

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Ballston on Tuesday evening, October 25, 2022, in the Meeting Room at Town Hall located at 323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, New York.

PRESENT:	Eric Connolly	Supervisor
	Kelly Jasinski	Councilwoman
	Rob Fendrick	Councilman
	Chuck Curtiss	Councilman
	Michael Carota	Councilman
	Carol Gumienny	Town Clerk
	Debra Kaelin	Town Attorney
	David Urkevich	Town Comptroller
	Joe Whalen	Highway/Water Superintendent

The Supervisor opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. and the following public hearing notice was read by the Town Clerk:

**TOWN OF BALLSTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Ballston, Saratoga County, New York for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023 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 or at www.townofballstonny.org.

The Town Board of the Town of Ballston shall hold a public hearing on said Preliminary Budget on October 25, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. in the Meeting Room, located at the Town of Ballston Town Hall, 323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, NY 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 against, the preliminary budget as compiled; for or against any item therein contained, or comments may be submitted in writing prior to October 25, 2022, to the Town Board, 323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020 or email to cgumienny@townofballstonny.org.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, that the following salaries of certain Town Officers of the Town of Ballston, to wit: Town Supervisor, \$24,654.73; Highway Superintendent, \$76,616.28; Town Clerk, \$64,200.00; Town Council Members (4) \$10,957.66 each; Town Justices (2) \$18,204.55 each; Tax Collector, \$10,700.00.

By Order of the Town Board
Town of Ballston
Dated: October 11, 2022

Carol Gumienny
Town Clerk

Lynnette Ziskin, of Katherine Drive, stated that she was the face of Jenkins Park for 20+ years. A couple of years ago, the Jenkins Park Advisory Board fell apart and there have not been any capital projects since that time. The tax levy has been drastically reduced. She had been attending the Parks & Rec meetings and they had been discussing having a dog park in Jenkins Park. To do this, funds will be needed. She is asking that the tax levy be increased close to where it was in the past, to build up the fund for a dog park. There is a huge need for a dog park in Town. Hundreds of people use Jenkins Park, and it is centrally located. Projects like these need funding. \$18,000 is the balance in the Jenkins Park fund, \$11,000 is used for mowing; not much is left. Ms. Ziskin lives across the street from the park, and she sees who enters and exits the park. She frequently visits the park herself. Residents still reach out to her about a dog park even though she is not in charge of the park anymore; she has had at least 200 inquiries. The Supervisor stated that he will bring this topic up under “Old Business” during the meeting.

Kathy Wilcox, of Nolan Road, read the following statement: “This is in regard to one specific item in the budget under the Environmental Controls task expenditures under Account 01.8090.54. For 2023 the estimate is \$35,300. I asked for clarification from Comptroller Urkevich who told me this is the up to amount that town officials can spend but they are not required to spend this amount. Included in this would be junk collections and Christmas tree pickups. I am in agreement with the junk collections, even if done at a central location rather than house to house, many town residents will use this service.

I am very opposed to any amount for a townwide Christmas tree pickup. I spoke against this in February when the board passed a resolution to pay County Waste \$5700 for pickups that had been performed the prior month. I felt this was an outrageous amount of money especially for the amount of Christmas trees that were picked up. On my road there were zero trees picked up. Driving around town I saw very few trees roadside.

My feeling is that if you want to buy a live Christmas tree you should be responsible for the disposal of it. There are plenty of farms around who will take a tree for their goats to eat. I also called both trash companies that handle the majority of the homes in this town. Twin Bridges picks up trees free of charge for customers. I have this in an email. County Waste told me verbally they pick up free also but when I asked for this in writing they said because I am not a customer of theirs, they could not provide that.

I was not at the Sept. 1st budget workshop, but Town Clerk Gumienny provided me her notes. Highway Superintendent Whalen mentioned the cost of opening the brush dump after Christmas would be \$10,000. Why should the brush dump be opened for this? The town should not be involved in providing funding or assistance in a homeowner getting rid of their tree. I hope during this time of record inflation and financial uncertainty the Board will review the amount for this service and remove it from the budget.”

The Supervisor closed the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Gumienny
Town Clerk