-we wouldn't need it anymore; it would be abolished, Eve Ann answered Russ. Russ said- but it is established by Law- the Tax Collector position. Peter said maybe there would need to be another referendum to abolish the position of Tax Collector- Eve Ann said she did not know, we will have to ask Attorney Steve Jones. That is all provided that it all works out-everyone is happy with it-and it saves us money, Eve Ann said. Wanda said they had asked the Board of Elections how it is on the ballot- and they said-Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Gair Meres asked if the Staffing that the Highway Supt. has – that works for him – would he then appoint them, or does he hire them/or does the Town Board hire them—how does it work. Up until now, Eve Ann said Bert has been the person that hired them and the Town Board did not have any say over that process. Gair asked: so that will not change if Bert is appointed and not elected-that is a question that is still up in the air, Eve Ann said. We have talked about the Town Board putting in place some guidelines in general, for hiring personnel to make it more uniform and more objective—in terms of qualification and experience, Eve Ann said. It is still his shop, Eve Ann said, as long as he is following the guidelines that the Town Board has worked out to govern the whole Town Office. Peter said the appointment would allow the Town Board to be involved in this matter. We do not have a Union for the Highway employees, and currently it is Bert's authority to hire them, Eve Ann said. The only authority the Town Board has now is the financial end, Peter said. C. Todd says the Town Clerk, as an elected official, now has the authority to hire that Clerk's own Deputy Clerk-but if there is a 2nd Deputy Clerk or a 3rd Deputy Clerk –the Board appoints them; but the Clerk has the exclusive hire of the 1st Deputy Clerk. The Town Board is urging you to support those proposals, Eve Ann said.

Eve Ann then opened the Public Hearing on the 2014 Year Fire Protection Contracts with the Village of Earlville and Village of Hamilton-and she asked if anyone wished to speak. The 2014 Year Contract with the Village of Earlville is \$16,612; and the Contract with the Village of Hamilton is \$43,420. Eve Ann asked 3 times if anyone wished to speak on the 2014 Year Fire Protection Contracts. Discussion about Hubbardsville Fire District being an independent Fire District. Eve Ann closed the Public Hearing on the 2014 Year Fire Protection Contracts.

Resolution # 29 was made by Peter Darby, seconded by David Holcomb and carried to support the requests for the 2014 Year Contracts with the Hamilton Fire Protection District and the Earlville Fire Protection District. Vote was unanimous.

Eve Ann then opened the Public Hearing on the 2014 Year Preliminary Town Budget and she turned over the presentation to Peter Darby. Peter talked about the percent change on the Tax Rate per thousand--there is one Rate Increase for the 2 Villages and one Rate Increase for the Town Outside exclusively. Peter explained Tax Rate/Tax Levy. He explained Appropriations from 2013 to 2014. Also, have you added or have you subtracted responsibilities-that the Budget is funding. Peter continued to explain the Preliminary 2014 Year Town Budget, and compared it with last year's Town Budget. He explained the Equipment Reserve Fund. Our record keeping has improved, and now we can put in more accurate figures, and the actual operating budget is reduced by 2%.

Sue Reymers, Bookkeeper, then explained Page 1 - Town of Hamilton's Summary of their 2014 Preliminary Budget; attached as "Exhibit A" with the original Minutes. Page 2 details the A Fund – the General A Fund is Townwide; she said. Townwide salaries were looked at for the: Town Board, Town Justice, Justice Clerk, Town Supervisor.

Eve Ann said basically an increase was put in all those categories – we believe that people in the past have been paid token, and we recognize this a very demanding position; and this is a little more compensation for the time they are spending away from their families , away from fun they might be having – that they are working for the Town. Same thing for the Justice, and Justice Clerk; they spend a lot of time working hard, Eve Ann said. Eve Ann said- same thing for her position-her position got a 50% raise-it takes a lot of her time. The Town Board

positions got a 100% raise – as they are working very hard, and should be compensated more fairly, and be in line with other Towns; Eve Ann said. We have also had difficulty getting people to run for these positions, too, she said. Discussion: no Health Benefits are involved with these positions. C. Todd said Judges have to be on duty for anyone who needs an arraignment all hours of the night-Arnold Fisher was always available for this in the past- and now Judge Haight is always available, too. Wanda said the Town Justice can cover for the Village Justice, it could not be vice-versa; so the Town Justice gets called on. The Mayor said the Village pays him for that service. David Holcomb said regarding the Health Benefits – in the 14 years he has been on the Town Board – very few people utilized this service, as most everyone had a full time job and had health coverage (like himself). Also when we have meetings no one showed up – the meetings used to be short-now, sometimes we are down here for 4 hour meetings. Harvey Kliman discussed Social Security limits. The Mayor asked Eve Ann about her health options, and she said she has the option to be covered for health insurance through the County – all Supervisors have that option. Peter asked if you are a Supervisor for 10 years, does the County cover you for health insurance for life, and she said that is true, but she thinks that may be phased out. Everyone on the Board now at the County is grand-fathered in; she said. Sue continued-Tax Collection-we are working out the details with Madison County regarding sharing the Tax Collection. Expenses: replacing envelopes, software, a portion of that also is what the Town will be paying to the County for the parcels – for their sharing services of tax collection. Sue highlighted Assessor's Contractual because this is a one time project. Of the \$12,000-----\$10,000 is for a photo project for the Assessor to bring somebody on board to go through and update all the photos in the files. This \$10,000 is coming out of the Fund Balance. It is added into the Town's appropriations, but not into our taxes, Peter said. Sue said the same for our Records Management Contractual – one time cost to put the older Town records into acid free protectors, etc. - \$10,000 for that, also; coming out of the Town's Fund Balance. Wanda asked if the Town Clerk's salary was comparable to other Town Clerks, and Eve Ann said yes, it is. Eve Ann explained all the Town employees got a 3% raise across the board. Russ asked about the assessor's contract/salary, and asked if she had wanted a raise. Eve Ann & Peter explained it, and also that the assessor will be doing a reval within the next 6 years, and will not be paid for that reval.

Russ asked how many days the Assessor is in the office here – 2 days, Eve Ann said, but she is accessible, and does a good Job. Russ said you expect them to do a good job with their paid salary. Russ asked how her salary of \$30,900 compared with other Town's assessors-and Eve Ann said: we thought it was fair and keeping place with inflation. Granton said we expect better service, and be sure and get that reval before her term is up. Peter said it is a 6 year appointment.

G. Meres asked about the money coming out of the Town's Fund Balance. Based on that, is there a method wherein in next year's taxes-will there be a need to recoup this \$30,000-to put back into this Fund Balance. Peter said there is no plan for that. Sometimes it works out that the Highway Dept. shows a profit, Eve Ann said; because we receive reimbursements (ex. FEMA, CHIPS). Peter explained the Tax Equalization Fund, which the State allows to be established; and explained certain transfers which can be done. They discussed Colgate's voluntary gift to the Town; previously called - payment in lieu of taxes. We will have a projection of the Fund Balance by the November Town Board Meeting – we do not have it here tonight, Eve Ann said. The Mayor said they received a 1.5% increase from the previous year; from Colgate. SOMAC is a Town wide expense. \$10,000 for garage equipment – going back to the Fund Balance – Town wide; Sue said.

Sue continued to go through the preliminary 2014 Budget; and explain highway expenses budgeted, etc. Peter explained having a mechanic in-house saves money for the Town; he is paid \$2.00 more per hour to fix the Town's equipment. Eve Ann said they were careful to make sure the Village was not taxed again for the same services that they provide – there were expense shifts from Town Wide to Town Outside (example snow removal). We are committed to having newer equipment- so that we are not spending \$20,000 plus, just to fix up old equipment, Eve Ann said, that is part of the Capital Plan. If our expenditures go up, our reimbursements go up-regarding when the County pays the Town- for the County miles that the Town plows; on their behalf. Granton asked about maybe the Village and Town combining the plowing service-so that there would be one operation, and not two--it is a possibility, Eve Ann said in the future. We do some money saving sharing now, Peter said-equipment, etc., with the Village and other Towns. The Mayor said they have explored shared services, too. Discussion of current shared highway services and bids, too, with Earlville. Gair Meres said regarding the Town Office – what is the rent – and will you upgrade and discuss sharing new space with the Village. Eve Ann said yes, and the rent is about \$500;

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the landlord has been very generous to the Town-we have a Lease. It is on the agenda, Eve Ann said. Mayor asked when do you plan to be audited – in the Spring- for the 2013 year books, Sue said. Sue continued explaining the Budget figures. Our Codes Officer services is contractual with the Village, she said.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried to raise the Town of Hamilton's contribution to the Hamilton Library to \$2,000 and the Earlville Library contribution to \$2,000.

Deb Kliman spoke of the Youth Program – the budget for the Village's Recreation Commission will be losing \$2000 in 2014 – which came from the County. Eve Ann said she thought it was a NYS contribution, passed down to the County.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by Eve Ann and carried to raise the Town of Hamilton's contribution to the Youth Program to \$11,000. The Mayor and Hillary (Library) thanked the Town Board.

Sue explained Planning Contractual expenditures - \$10,000 annual support for PCD. \$17,950 for the Comprehensive Plan; a portion being paid out of 2013 Budget, a portion being paid out of the 2014 Budget. That is not going to be taxed--that will be out of the Fund Balance; as well as the Road Use Study. Sue went over some Revenue figures: Sales Tax, CHIPS, Colgate's Gift; and the Summary Page.

Eve Ann asked three times if anyone had any more questions. Harvey Kliman said they deserve a round of applause for their work on the Budget. Eve Ann said credit is due to Peter and Sue; and she thanked them.

Peter said there are Transitions: there is a new Bookkeeper (Donna) working with Sue to learn the Bookkeeping work; and Sue is working with Cathy to learn the Town Clerk work.

Susie Meres and Wanda wondered if the 2014 Budget can be put on the website, or be available-the Town Board answered yes. Wanda thanked Peter Darby, & all.

Eve Ann said there were copies of the Comprehensive Plan Survey on the desk, C. Rossi told of a Visioning Workshop at the Poolville Community Center on November 7, at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by C. Todd, seconded by P. Darby and carried to close the Public Hearing.

Resolution # 30 was made by C. Todd, seconded by D. Holcolmb and carried to Adopt the 2014 Preliminary Budget as the 2014 Proposed Budget.

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by C. Todd, seconded by C. Rossi and carried at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine S. Hotaling
Town Clerk

her 2 page hand-out sheet, regarding a Summary of the 2014 Year Preliminary Budget. This will be attached to the original Minutes as “Exhibit A”.