

Deputy Supervisor James McCarthy opened a special meeting of the town board of the Town of Pawling at 9:00 AM October 25, 2022 at the Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were councilwomen Snow and Pitt, town attorney Nancy Tagliaferro, and approximately 11 interested citizens. Supervisor Schmitt and Councilman DeRosa were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Councilman McCarthy opened the meeting for public comment.

Harvey Matcovsky, resident from Holmes, New York, thanked Christine Mitchell, town bookkeeper, who has answered a lot of his questions on the budget. He hoped the board would keep fund balance at a reasonable amount. He felt it was important that the board give specific allocations as to where the \$500,000.00 in savings from the Lakeside Park bond would be allocated once the park is paid off in 2023, and he felt the tax increase should be mitigated with these additional funds. Regarding the Whaley Lake Dam, an error was made that is costing quite a bit of money to remediate. It seems illogical that the residents have to take the burden of this remediation. He assumed the engineer and architect have errors and omissions insurance. The residents do not understand why they have to take that additional burden for an error they had nothing to do with, when the institutions have insurance to cover problems like this. Residents would like to see a full accounting of the remediation costs, and he asked that this document be mailed to all residents in the dam district.

2023 TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION

Christine Mitchell, town bookkeeper presented the town board with the following budget presentation:

2023 TOWN TENTATIVE BUDGET SUMMARY

Estimated tax increase:

3.92% if you live in the Village= \$5.91/1,000

3.88% if you live outside the Village=\$8.56/1,000

How do I easily calculate my 2023 Town Tax?

Say your house is assessed at \$300,000

Drop the last 3 zeros, you get \$300

You live in the Village-

Take \$300X \$5.91

Your Town tax is \$1,773

You live outside the Village-

Take \$300X \$8.56

Your Town Tax is \$2,568

CONTINUED SERVICES

-Park & Recreation Programs

-Contracted Ambulance Service

-Transfer Station

-Golf Course

-Paving, plowing & road maintenance

-All Departments open & available

PERSONNEL

-3% wage increase for most personnel, including all Board members

-Full-Time Clerk in Finance (was Part Time)

\$42,760/yr.

-Full-Time Transfer Station Operator \$56,606

(Part Time in 2022 budget)

-Full-Time HWY Clerk \$37,492 (Position split 4 days Hwy/1day Rec in 2022) Replaced Retiree

-Dog Control Officer Full Year (part of 2022)

\$20,000/yr.

-New Permanent part-time Position:

1 Buildings & Grounds seasonal \$11,625/yr.
 PT Clerk position eliminated in Building Dept. \$18,200
 New Stipends
 Deputy Town Supervisor \$1,500
 Deputy Highway Superintendent \$1,000
 Benefit increases
 -Retirement system contribution about \$250K. Rates by Tier have increased over 15% from 2022 to 2023.
 -Health insurance estimated 10 % increase. Will have new rates in November.
 About \$1.1Million Grand Total Health Insurance cost current and retired employees all Funds.
 Town Saves over \$60k annually using AARP/UHC for Medicare eligible retirees.

EQUIPMENT & CAPITAL IN BUDGET

\$42,500 Total in General Fund A Budget
 \$10,000 Central Data Processing (A.1680.2) Annual computer upgrades.
 \$12,500 Garage Equipment (A.5132.2)
 \$10k for Garage Doors, \$2,500 Oil Tank Roof
 \$8,000 Golf Course Equipment A.7250.2
 \$5k Fencing Irrigation Bldg, \$3k WTR Storage Tank & Pump
 \$5,500 Beach & Pool (A.7230.2)
 \$4,500 Sand, \$1,000 ADA Floating Chair
 \$1,500 Teen Center (A.7145.2) Gaming Equipment
 \$1,000 Parks (A.7110.2) Auger
 \$4,000 Building Equipment (A.1620.2)
 Tables

CAPITAL BUDGETED HIGHWAY FUND (DB)

Paving (DB.5112.2) \$300,000
 \$235,000 of revenue from NYS CHIPs program (DB.3501) is budgeted to offset the tax cost.
 Detailed road inventory in progress.

EXPANDED INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT &BLDGS AND PAVING in 2022

-In following with Pawling’s 5year plan and on advice of Financial Advisors
 Pawling bonded \$1.5 million for 15yrs@ 4% for major equipment purchases, building and paving improvements.
 -Capital items include- \$1 Million in new paving.
 Building improvements at Town Hall, Lakeside & the Golf Course.
 -Equipment includes two trucks for highway and a mower for Buildings & Grounds.

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL FUNDS

American Rescue Plan Act \$611,690
 Pawling has been granted these federal funds.
 Funds have been spent & allocated as follows:
 \$94,215 Used for a new Well at Water District 2
 \$104,000 Allocated for improvements to Town Hall
 \$80,000 Allocated for the Great Lawn Project
 \$74,620 Allocated for the Roller Hockey Rink
 \$258,855 to be allocated

USE OF FUND BALANCE (savings) 2023

The Town use of Fund Balance in the 2023 budget compared to 2022 changed as follows:

	2022	2023
A Fund	\$315,000	\$398,000
DA Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
B Fund	\$ 88,705	\$159,700
DB Fund	\$158,970	\$103,315
SW2 Fund	\$ 4,475	\$ 3,800
WL Fund	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000

How much will we have left 12/31/23? About \$815k in A, \$17K in DA, \$558k in B, \$627k in DB, \$57K in SW2 and \$68k in WL. Fund Balance estimates are monitored and updated on a regular basis.

TAX LEVY LIMIT for 2023

Tax Levy limit for 2023 is \$4,567,480 for all Funds and special districts.

We are currently under the limit by \$32,905.

GENERAL FUND (A) Revenues

-Golf Fees (A.2050) \$315,000 Golf revenue continues to do well.

-Fines & Forfeited Bail (A.2610) \$100,000 increased estimate.

-Mortgage Tax (A.3005) \$300,000, Mortgage Tax collections have fluctuated in 2022. This is conservative.

-Employee contributions (A.2704) \$54,000

Estimate of amount employees reimburse the Town for health insurance coverage.

-NYS AID & Incentive (A.3001) \$19,950 Moved to A Fund in 2023. Was in B Fund in 2022.

GENERAL FUND (A) Expenditures

-Auditor (A.1320.4) \$30,000 for independent audit, had NYS Audit end of 2020.

-Central Data Processing (A.1680.4) \$22,000 for computer IT support and data storage.

-Contingent Account (A.1990.4) \$60k funds available for Grant Administration, Human Resources and additional staffing

-Ambulance (A.4540.4) \$524,160 New contract rates. There was a significant increase.

DEBT

Total Town Debt for all Funds as of 12/31/22 will be \$7,607,493.

General Fund Debt (A) \$1,381,386.50 Total Debt

\$565,000 2% Bond for Lakeside Park, with final payment in 2023

\$496,848 1.45% Bond for Building Improvements, final payment 2037

\$137,038.50 1.45% Bond for Equipment, 2037

\$37,500 1.45% Bond Anticipation Note for the Transfer Station Roll Off Truck, Final Payment 2023

\$108,000 Building Improvements, Paid 2037

\$37,000 Golf Course Mower, Paid 2037

Highway Fund Outside Village (DB) \$2,595,550.50

\$436,652 2021 1.45% Bond for Trucks, paid off 2037

DB DEBT (Continued)

\$149,894 2021 1.45% Bond for Town portion of Hurds Corner Improvements, paid off 2037

\$334,248 2021 1.90% BAN for grant portion of Hurds Corner Improvements

\$319,756.50 2021 1.45% Bond for Highway Equipment, paid 2037

\$1,000,000 Paving Bond, paid 2037

\$355,000 Truck Bond, paid 2037

Highway Town wide (DA) \$860,745

\$686,620 1.90% BAN for Dewey Lane Bridge, mostly covered by grants (about \$24k Town Cost)

\$174,125 1.90% BAN for West Main Street Culvert, mostly covered by grants (about \$38k Town cost).

Special Districts-

Whaley Lake Dam District \$2,408,155

1.45% Bond paid off 2037

Water District 2 \$361,656

\$171,656 1.45% Bond paid off 2037

\$190,000 BAN renewing 12/22

Note: The Town is working on additional financing for improvements to this district through debt and a grant application.

Following the budget presentation and discussion, Councilman McCarthy made a motion to adopt the following resolution regarding the budget:

RESOLUTION 2022177
Approving Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and Directing a Public Hearing Thereon

WHEREAS, the town supervisor, pursuant to Section 106 of the Town Law has presented the tentative budget to the town board for review, examination and possible revision, and

WHEREAS, the town board of the Town of Pawling has reviewed same and has deemed it reasonable and appropriate, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The recitations above set forth are incorporated in this resolution as if fully set forth and adopted herein.
2. Pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the Town Law and other applicable provisions of law, the annexed detailed statement of estimated expenditures and revenues be and the same is hereby approved and adopted as the preliminary budget of the Town of Pawling for the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2023.
3. The preliminary budget adopted herein shall forthwith be filed in the office of the town clerk in the Town of Pawling where it shall be available for public inspection.
4. The town board of the Town of Pawling shall meet at Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Boulevard, Pawling, New York on the 9th day of November, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and then and there shall hold a public hearing upon such preliminary budget.
5. The town clerk of the Town of Pawling shall give notice of such public hearing by publishing notice thereof in the Poughkeepsie Journal, the official newspaper of the Town of Pawling, at least five (5) days prior to 11/09/22 and the town clerk shall cause a copy of said notice to be posted on the sign board of the town no later than five (5) days before the scheduled public hearing.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION: Councilman McCarthy

SECOND: Councilwoman Snow

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “ABSENT”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “ABSENT”

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2022176
Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2022

WHEREAS, a request for budget amendments has been received from the bookkeeper, and

WHEREAS, normal course of business activity throughout 2022 has prompted the bookkeeper to determine that various budget items should be amended to allow for the Town of Pawling to continue conducting business as usual, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the bookkeeper has requested the following budget amendments:

A FUND ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER	CURRENT BUDGET	INCREASE	DECREASE	REVISED BUDGET	DESCRIPTION
Expenditures						
Fuel	A.1620.416	70,000	-	(6,650)	63,350	To cover additional Costs
Electric	A.1620.417	58,800		(8,000)	50,800	of Town Hall ARPA Funded
Operating Transfer to Capital Project Fund	A.9950.900	258,620	14,650		273,270	Projects
Building Equipment	A.1620.200	64,000	4,900		68,900	To add addition funding to cover
Training	A.1620.401	1,000		(1,000)	-	purchase of 2023 Dodge in
Parks Electric	A.7110.417	5,000		(2,500)		place of Chevy on bid which is
Parks Equip	A.7110.200	8,100		(1,400)		unavailable (\$64,883.25 total cost)
Camp Contractual	A.7320.400	29,380		(5,000)	24,380	Reduction to Camp Contractual
Operating Transfer to Capital Project Fund	A.9950.900	273,270	5,000		278,270	and transfer to Capital Project
		768,170	24,550	(24,550)	758,970	Fund for Roller Hockey Rink
Capital Projects Fund						
ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER	CURRENT BUDGET	INCREASE	DECREASE	REVISED BUDGET	DESCRIPTION
Roller Hockey Rink	H.7110.2	125000	5000		130000	Additional Roller Hockey Rink Cost
Town Hall ARPA Projects	H.1620.210	104,000	14,650		118,650	To increase Capital Project
		229,000	19,650	0	248,650	for additional cost of Town Hall
						APRA Funded projects.
Revenues						
	H.5031	169,270	5000		174,270	Additional Roller Hockey Rink Cost
	H.5031	\$ 154,620	\$ 14,650		\$ 169,270	
		\$ 323,890	\$ 19,650	\$ -	\$ 343,540	

MOTION: Councilman McCarthy

SECOND: Councilwoman Pitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “ABSENT”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “ABSENT”

**RESOLUTION 2022175
Approval of Truck Purchase**

WHEREAS, the supervisor of buildings & grounds had previously been authorized to purchase a 2023 Chevrolet 3500 truck on New York State Office of General Services bid, and

WHEREAS, the town has been notified that the truck will not be built by the manufacturer, and

WHEREAS, the supervisor of buildings & grounds has requested to purchase a 2023 Dodge Ram 3500 with a dump truck body, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby authorizes the supervisor of buildings & grounds to purchase said 2023 Dodge Ram 3500 with a dump truck body, for \$68,900.00 in replacement of the previously authorized Chevrolet 3500 truck.

MOTION: Councilman McCarthy

SECOND: Councilwoman Pitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “ABSENT”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “ABSENT”

RESOLUTION 2022155
Appointment of Part-Time Building Department Clerk

WHEREAS, a vacancy currently exists for the part-time building department clerk position due to unforeseen circumstances, and

WHEREAS, Ethan Allen Workforce Solutions was utilized due to the short notice and need for experienced assistance, and

WHEREAS, Ethan Allen Workforce Solutions has provided a temporary clerk and interviews were conducted, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby approves an inclusive hourly rate of \$30.00 per hour to be paid to Ethan Allen Workforce Solutions.

MOTION: Councilman McCarthy

SECOND: Councilwoman Pitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “ABSENT”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “ABSENT”

TOWN BOARD DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Snow said she wanted to take a few minutes to talk about some emails that the town board has received, herself specifically, and quite frankly, herself being called a racist. She has never been called a racist, she is not racist and she does not condone racism in any form. It is pretty upsetting when some of the board’s emails read, “dear racist town board member”. For the record, she wanted to put that out there. She said there will be training in February from the Association of Towns and there would be training in diversity and some other classes. She took exception to being called racist.

Councilwoman Pitt said the board all received that email as being called racist and she would piggy back off of what Councilwoman Snow just said, this is the first time in her entire life that she too had been called a racist. People don’t know the board, their family makeup, family structure and she felt she spoke for everyone she sat at the dais with, she would never even consider working for or with someone who had those types of beliefs, absolutely not, it is completely unacceptable. So yes, the board received the email. If anyone would like to have a personal conversation with her, one on one, they can contact her. Councilwoman Pitt said there have been several interviews for the town justice position and they went really well. There are

six strong candidates and the interviews were concluded last night. There will be some additional meetings and she will go forward with this. It is exciting to see people wanting to get involved with the town. Councilwoman Pitt asked about the scan cards for town hall, she felt the town needed to go to a keyless access. The estimate was approximately \$14,000.00 and she hoped this could be approved at the next meeting. Councilwoman Pitt said she contacted Dutchess County and New York State regarding the speed limit conversation and she has been in touch with Bob Brill, highway superintendent regarding signage, which is expensive. She hoped some ARPA funds could be put toward this.

Councilman McCarthy said regarding the email the town board received, he has been called many things in his life but racist is not one of them. He has never been called a racist. He has raised three daughters, and working on nine grandchildren and the most insulting thing he has ever been called in his life is racist. It is an insult to the entire board. This individual does not know the board and he has never met this individual. He did not think she knew his family or anything about who he is or who his family is. He is not on Facebook and he is happy he raised his three kids prior to Facebook. There is no reason for these attacks, we are all adults and anyone who knows him knows they can call him or email him and set up an appointment, and the rest of the board is the same way. He hoped this could end, he did not see what good comes of these attacks. Councilman McCarthy wished his wife Gail a happy birthday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gayle Zelazny, resident from Cunningham Lane and Town of Pawling town justice, thanked councilwoman Pitt and supervisor Schmitt for all of the work they have done on filling the justice vacancy. It is something that is important to her and she looked forward to hearing how all of the interviews went. She is excited that six people are interested in doing this. She hears a lot of talk about equality in the workplace these days and equality is an ideal worth striving for, the concept of fairness and impartiality. Department heads have come to the board on behalf of their staff and advocated for equity. In her opinion, that plea has for the most part gone unanswered. In particular she wanted to address the recent hiring of a dog control officer, a part time position, although the resolution creating it did not specify how many hours the dog control officer would be required to work, it did say the person would be available 24/7, at a salary of \$20,000.00. Her salary as a judge after eight years is \$18,107.00 in the 2023 tentative budget. She is requesting an increase to \$22,000.00 and a minimum of \$20,000.00 for the reasons she will state. She did not know the qualifications of a dog control officer, a few of the reasons communicated to her were that the officer was very busy, the number of calls increased and the person hired is skilled and available 24/7. Those sound like qualities shared by many town employees. As a judge, she is available all day every day and she answers the phone when it rings in the middle of the night or during the day on a weekend. She comes out to her chambers in the middle of the night to do her job to keep everyone safe and to protect those that need protection. She prepares for her calendar before hand and reviews her work afterwards. She communicates with her clerk, who fields calls and emails on her behalf when she is not in the office. She also knows that the dog control officer's salary is significantly higher than hers. In all honesty, she is troubled by this disparity. Her case load has increased over the years and shows no signs of decreasing. When the village court dissolved, she lost the salary but not the work load. The village cases have been transferred to her and now all new crimes, violations, eviction proceedings and small claims matters that occur in the Village are now her responsibility. She does more for less money. As for her qualifications, in addition to a college degree, she has a law degree. She is required to complete twelve hours of judicial continuing education every year to remain in good standing as a judge. She prepares and files monthly financial reports and is responsible for the money the court brings into the town. This year she noted that in the budget, court is slated to bring in \$100,000.00 in revenue. Her job is so much more than a couple of nights holding court. Before you say that it is inappropriate to compare salaries because it is never comparing apples to apples, or because she is an elected official and she knew what she was getting into, she reminded the town board that they are the ones who sets and approve the salaries of all of us, part time, full time and elected officials including themselves. And what is apparent to her is that the board treats new hires with way more consideration and respect than they treat the people who have been here the longest. So, if it takes \$20,000.00 to hire a dog control officer in today's market, then that is what it takes. But equity demands that you look at the salary of every other employee, especially those that have been here decades to bring his or her salary on par with the new hires.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilman McCarthy at 9:55 AM, seconded by Councilwoman Snow, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk