

Minutes of the Public Hearing on the 2009 Town of Johnsbury Budget held on Thursday November 6, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, N.Y.

The Public Hearing on the 2009 Town of Johnsbury Budget was called to order at 6:30pm. by Supv. Goodspeed. The Town Clerk read the legal notice as it appeared in the North Creek News – Enterprise on November 1, 2008.

Roll call showed the following persons present: Supv. Sterling Goodspeed; Town Councilmen/ Eugene Arsenault, Frank Morehouse, Jr., Arnold Stevens, and Ronald Vanselow; Town Clerk/ William Rawson.

Guests: On an attached list

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the General Fund of the 2009 Budget had been reduced by 8.13 percent; the Highway Fund was increased by 5.35 percent; the Library Fund was reduced by 1.43 percent in relation to the 2008 Budget. The amount to be raised by taxes does not completely reflect this as the Assessor has added new taxable value to the roll. Supv. Goodspeed added that the overall effect on the tax rate was a reduction of .08 percent; he added that the Warren County tax will increase possibly as much as 4 percent. Supv. Goodspeed noted that the contingency line in the budget had been raised from \$10,000.00 to \$26,950.00 as a buffer to assist such groups as the North Country Ministry engaged in assisting those in financial need and that toward that end he had lowered his salary by 3 percent. Supv. Goodspeed asked for comment from the Town Board.

Mr. Stevens questioned the payment of \$12,000.00 to the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association and \$10,000.00 to the North Country Ministry; he noted that the North Country Ministry has a proven record in assisting those in need and that this is not the case with the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association. Mrs. Helen Miner, of the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association, explained that the Association has been trying to raise funds through donations and benefits to pay its expenses. The Association has been unable to raise funds through fees; Mrs. Miner added that the docents at the Museum provide an information center for the northern end of the hamlet. Supv. Goodspeed explained that he had met over the past few months with the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association and discussed ways of helping the Association as it provides an anchor at the northern end of the hamlet. Ms. Susan Murante also spoke on behalf of the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association as a tourist attraction.

Mr. Lyle Dye asked about possible funding sources for other organizations in town and also about funding for improvements at the Kellogg (Waddell) Property in North Creek. Supv. Goodspeed replied that there was no such funding in the Town Budget and no significant funding in the Warren County Budget. Supv. Goodspeed added that there was no monetary funding of organizations; however, some organizations are supported by the Town through the use of space in Town buildings. Supv. Goodspeed noted that this budget was reflective of the struggles felt by the taxpayers and it contained a great many “no’s”.

Mr. Robert Nettle asked about the continuing funding of the Hudson Headwaters Health Center by the Town taxpayers and requested a reduction in the support payment made to the Health Center. Supv. Goodspeed replied that the current reduction was in response to the previous request made by Mr. Nettle; he added that he was unwilling to reduce support to a level which could cost the Town healthcare coverage. Mr. Nettle said that he could not believe that a reduction in support from the Town would result in the closure of the Health Center. Supv. Goodspeed suggested that local funding reductions could affect funding from state or national sources and such a loss would be serious for the Town; Mr. Arsenault agreed with Supv. Goodspeed. Supv. Goodspeed added that he has asked for a larger share of funding from the Town of Minerva based on usage. Mr. Nettle replied that the taxpayers had not funded Dr. Grunblatt.

Mr. Nettle asked if revenue line A2801 in the amount of \$9,000.00 was revenue from the North Creek Water District to the Town for services; he was informed that it was.

Mr. Nettle asked about the revenue from the timbering of the Town property near The Glen; he was informed that the revenue from timbering on that property was included in Capital Projects Funds and is not included in the operating budget. Accounts Clerk Candace Lomax said that she did not have the Capital Projects Funds balance on hand at the moment, but that the amount can be furnished tomorrow. Mr. Nettle asked if there are any other funds which come into the Town; Supv. Goodspeed replied that there were Occupancy Tax Funds.

Mr. Joel Beaudin noted that the narrative budget was helpful and asked why the Capital Projects Funds can't be made available. Supv. Goodspeed said that can and will be available from the office tomorrow; those funds are not a part of the general operating budget. Mr. Larry Carr asked if there were any projects in the operating budget receiving funding from Capital Projects Funds; Supv. Goodspeed answered that there is no funding from Capital Projects Funds in any of the 2009 Budget lines.

Mr. Vanselow presented the following motion with a second from Mr. Arsenault to adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2009 Town of Johnsburg Budget at this time. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

The Public Hearing on the 2009 Town of Johnsburg Budget was closed at 7:09pm.

Prepared by William E. Rawson
Town Clerk