

**SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, NEW YORK HELD AT
BUTLER MEMORIAL HALL IN SAID TOWN ON WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 17, 2005 AT 7:03 P.M.**

The Town Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:03 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: Councilman Donald C. Backman
Councilman John C. Waszkiewicz III
Councilman David W. Butler
Councilman Richard B. Woodland, Jr. (Arrived
7:08 PM)
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.

REVIEW OF 2006 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Humphreys noted that Town Board members had been given a copy of the up-to-date 2006 Preliminary Budget, including year-to-date expenditures and the department heads' anticipated expenditures through the end of fiscal year 2005, as directed by the Town Board at the November 16, 2005 regular Town Board meeting.

[NOTE: Councilman Woodland joined the meeting at 7:08 PM]

The Town Supervisor informed the Board that he:

- Town Comprehensive Plan - left \$35,000 in the budget to finish this project; consensus of Board, okay.
- Highway Machinery/Purchase of Highway trucks – appropriated a \$10,000 interest payment for the \$243,000+ BAN
- Elections/Voting Machines AA1450.2 –budgeted \$9,500 for purchase of three (3) voting machines only; consensus of Board, okay.
- Parks AA7110.4 – left \$45,000 in for completion of the splash pad at the Donovan Memorial Park; consensus of Board, okay
- Parks AA7110.4 – deleted all monies for repair of two (2) tennis courts and the basketball court at the Donovan Memorial Park

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- Police AA3120.2 - deleted \$16,000 from the equipment line item because there is a balance of \$82,000 in Pre-development (FILM) monies to provide for police department equipment needs – result: no cost to taxpayers.

Councilman Waszkiewicz questioned Police Chief Philo on the line item for tasers. Chief Philo, who had researched the technology, stated that 131 of 600 police agencies in New York State own tasers; locally, the Town of Dewitt and City of Syracuse own this equipment. Supervisor Humphreys believed this is something to be dealt with in another budget and he'd like to put this on hold; he believes the evidence van should be put back in the budget at \$6,000 to \$7,000.

- Police AA3120.14 School Traffic Officers (Crossing guards) – Supervisor believes this matter should be addressed and possibly eliminate some positions from the Town budget and have another entity pay for the positions, such as the school; he asked the Police Chief to address this matter. Chief Philo has been evaluating two (2) positions, one (1) at the intersection of Paris Road and Hartford Terrace where four (4) elementary students currently cross, and the Genesee-Pearl Street intersection where only one (1) elementary student crosses. There are currently a total of six (6) School Traffic Officers (crossing guards). Considering the safety of the students, Councilman Butler is opposed to eliminating any positions. Chief Philo noted that the number of students could ebb and flow every year. Councilman Backman pointed out that the property owners in Wards 1, 2 and 4 pay for these services that benefit only a portion of Ward 3. After further discussion, the Police Chief was asked to contact New Hartford Central School to determine if their bus would pick up these few children.
- AA3120.2 Police equipment (evidence van and tasers) – while Councilman Butler was leaning toward budgeting for an evidence van but not the tasers, Councilman Waszkiewicz would like to hold off on the tasers and the evidence van and investigate with the assistance of Oneida County the sharing of police services. Councilman Woodland believed the evidence van is a priority. Consensus to delete tasers funding but to include \$6,000 for an evidence van; okay.
- AA9795.0 Repayment of Inter-fund Transfer – Auditor Dave Uptecraft submitted a letter addressing the roughly \$466,000 inter-fund transfer due to General Fund Whole-town from the General Fund Whole-town Police fund, stating that repayment could be budgeted over several years. Discussion ensued with the four (4) Councilmen agreeing to omit this repayment from the 2006 Annual Budget and let the new administration decide what they would like to do. Supervisor Humphreys disagreed with their decision.

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- Recreation AA7020.4/Parks AA7110.4 – funds to complete the splash pad at the Donovan Memorial Park are included in the budget. At this point, the Recreation Center rear lobby matting is out and the bleachers for \$5,000 are out. Repair of the Donovan Memorial Park tennis courts and basketball court is out; however, the Town Supervisor believes one tennis court should be reinstated. Councilman Backman commented that tough times require tough decisions; he's not voting to include it; if the Town Board decides to bond next year, so be it. In response to Councilman Butler's question whether he'd vote to bond it, Councilman Backman said no.

The Parks and Recreation Director commented that the reason for the whole capital project was to supplement monies to convert the Donovan Memorial Park wading pool into a splash pad, construction and erosion elimination. The cost was reduced from Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) since sixty percent (60%) of one of the tennis courts is still useable. The reduction eliminates the repair of both courts. Councilman Backman responded that this is a quality-of-life issue, not mandatory. Councilman Woodland suggested the Town repair at least one tennis court and the basketball court at \$30,000. With regard to the Recreation Center bleachers/matting, Councilman Backman said it's a tough time statement. Councilman Woodland supported funds for purchase of the bleachers/matting and to bond for these items instead. Parks and Recreation Director Michael Jeffery emphasized that the bleachers was a project started two (2) years ago by the Town and he believes it should continue; a safety issue was also addressed with the existing bleachers. Councilman Butler agreed with Director Jeffery and asked that \$5,000 for bleachers be appropriated in the budget.

Councilman Waszkiewicz inquired if the Town were to bond for tennis/basketball courts, would Councilman Butler tend to go with two (2) tennis courts and a basketball court/fencing; Councilman Butler responded he'd go with the Parks and Recreation Director's recommendation, i.e., to replace what's there – quality-of-life improvement, \$60,000. After further discussion, Board consensus was to appropriate \$45,000 for the splash pad.

- BAN/Bond - Possibly \$10,000 for 4 bleachers to bond, matting \$11,000 and voting machines in budget – ballpark of \$140,000 toward a BAN/bond as well as the \$243,000 for Highway Department trucks.

The question arose – does the Town Board need four (4) votes to finance projects whether it be a BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) or Serial Bond – what drives the supermajority? Financial Consultant Patrick Tyksinski apprised the Board they only

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need three (3) of five (5) votes. The Town Clerk recalled discussing this with Bond Counsel and will contact them for an explanation.

- BAN/Bond (Continued) – consensus to include
 - \$6,000 for police evidence van
 - \$30,000 Donovan Memorial Park tennis/basketball court
 - \$16,000 Recreation Center matting/bleachers
 - \$6,500 to BAN for 9-1-1 Dispatch, after Telecommunicator Supervisor Jeffrey Madden said his department could get along with only one (1) additional console
 - \$3,500 for in-house safety improvements for Justice Court teammates (Councilman Backman was not on board with this yet – other Board members ok)

- AA1440.0 Engineer - Relative to Clerk of the Works for the Woods Highway, Sauquoit Creek improvements, the Orchards, and the Longworth Drainage projects, Councilman Waszkiewicz questioned whether there was double budgeting – a snafu – for services in AA1440.4 Contractual expense; having discussed this with the Bookkeeper, Supervisor Humphreys said the Bookkeeper didn't agree that the services were "double" budgeted.

- General Fund Whole-Town Revenue - after lengthy discussion and considering input from Financial Consultant Patrick Tyksinski relayed by the Town Supervisor, the Board agreed to increase sales tax revenue to \$5,150,000

- Stormwater Drainage Pipe - discussion with the Highway Superintendent relative to budget line item for stormwater drain pipe

Councilman Waszkiewicz introduced the following Resolution for adoption; seconded by Councilman Butler:

(RESOLUTION NO. 339 OF 2005)

WHEREAS, based upon numerous adjustments having been made to General Fund Whole-town appropriations in the 2006 Preliminary Budget, the latest of which occurred on November 17, 2005; and

WHEREAS, based upon an increase in General Fund Whole-town Sales Tax Revenue to a level of \$5,150,000; and

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WHEREAS, based upon the aforementioned budget adjustments, the General Fund Whole-town tax rate shall not exceed Two Dollars and One Cent (\$2.01) per one thousand of assessed value;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby adopt the 2006 Preliminary Budget, as revised, as the 2006 Annual Budget as set forth in Schedule "A" annexed hereto and made a part of this Resolution and does hereby establish the tax rates for the various special districts as set forth in said 2006 Annual Budget..

Be sure to set all fire district rates, sewer, etc.

The Town Clerk polled the Board members who voted as follows:

Councilman Waszkiewicz	-	Aye
Councilman Butler	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye, qualifying that he is not voting to Bond, but rather to BAN for capital improvements and let the new Town Board decide in 2006 whether to bond
Supervisor Humphreys	-	Nay.

The Resolution was declared carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, upon motion duly made by Councilman Waszkiewicz and seconded by Councilman Backman the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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Schedule "A"
Resolution No. 339

To view and/or print the 2006 Annual Budget, visit www.town.new-hartford.ny.us.
On Home Page, click on DEPARTMENTS. Then Click on FINANCE, then 2006
BUDGET.