

A public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Ballston on Thursday evening, November 6, 2014 at the Town Hall on Charlton Road, Ballston Spa.

PRESENT: Patrick Ziegler ----- Supervisor
Timothy Szczepaniak ----- Councilman
William Goslin ----- Councilman
Kelly Stewart ----- Councilwoman
John Antoski ----- Councilman
Carol Shemo ----- Clerk
James Walsh ----- Counsel

Supervisor Ziegler opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

The Town Clerk read the following legal ad for the public hearing.

TOWN OF BALLSTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE YEAR 2015 ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Ballston for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 including General Town Funds, Highway/Public Works Funds, Fire Protection District Funds and Lighting District Funds, has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Ballston, 323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during office hours.

The Town Board of The Town of Ballston shall hold a public hearing on said Preliminary Budget on November 6, 2015 at 7:15 pm showing such changes, alterations and revisions as shall have been made therein by the Board of the Town of Ballston. At such hearing, any person may be heard in favor of or in opposition to the Preliminary Budget as compiled for in opposition to any item or items therein contained.

The following are the proposed yearly salaries of certain Town Officers of the Town of Ballston:

Supervisor	\$ 20,455.00 per annum
Council Member (4)	\$ 9,090.00 each per annum
Clerk	\$46,000.00 per annum
Highway Superintendent	\$61,715.00 per annum
Tax Collector	\$ 7,330.00 per annum
Town Justices (2)	\$14,807.00 each per annum

Citizens have the right to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget and the relationship of entitlement funds to the entire budget.

Handicapped citizens or senior citizens who require assistance in attending said public hearing, or in furnishing comments and suggestions, should contact the under signed Town Clerk to request such assistance.

Carol Shemo,
Town of Ballston Town Clerk
PO Box 67, Burnt Hills, NY 12027
Dated October 28, 2014

Highway Superintendent Joseph Whalen spoke concerning his displeasure due to the cuts in his budget. He will continue to work on these budget numbers with the Town Board. This is his thirteenth budget process and he takes pride in his job. His biggest issue is with the funds cut from paving the roads. In the Highway Agreement every year, he outlines the roads to be paved. In 2013 the Highway Agreement there was 1 mile section on Lake Road that was to be paved. Since there was a possibility of a water district extension in that area, he did not do the paving but the \$152,000 for that job should have been put into the Capital Improvement Account. In

reviewing the Operating Statement, he feels that the Highway fund is overstated and needs clarification. In 2014, he budgeted \$80,000 for equipment. The Town purchased a truck for \$230,000 that money should have gone into the Equipment Line to make the fund whole. The account looks overstated.

Mr. Merchant asked where is the money going that was used to pay off the mortgage for the new Town Hall.

Councilman Goslin answered that the mortgage was an expense for the last 10 years and not revenue. In 2014 budget, we overstated our mortgage revenue by \$200,000 since the refinance revenue was not there.

Supervisor Ziegler added that the Town is projecting 3% sales tax revenue and the County, whose projections are conservative, projects 4% revenue. We are looking to rebuild our fund balance. We have a few things that need to be done: begin the GEIS, address zoning issues, revisit the Comprehensive Plan. Staffing needs in the Town Hall also will be addressed by adding help in the Building Department and Town Clerk Department.

Ms. Windel asked the Board to submit a conservative budget and do not overestimate the mortgage and sales tax projections. She asked the Board not to penalize the Highway Budget by cutting funds to make up for the overestimation of 2014 taxes.

Mr. Simpson said he is disappointed that the Board feels it is necessary to take out a lack of income on public safety issue. He asked about the lawsuits in the Town.

Supervisor Ziegler said a road that was to be paved last year, was not paved. It appeared that we were paving additional roads but that was incorrect. Supervisor Ziegler stated if a road is unsafe, it will get paved. There has not been a single response to any lawsuit that was not written by our Town Attorney at no expense to the Town.

Town Attorney Walsh stated that he has handled all the responses to four lawsuits. At this point there have been no outside legal costs.

Mr. Knight stated that when he was on the Town Board he was the liaison to the Highway Department. He thinks it is shortsighted to cut that amount out of the Highway budget; you will pay more down the road.

Mr. Hill asked about the \$7500 in the budget for legal fees. How many lawsuits are before the Town?

Town Attorney Walsh replied that amount was not for settlements. The Town was sued four times and received a notice of claim. There is a possibility of two more lawsuits. Anyone can sue the Town. The concern is does the Town have liability in the matter.

Councilman Goslin stated the Town is in good shape financially. We have \$500,000 - \$600,000 in reserve funds. The Board would like the reserve funds to be in the \$700,000 range or 20%. If there is a decrease in the sales tax and mortgage tax revenue, we have a rough winter or a piece of equipment needs to be replaced or extra attorney fees, we will be prepared and we can carry along for a time.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Shemo
Town Clerk