

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (BUDGET WORKSHOP) OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2015**

Present: Michael Benson, Supervisor
Dan Evans, Councilmember
Chuck Gerald, Councilmember
Irene Hanna, Councilmember
Matthew Larabee, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Colleen Teal, Town Clerk

Others Present: Cissy Hernandez, Building Department Administrator
Cynthia Creech, Deputy Court/Assessor's Clerk;
Recreation Commission, CAC, & Zoning Re-Write
Committee Member
Gregg Gilliland, LVPA President
Ben Wheeler, LVPA Fire Chief
Bob Waters, LVPA
Kevin Smith, Ethics Board Member
Several members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Supervisor Benson.

2016 TENTATIVE BUDGET:

Page 22: SF-1 Fire Protection District - LVPA:

Supervisor Benson reported that he spoke with Ron Piester and Brian Tollisen at the NYS Building Standards and Codes Division, and they will be responding to the LVPA's letter sometime next week.

Supervisor Benson recommended that just the Town Board enter an executive sessions to discuss the LVPA budget amount at some point.

Page 1 – Summary:

Supervisor Benson reported that he increased the amount of General Unexpended Balance from \$100,000 to \$125,000 and decreased the amount of Highway Unexpended Balance from \$50,000 to \$35,000.

General Fund Appropriation (Expense) Accounts:

Page 3: Town Clerk A-1410:

The Town Board adjusted A-1410.11 Deputy Town Clerk to \$17,704 and A-1410.4 to \$4,500.

Page 3: Town Clerk A-1410:

It was noted that line item A-1410.2 can be zeroed out, that was a computer replacement for the Clerk's Office for 2015. The Town Board adjusted line A-1410.2 to \$0.

Page 5: Central Storeroom A-1660.4:

Line A-1660.4 (central office supplies) was adjusted to \$1500.

Page 10: Parks A-7110:

There was a discussion regarding the tennis court reconstruction project (approximately \$85,000).

The board agreed to the idea of transferring the balance of the funds in A-7110.4 at the end of 2015 into the capital reserve fund for the park and to having the Supervisor add funds for principal and interest payments for a bond for the balance of the tennis court project in the 2016 budget estimating that the capital reserve fund for the park will be approximately \$25,000 after the transfer and the bond will be for approximately \$60,000.

Line A-7110.4 will be adjusted to \$8,000 for the operation of the park, unrelated to the tennis court project.

(Note: In the Preliminary Budget, Debt Service Principal: Other Debt A-9789.6 was adjusted to \$10,000 and Interest: Other Debt A-9789.6 was adjusted to \$2,000 for the funding of the bond for the tennis court project.)

Ambulance (on County Tax bill):

A motion was made by Councilmember Larabee, seconded by Councilmember Hanna and approved unanimously to accept the budget request from the Chatham Rescue Squad for ambulance services in the amount of \$191,931.25 and further to authorize the Town Supervisor to execute the chargeback agreement with Columbia County for this amount.

Page 12: Employee Benefits: Hospital & Medical Ins. A-9060.8:

Supervisor Benson noted we are on track for \$27,000 total on this line item for 2015. The Town Board reduced A-9060.8 from \$45,000 to \$35,000.

Page 22: Fire Protection District SF-3410.4:

Supervisor Benson noted the LVPA requested \$247,210 for 2016, an increase of \$26,350.

Councilmember Hanna stated she thought the LVPA made a reasonable request. Councilmembers Evans and Larabee disclosed that they were members of the LVPA and they agreed with Councilmember Hanna. Councilmember Geraldini stated he would like to see what the public has to say at the public hearing. Supervisor Benson noted he would also like to hear from the public as well as what the Department of State has to say. It was noted that the amount for Fire Protection needs to be published and there needs to be a public hearing. The Town Board decided to set Fire Protection at the amount the LVPA requested (\$247,210) for the public hearing.

Salaries:

The Town Board determined they would include funding for a 2% increase to the following positions:

Highway Superintendent;
Justices;

Assessor's Clerk;
Deputy Town Clerk;
Bookkeeper;
Building Inspector (ZEO/CEO);
Building Department Administrator (Planning, ZBA & ZEO Clerk);
Building Maintenance;
Court Clerk;
Deputy Court Clerk;
Animal Control Officer;
Town Constable;
Park Maintenance Superintendent; and
Park Maintenance Staff.

The following positions were not included:

Supervisor;
Councilmembers;
Town Clerk;
Tax Collector;
Assessor; and
Highway Operators and Laborers (these are approved at a range for the Highway Superintendent to set).

It was noted that the actual compensation rates for non-elected positions are established at the organizational meeting; page 23 is a list of *proposed salaries for appointed town personnel*.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Town Board set the Public Hearing on the 2016 Preliminary Budget for the Town of New Lebanon for Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Publication will be in the *Register Star*.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Geraldini and seconded by Councilmember Larabee to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Teal, RMC
New Lebanon Town Clerk