

MINUTES of the Special Budget Meeting of the Pembroke Town Board held on November 16, 2009 at the Pembroke Town Hall, 1145 Main Road, Corfu, NY.

PRESENT: James H. Tuttle, Supervisor
E. James Mallory, Councilman
Peter Sformo, Councilman
Edward Arnold, Jr., Councilman

ABSENT: Gary DeWind, Councilman

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Davis, Town Clerk; Steven Stocking, Highway Superintendent, Deborah Conti, Assessor; and John Worth.

The Special Meeting, advertised in accordance with New York State Town Law Chapter 4 ss 4-3, was called to order by Supervisor Tuttle at 6:30 P.M.

There was discussion on the Health Insurance and retirees. A few years ago a resolution was done providing health insurance payments in lieu of unused sick time. A dollar value would be figured and put into the Health Reserve Fund. When payment is made for a Retiree it goes into the Trust & Agency. When a retired employee comes in to make a personal payment it goes directly to the Trust & Agency. Trust & Agency is not a budgetable item.

The salary increase was the biggest item of contention. It was explained that you can put what ever percentage you desire in the budget. That dollar amount does not take place in the budget; the salary is actually established at the Organizational Meeting. Councilman Sformo was still concerned about the percentage for salary increases. He was concerned that if we give them 3% this year they will expect that percentage or more next year, and also that he didn't want the residents having anything taken away or reduced in order to give the employees this raise; 2 ½ % is adequate. Supervisor Tuttle said that there is not much difference in 2 ½% and 3%. The cost of living index is 3 ½% this year. Andrea Davis, Town Clerk, said that the employees here are not unintelligent. They are definitely aware that there may be a large salary increase this year, but, if things change in the economy, etc. that next year there may only be 1% or even nothing and they are fully aware of this and are ok with it.

There was discussion on the large increase in the Court Clerk's salary.

Supervisor Tuttle said that the Board will be working on a salary scale to be fair to all the employees and bring salaries in line with starting dates, etc.

Councilman Arnold stated that he has no problem with 3% as long as we are not taking anything away from the residents. Councilman Mallory said that he has no problem with

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the 3%, but will go along with whatever the Board decides. Councilman Sformo said that he still is against it and totally agrees with Edward Beideck that it should only be 2 ½%.

Supervisor Tuttle informed the Board that there is no increase in the County's Budget. We should be getting a call from The Treasurer's Office soon advising us of the amount we can return to the County to offset the residents' taxes.

Deborah Conti, Assessor, mentioned that the County said the Town is being managed very well. In the past the Town has always seen that the employees were taken care of for the work they did. We have the where-with-all to give money back to the County but not at the expense of the employees. There are Towns that are giving 3% and they have a tax rate.

It was decided that the salary increase would be 2 ½%.

Mr. Beideck said that we should use \$100,000 from the Reserve Fund for the Park. We need a 30 day referendum to take the money from there; we do not have the time. The best way to do this would be to reduce the amount in the budget by \$100,000 and next spring do the referendum and put the money in the park account to pay the bills.

Councilman Sformo asked about the street lights. The amount went from \$18,400 to \$24,000 yet we only spent \$11,000. Highway Superintendent Stocking said that this was basically the bills for the street lighting. Councilman Sformo questioned the variation in the amounts we budgeted as opposed to the amount we spend each year. He was told that last year 5% was added as we did not know what the Electric Company was going to do. For a couple of years we were still installing lights. Now if there is a street light out and they are called, they will come out to repair it but we get charged. The Board agreed to drop the budget amount back to \$18,400.

It was mentioned that all these topics were discussed at the budget public hearing; Councilman Sformo said that the people wanted to know the answers and he was going to be sure that they got the answers.

Councilman Sformo questioned why we included engineering fees when the project owners were to pay all these fees. Supervisor Tuttle said that we still needed to have our Engineers check on projects to be sure they are complying with Town Laws. The project owner will have to pay fees for any Engineers they bring in.

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The Board agreed that the following amendments would be made to the tentative budget:

1. Pay increase will be 2 ½%.
2. Reduce the park amount to \$150,000.
3. Reduce the street light amount to \$18,400.

RESOLUTION #75 of 2009 – 2010 Budget Approval

WHEREAS the 2010 Town of Pembroke Preliminary Budget was presented at a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 11, 2009; and

WHEREAS as there were proposed amendments to the Preliminary Budget as a result of the Public Hearing;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the 2010 Budget as amended.

On **MOTION** of, Supervisor Tuttle, seconded by Councilman Arnold, to adjourn the special meeting at 8:35 P.M.

ALL AYES – CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea M. Davis, Town Clerk

THESE MINUTES ARE A DRAFT ONLY OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE PEMBROKE TOWN BOARD OF NOVEMBER 16, 2009 AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR REVISION PRIOR TO APPROVAL BY THE TOWN BOARD.