

**SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, NEW YORK HELD AT
BUTLER MEMORIAL HALL IN SAID TOWN ON WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 9, 2005 AT 6:05 P.M.**

In the absence of the Town Supervisor who was out of State, Deputy Supervisor Backman called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M., and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The roll was taken with the following Town Officials/Department Heads being present during progress of the meeting:

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS: Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Donald C. Backman
Councilman John C. Waszkiewicz III
Councilman David W. Butler (Arrived 6:59 PM)
Councilman Richard B. Woodland, Jr.

ABSENT: Supervisor Ralph B. Humphreys

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS: Director of Senior Services M. Eileen Spellman
Highway Superintendent Roger A. Cleveland
Parks and Recreation Director Michael Jeffery
Telecommunicator Supervisor Jeffrey P. Madden
Town Clerk Gail Wolanin Young, CMC/RMC
Town Police Chief Raymond Philo

Thereafter, a quorum was declared present for the transaction of business.

2006 Preliminary Budget Review

The Town Board agreed to review the Budget line-item by line-item and that consensus of three (3) Board members would decide the funding per line item.

AA1010.1 Town Board salaries

Agreed to reduce the four (4) Councilmen salaries from \$40,600 to an aggregate of \$24,660, same amount as the 2005 salaries.

AA1010.4 Town Board Contractual

Reduce amount from \$6,000 to \$4,000

AA1110.01 Town Justice salaries

Also, Justice Court staff salaries in other accounts

Three (3) percent raises for all employees

AA1110.2 Town Justice Equipment

Possibly remove \$3500 allocated for furniture; perhaps bond. Revisit this line item later.

AA1110.4 Town Justice Contractual

Possibly reduce from \$12,500 to \$9,000. Revisit this line item later.

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Highway and Drainage

Councilman Backman asked if the Town Board wanted to convert the \$243,000 for two (2) Highway trucks from a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to a Serial Bond and whether \$125,000 in drainage improvements should be included. No definitive answer was given at this time

AA1220.1 Supervisor Salary, AA1220.2 Equipment, AA1220.4 Contractual Expense

Agreed to roll back the salary to \$14,795, equipment to \$750 and contractual to \$2,000, thereby saving \$5,000 in that department

AA1315.2 Finance equipment

Agreed to reduce equipment from \$7,400 to \$750, the latter being for AS400 specialized software; purchase of new photocopier deleted

AA1315.4 Finance Contractual Expense

Consensus to increase by \$1,300 for a total of \$9,800; would allow for lease of a photocopier if required in 2006

AA1320.4 Financial Audit – ok as budgeted

NOTE: Councilman Backman noted that three percent (3%) raises had been budgeted for all employees [1 accounts in most cases].

AA1330.01 Receiver of Taxes and Assessments; AA1330.11 Deputy Receiver

Councilman Backman questioned the Board's feelings on removing health insurance as a benefit for part-time elected officials, including the Receiver of Taxes and two (2) Town Justices. Councilman Waszkiewicz suggested that this matter should be discussed with the affected employees, who should be given some prior notice. Councilman Backman believed that if the Town Board removes health insurance for the part-time Town Board members, then the elimination of this benefit should be across the board for all part-time elected officials.

AA1330.2 Receiver of Taxes Equipment; AA1330.4 Contractual Expense

Historically, what it costs her to operate the office. No change.

AA1355.2 Assessor equipment

Already reduced to \$1500. Consensus to leave at that amount

AA1380.4 Fiscal Agent Fees – ok as budgeted

AA1410 Town Clerk – ok as budgeted

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AA1420.4 Attorney for the Town/Salary

Councilman Backman noted that in 2005 the Town saw some pretty high expenses and had to hire a labor attorney for an unexpected matter and shouldn't budget for it. He said that financial consultant, Patrick Tyksinski, suggested reducing the salary from \$60,000 to \$35,000 and Union Negotiation Service (AA1420.41) from \$60,000 to \$40,000. Discussion ensued about which union contracts will expire in 2006. Consensus for total of \$75,000 for the two (2) accounts.

AA1430.4 Personnel contractual expense

Consensus to reduce contractual from \$1,700 to \$1,200

NOTE: Councilman Backman asked if the Town Board would consider eliminating the three percent (3%) pay raise for the full-time elected Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent. Councilman Woodland noted that these people work full time, it's their livelihood and hardly meets the cost of living [index]. Consensus was to leave in the three percent (3%) raise for both officials.

AA1440.2 Engineer equipment

Highway Superintendent said the \$1,000 was not for any specific equipment; consensus to leave in

AA1440.4 Engineer contractual expense

Councilman Backman proposed deleting \$10,000 for the Woods Road water line from the \$47,900 budgeted and pay the \$10,000 from mitigation fees. Consensus to delete \$10,000. Lengthy discussion on whether expenses for Woods Highway (.42), Sauquoit Creek Intermunicipal (.44), Orchards (.45) and Longworth drainage (.46) are included in the AA1440.4 contractual expense. The Town Board will delve into this further before making any further reductions

[NOTE: Councilman Butler joined the meeting at 6:59 PM]

Discussion continued, however, with some Board members believing amounts were in fact included in the contractual engineering expense and also listed separately as individual projects. Consensus to reduce AA1440.4 from \$47,900 to \$25,900.

AA1450.2 Election Equipment

According to the Voting Machine Custodian, the \$9500 figure is for three (3) new print-o-matic voting machines that are handicapped accessible to comply with the federal **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)**; the Board discussed the possibility of bonding for this equipment as well as another four (4) machines at an additional cost of \$12,000. The Voting Machine Custodian and Town Clerk confirmed that by 2006 the Counties in New York State are being mandated to take over the entire election process, including

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providing state-certified electronic voting machines; training, hiring and paying voting machine technicians and election workers; and housing all voting machines. Town Clerk Gail Wolanin Young, who is President of the Oneida County Town Clerks Association, has talked with the Oneida County Board of Elections in behalf of the Town and the Oneida County Town Clerks but has received no definitive answer or direction from that agency; Voting Machine Custodian Michael Jeffery has had the same outcome.

AA1460.4 Records Management contractual expense – ok as budgeted

AA1620 Buildings (Personal services; Equipment; Contractual expense; Buildings and Grounds; Utilities) – ok as budgeted

AA1650 Central Communications – ok as budgeted

AA1670 Central Printing & Mailing – ok as budgeted

AA1680 Central Data Processing – ok as budgeted

AA1910.4 Special Items (Fire, Liability Insurance) – ok based upon losses Town has had, premiums may not be reduced.

Special Items: Municipal/Association Dues AA1920.4; Reserve for Self-Insurance AA1930.04 – all ok as budgeted

AA1990.4 Special Items (Contingency) – Agreed to revisit this \$50,000 line item for possible adjustment

AA1990.5 Special Items (Severance Comp) – Financial consultant Patrick Tyksinski had said that the amount budgeted is supposed to be accumulative year after year in a special account; Councilman Backman will check on this to find out what the balance is. Nothing will be done until the Bookkeeper and Town Supervisor are consulted.

AA3120.1 Police salaries

Salaries are set by union contract

AA3120.2 Police equipment

Consider reducing by \$6,000-\$7,000 for used van and bond for this purchase; also consider the Tasers for bonding. Purchase of three (3) vehicles was included in the Preliminary Budget. Tasers, laptops, etc. consider for bonding, \$20,100 aggregate. Revised equipment total \$73,584.

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AA3220.2 Dispatch equipment – possibly bond \$21,680

Councilman Backman recommended the Town consider annual increases in the Inter-municipal Agreements with other villages/towns because the Town's expense increases for dispatch services. **To revenues, add 15% (based upon 6 months)**....Town's expenses for year increased 30%

AA3310.4 Traffic Control - reduce guard rails to \$10,000 and bond

AA3510.04 Control of Animals – ok as budgeted

AA5010.15 Highway Clerk overtime – Consensus to reduce from \$1,000 to \$650

AA5182.4 Street Lighting – ok as budgeted

(increase due to energizing lights on Route 840/Judd Road during last 6 months of year); also providing contractual maintenance for the lights – not going through National Grid

AA5630.4 Bus Operations – ok as budgeted

AA6510.0 Veterans Services – ok as budgeted

AA6772.4 Program for Aging – consensus to reduce contractual by \$100 for mileage

A7020.2 Recreation equipment – consensus to delete \$16,000 (bleachers and matting) and consider bonding for some equipment

AA7110.0 Parks – Parks and Recreation Director, turn courts around and budget one (1) court repair for \$20,000 and repave the basketball court for an additional amount. Discussion ensued. Consensus to remove \$60,000 from this account and bond for improvements

AA7140.0 Playgrounds – ok as budgeted

AA7145.0 Summer Theatre – ok as budgeted

AA7230.4 Swim Program -

Consensus to subtract \$45,000 for Splash Pad (concrete/construction)

AA7270.4 Band Concert – ok as budgeted

AA7310 Youth Employment – ok as budgeted

AA7550.4 Celebrations – ok as budgeted

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AA7550.4 Historian – ok as budgeted

AA7410.4 Library – quality-of-life matter; look at rate of increase – with proposed new addition, in 7 years the Town may be looking at a \$1 million contribution to the library. Consensus to reduce funding to \$446,000.

AA8540.4 Drainage – leave in \$30,000 only; bond for \$125,000 in improvements

AA8990.4 Special Services (Runaway/Homeless Youths) – ok as budgeted

AA9795.0 - Board consensus not to repay the “inter-fund” loan from Whole-town General Police to Whole-town General Fund; need to reduce A9060.08 by \$155,000.

Discussion ensued on the Town’s fund balance.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board deciding to review the budget further at the November 16, 2005 meeting, upon motion duly made by Councilman Waszkiewicz and seconded by Councilman Butler the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Gail Wolanin Young, CMC/RMC
Town Clerk**