

October 22, 2018

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Greenville began on October 22, 2018 at 7:05 pm at Pioneer Hall for the purpose of conducting a budget workshop.

Those present: Supervisor Macko and Councilmen Bensen and Davis, as well as the following Department Heads: Code Enforcement Officer Mark Overbaugh. Also here were Greenville Rescue Squad representatives Ted Nugent, Cliff Powell III, and Fran Sickles, Solar Zoning Review Committee members Barbara Valicenti and William Bardel, Cypress Creek representative John Reagan, and 5 interested guests.

Those absent: Councilmen Bear and Richards, and Attorney Rappleyea.

Supervisor Macko opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Initial discussion at this workshop related to the Solar Zoning Law. A public hearing was conducted on October 15, 2018; no motions were made that day. Councilman Davis stated he has spoken with all of the Town Board members, and feels that there was panic last week due to fears of litigation. He recommends grandfathering in the Freehold solar project, and returning to the recommended plan as devised by the Solar Zoning Committee. Discussion ensued. Councilmen Bensen clarified “that ‘grandfathering’ means they (Freehold) can do the project but they have to comply with the provisions in this law, including the MSDS sheets, heavy metal restrictions, but not with clearcutting or setbacks. But it will be fairly close.” The Greene County Planning Board has reviewed the draft law and finds it acceptable. Per message of Attorney Rappleyea, as no comments were offered, the town is free to adopt the law.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Bensen, to approve Local Law #2 of 2018: Enacting Amendment to the Town Zoning Law Regulating Solar Facilities, going back to the Solar Committee’s recommendations bypassing C4a, D1d, and requiring a MSDS submission, and ensuring compliance with heavy metal regulations, and the decommissioning requirements.

Roll call vote requested:	Supervisor Macko	aye	
	Councilman Bear		absent
	Councilman Bensen	aye	
	Councilman Davis	aye	
	Councilman Richards		absent

Carried 3 ayes, 2 absent

Moving on, at 7:20 pm Supervisor Macko noted receipt of notice as required by law from the Town of Cossackie, who will be conducting a public hearing related to regulation and approval standards for solar collection systems. This is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00 pm in their Town Hall.

A discussion on storage capabilities for alternative energy occurred. Supervisor Macko feels that we will be holding additional meetings by this spring to address this need.

The ‘dog law’, Local Law #3 of 2015, was provided for the Councilmen with a request to review the document for the purpose of updating the law. Discussion continued regarding the management of dogs, housing, fees, shared services, and NYS Ag & Market requirements. This will be revisited at an upcoming meeting.

At 7:30 pm, the shared services/inter-municipal agreement between the Town and the Greenville Fire District was addressed. Supervisor Macko stated he “jumped the gun” sending a notice of termination of said agreement to the Fire District as there was no public record of the conversation to sever the agreement. Councilman Bensen inquired what the shared service was, and feels it can’t be all one way. Supervisor Macko suggested the highway department could make a pass through their lot in the early

morning hours to open up the driveway, then having the maintenance department go in afterwards to clean it up. He suggested negotiating this with Highway Superintendent Williams. Fire Commissioner Ted Nugent replied their biggest concern was that the cost of hiring for snow removal was not planned into their 2019 budget because there was no indication that the agreement would be terminated. Councilman Davis noted that last year, it put a strain on the maintenance department. Clerk-Collector Park stated that department, just a few years ago, was twice the size as it is now. Mr. Nugent feels the shared service is a benefit to the taxpayers and to the state. Councilman Bensen argued that the Fire District budget didn't decrease at all during the agreement. This issue will be explored further next month, as neither Maintenance Supervisor Bear nor Highway Superintendent Williams were present to offer their comments.

At 7:40 pm, Supervisor Macko relayed news that the State Legislature approved release of the funding from DASNY in the amount of \$100,000, from the grant the town has been waiting 10 years to arrive. Once obtained, that money will be reserved for replenishing the General Fund Reserve balance, and will not be earmarked for another use. Mr. Cliff Powell, of the Greenville Fire District, suggested the Maintenance Department would benefit from having both maintenance department pick-up trucks be snowplow capable.

Clerk-Collector Park raised concerns after the last meeting with the dates on the contract with the Freehold Volunteer Fire Company. It was approved stating payments are to be made "on the 1st of January of the year for which it is paid". This simply is not possible by that date as the tax collection process doesn't start until January 2nd. After received, the taxes collected are forwarded to the Town's Bookkeeper regularly, and satisfaction of the levy is complete by the 31st of January each year. The Fire Companies and Rescue Squad payments are the first of all the funds to be made, regardless.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Bensen, that the dates on the Freehold Volunteer Fire Company contract signed on October 15, 2018 be changed to reflect a payment due date of February 1st of each year of the contract.

Carried 3 ayes

Continued review of the 2019 tentative budget began at 7:45 pm. Supervisor Macko explained he assumed the unexpended balance would be on par versus last year; Highway, Water and Sewer values are fine, but there is not enough fund balance in the General Fund to allow for adjustment towards the 2019 budget. That being said, Mr. Macko has removed raises for Town Hall employees and stated this mirrors last year's budget more or less. With only \$10,535 taken as unexpended balance towards the 2019 budget, the 2019 amount to be raised by taxes equals \$1,890,528, or a \$157,923 increase.

Each line was reviewed. The Town Clerk-Collector's personal services line pertaining to deputies was cut by \$5,000 from the usual and already previously reduced line of \$7,000, leaving only \$2,000 for deputy salaries. Lengthy discussion followed; it was agreed upon to decrease this line to \$6,000, which would cover the amount of time historically worked by the Deputy Clerk-Collector and Deputy Tax Collector, annually. A defense of this Clerk-Collector's small use of Deputies as compared to neighboring towns as well as discussion of how money is freely spent within this Town Hall and how personnel are managed, occurred. It was questioned why no other Department Heads were present for the second meeting in a row to answer questions regarding their submitted budgets? This writer expressed disappointment that a budget cut to her line was proposed out of the blue, instead of addressing the issue prior to the meeting. It was noted that this writer's line was the only line relating to active salary that was proposed as a cut.

The Park line in Culture-Recreation was cut, as "it was not being used. (Mr. Macko) hates to cut it too much in case it is needed". Clerk-Collector Park questioned if the vandalism was still occurring at Vanderbilt Park, and why isn't surveillance being considered? CEO Overbaugh asked if there have been any arrests stemming from these incidents on Town of Greenville property. Supervisor Macko acknowledged the vandalism has continued, and he was not aware of any follow up arrests.

The Roller Skating/Youth line was cut to accommodate 3 weekends only. The Adult Recreation line was increased by \$100. Community Partners member William Bardel graciously offered thanks for the assistance towards the annual fireworks display at Greenville Day, but felt that the group would be willing to forgo the donation this year, if it helped. No comments were received from the Board.

Supervisor Macko discussed the revenue page; the Greene County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) is considering utilizing space on the second level of town hall, and there remains the possibility of revenue there.

Of the \$75,000 in unexpended fund balance for the General Fund, Supervisor Macko recommends \$10,535 be taken towards the 2019 budget.

The Highway contractual line for snow removal was increased by \$4,000; employee benefits decreased.

Supervisor Macko noted the hospital and medical line under employee benefits for the Water budget more than doubled, from \$12,000 to \$29,000, as upon his retirement from the Maintenance Department in March, Water Superintendent Leroy Bear wishes to remain as the Water Superintendent and is seeking insurance coverage from the Town.

The library budget was addressed; Supervisor Macko confirmed with the NYS Association of Towns that the Town Board is authorized to amend the library's proposed budget. He said to align with the tax cap, their budget should be \$111,000, and that they requested an amount \$2,159 over the cap. Councilman Davis agreed it should be limited to a 2% increase. Director Flach has requested a 61 cent per hour raise, and the various clerks were put in for between a cut of 35 cents to a raise of 50 cents per hour. Clerk-Collector Park questioned why this was even being calculated, if no raises were being given to Town of Greenville employees this year. Councilman Davis stated, "We, as a Town Board, have control of the total budget, but I'm not sure if we have a say in what salary the employees are paid." Councilman Bensen inquired as to if they had anyone at minimum wage; Supervisor Macko was not sure what the 2019 minimum wage was. Councilman Davis feels their "budget increase needs to be increased only by 2% to align with the tax cap." Stated, "It isn't fair for some to have raises and not others, but we may not have a say in that." CEO Overbaugh commented, "Fair is fair, zero percent for all departments, in all 3 buildings (town hall, highway, library); the Town Board's responsibility is to treat all town employees the same." This line item was adjusted.

Greenville Fire line was per their budget. The Freehold Fire line was per approved contract. Joe Meyers, Sewer Operator, had an increase based on the Consumer Price Index and was per contract.

These changes reflect a tax increase for 2019 in the amount of .549734/\$1,000 assessed value; a home assessed at \$100,000 will see an increase of \$54.97 in their taxes. The tax rate increase is 8.06268%.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Bensen, effective immediately and through December 31, 2018, there is to be no unnecessary spending, and all spending must be approved by the Supervisor.

Carried 3 ayes, 2 absent

Supervisor Macko commented that a quarter million has been spent on the local rescue squad services, and it is money well spent ~ but that's where the fund balance in General went. Mark Overbaugh commented the town "can't keep adding ~ sidewalks, sewer, water, parks, all arts matter ~ it all takes manpower. You'll double your manpower. It all costs." Councilman Davis agreed. Stated, "It's a vicious cycle. We are moving ahead, and it all costs."

Information was provided to the Board regarding creating an ambulance district. Supervisor Macko feels that the Town could better manage the tax cap if the ambulance and EMS costs were separated into its own district.

Supervisor Macko called this budget a no-fluff budget. He asked if it was ready to be adopted as the preliminary budget. Councilman Bensen stated the library budget needed adjusting first. With the reduction in that budget line, the taxes are still increased by .54194518; a 7.94% increase.

At 8:43 pm, Mr. Bensen moved to adopt the preliminary budget; Councilman Davis was not yet prepared to do so. CEO Overbaugh stated, and Supervisor Macko acknowledged, that if the GCSO rents space upstairs, a new bathroom would have to be placed. Regardless of it that happens, a properly functioning bathroom is required in this building; money is spent regularly on repairs which do not seem to solve the problem. Supervisor Macko replied, "In April, we'll fix it".

Mr. Macko noted we are \$123,000 over the 2% tax cap. Councilman Davis noted medical insurance is the big one, and we ran through our reserves... Councilman Bensen stated that the Governor's past 0.6% cap did not help matters. Mr. Davis would like to get the number down \$40 – 50 thousand; Mr. Bensen said to use fund balance. Supervisor Macko disagreed. Mr. Davis said we'd have to bite the bullet; he hates to pick away at individual lines. Mr. Bensen feels that if it's below an 8% increase, that is fine.

Mr. Bensen moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the preliminary budget with the library appropriation line decreased by \$2,159.

Carried 3 ayes, 2 absent

This reflects a tax rate of \$7.35957 per \$1,000 assessed value, or an increase over last year of .541324 per \$1,000, or 7.93%.

Conversation continued regarding the line item increase for the Rescue Squad. Mr. Powell answered that the Board had already approved it. Mr. Nugent replied that they don't have to provide a budget; Councilman Bensen replied that we don't have to contract with them. In question was the \$60,000 building expense line. Mr. Nugent stated their intent was to invest in the Town, and if that is what the Town desired, they would be looking into investing in a facility of their own, in the future. Councilman Davis responded, "We are paying dearly, but the service is exceptional." Transparency was requested.

A budget hearing has already been scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 6:00 pm in Pioneer Town Hall.

There being no further business, Mr. Davis moved to adjourn at 9:20 pm, seconded by Mr. Bensen.

Carried 3 ayes

Jackie Park, Town Clerk-Collector

SUPERVISOR MACKO

MR. BENSEN

MR. DAVIS