

Minutes of the Continuation of the Public Hearing on the 2008 Town of Johnsburg Budget held on Tuesday November 20, 2007, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall (Library), North Creek, NY

The Continuation of the Public Hearing on the 2008 Town of Johnsburg Budget was called to order by Supv. Thomas.

Roll call showed the following persons present: Supv. / William H. Thomas; Town Councilpersons/ Eugene Arsenault, Sterling Goodspeed, Arnold Stevens and Alyce VanKeuren; Town Clerk/ William Rawson.

Supv. Thomas noted that as there was not enough time to entertain all questions on the 2008 Town Budget at the November 8, 2007 hearing date that the Town Board was re-opening the Public Hearing to answer additional questions and accept input from the public; Supv. Thomas added that no written comment had been received since November 8, 2008.

Mr. Mark Erler presented a written list of inquires to the Town Board. Supv. Thomas read the queries aloud and answered with the assistance of the Town Board. The first question was regarding the increase under employees and the rising cost of insurance and additionally, asking for plans on how to deal with the problem. Mr. Arsenault noted that the Town has little control over the cost of health care; he added that the Town Board has spoken with the insurance provider to follow up on his plan to create a larger group involving not only the Town of Johnsburg, but Warren County and possibly Washington County as well. Mr. Arsenault added that the process is moving very slowly. Mr. William Heidrich expressed his dissatisfaction with the Town Board policy of including health care benefits as a part of the pay for the Town Board Members and requested that the members all agree to drop their health insurance as all must have the ability to receive this from their private employers. The second question was regarding the \$20,000.00 increase in the Buildings expenses. Supv. Thomas noted that the Town operates seven buildings (Tannery Pond Community Center, Wevertown Community Center, Sodom Scout Hall, the Ski Bowl Park Pavilions (old & new), Town Hall, Highway Garage and the Senior Citizen Meal Site) and a possible solution to the costs for buildings would be to close or dispose of some of the Town owned and buildings. The third question was regarding the cost of snow removal going up with the trend of weather being toward less snowfall. Supv. Thomas explained that the cost of snow removal also includes freezing rain and other ice issues as well as the increasing cost of gasoline to clear the roads; this is a safety issue. Mr. Erler also asked about the impact on the taxpayer of the expense of Tourism Promotion; Supv. Thomas explained that there was no real expense to the taxpayer of this budget line as it is wholly supported by Occupancy Tax Funds received from Warren County and that these funds must be spent in tourism promoting operations.

Supv. Thomas noted that there was an increase in the Per Capita revenue line and a reduction in the amount of anticipated borrowing from \$120,000.00 to \$100,000.00. He added that there are increases in the costs of insurance and retirement; he added that the amount to make a 1% change in the budget is \$8,000.00. Supv. Thomas asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing and return to the Regular Meeting.

Mr. Goodspeed presented the following motion with a second from Mrs. VanKeuren to adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2008 Town of Johnsbury Budget and at this time move to the Regular Town Board Meeting. With five members voting in favor the motion is declared passed. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Goodspeed, Stevens, VanKeuren, Thomas) Nays - 0

Prepared by William E. Rawson
Town Clerk