

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 4, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Agenda

Town Board will receive copies of the 2011 Tentative Budget. This is not a public hearing, but is open to the public.

The Town Board will make adjustments to the tentative budget at subsequent public workshop sessions on October 6, 2010 and October 20, 2010. Those workshops are open to the public.

A public hearing on the budget will take place in late October or early November.

**STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
TOWN OF LA GRANGE**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 4, 2010**

Present: Supervisor Jon Wagner
Councilman Steve O'Hare
Councilman Gary Beck
Councilman Joseph Luna

Absent: Councilman Ed Jessup

Recording Secretary: Christine O'Reilly-Rao

A special meeting of the Town Board was held on Monday, October 4, 2010 at the LaGrange Town Hall, 120 Stringham Road. Supervisor Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the Town Clerk led the flag salute.

Supervisor Wagner stated that the purpose of the meeting is to have the Clerk present the tentative 2011 budget to the Town Board by the October 5th deadline. He stated that the budget was a work in progress and much more work would be necessary. All workshop meetings (October 13th and 27th) will be open to the public and he added that the Board welcomed input and suggestions from Town residents. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for early November.

Some of the main issues which the Board faces in regard to the budget are an increase in costs for retirement benefits in the amount of \$60,000, estimated Board of Elections charge backs by the County in the amount of \$30,000 and an increase in medical insurance premiums in the amount of \$120,000 which is partly a result of an increase in premiums and partly due to the mandated healthcare change under the Obama administration. The Town will be going back to the traditional MVP plan.

Revenues from the mortgage tax continue to be unstable, but a conservative estimate based on a 2-3 year history puts the amount at \$450,000. New York State revenue sharing has been reduced by about 5%. It is not certain what monies from CHIPS (highway department funding) will be made available. New York State Office of Real Property has reduced the previous per parcel payment for revaluations which will result in a reduction in revenue in the amount of \$14,000. In addition fine revenues have been reduced by \$20,000 based on actual data.

Supervisor Wagner added that general spending has already been reduced to pre- 2007 budget levels, with Highway spending down to less than 2007 levels. Highway will eliminate 2 jobs through attrition. One deputy Town Clerk position remains unfilled while the Bookkeeper works as a fill in for half a day in the Clerk's office. Town Hall employees received no pay increase in 2009 and 1% in 2010 due to removal of the Health Reimbursement Account. Union employees received a 1 ½ % increase in 2009 and will not receive an increase in 2010. All in all, the Town budget has decreased by 5% when comparing 2004 to 2011.

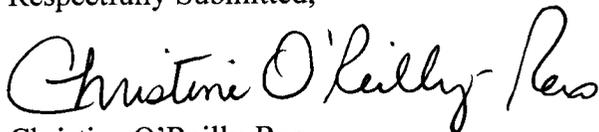
Mr. Wagner stressed the importance of providing training opportunities to Town staff, especially for mandatory and financial training. Travel will be restricted and allowed on a case by case basis. The annual NYS Association of Towns training in New York for February 2011 will not be funded for lodging due to the expense.

Supervisor Wagner stated that the Board's options are limited in terms of reducing the budget and he would prefer not to see layoffs as they would negatively impact Town services. There is not a lot of non essential over time as it now stands and although the local union seems to understand budgetary constraints, he doubted that CSEA would agree. Decreasing the Library budget may not be an option should the proposed ballot proposition succeed. A brief discussion about the effect of the proposed Library ballot proposition ensued.

Councilman O'Hare moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Beck and carried by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christine O'Reilly-Rao
Town Clerk