

Supervisor David P. Kelly opened the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:30 PM November 3, 2010 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen Upham, Watson, Mayer and approximately 21 interested citizens. Councilman Johnson was absent.

NOVEMBER 3, 2010

Supervisor Kelly opened the public hearing on the 2011 Preliminary Budget.

**PUBLIC HEARING
ON 2011 BUDGET**

Harvey Matcovsky felt the Board should look at medical coverage for the Medicare eligible retirees (non-union) and the costs of them being in NYSHIP. He challenged the Board and Supervisor Kelly to talk to the retirees about signing on with the AARP health insurance company he has signed on with as this would save the Town money. It is a great plan and the cost is low. He would be happy to speak to the Town's retirees about this and convince them that they would be better off if they left NYSHIP and went to the plan he is suggesting. He did not understand why the Board has not proceeded and tried to reduce costs in this area.

Diana Cretella said she is being taxed out of the community. Her taxes are over \$13,000.00 and she lives on Grandview Avenue. She personally as a taxpayer is devastated about any tax increase at this point because she is barely making ends meet. She can't even sell her house in this market so what is she to do, loose her house. The combined taxes are choking her as a single parent.

Janet Couch agreed with Mr. Matcovsky and she felt he had a valid and reasonable proposal on health benefits. The Supervisor of Beekman, Dan French, has been able to put together a budget with a zero tax increase.

Chris Gamaliy from Rebecca Drive asked for the actual 2010 year to date numbers.

Supervisor Kelly said he could provide those numbers to Mr. Gamaliy if he wanted to see those but they are not included in the budget.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions. Following discussion, it was agreed that resolutions 2010186, 2010187, 2010189, 2010190, 2010191 and 2010192 would be placed on the agenda.

Supervisor Kelly explained the changes that he made in the budget due to recent discussions by the Board at budget workshops. He said the Board might want to consider tightening their belts on some other positions, removing possibly some full time positions and filling them with seasonal workers. He also suggested the possibility of a technology B.A.N. in 2011 to purchase equipment he has removed from the budget. All in all, in the revised budget, the overall tax increase would be 8.4%, with the Town operation portion being 3%. He explained that approximately \$100,000.00 from the A and B funds would be used to balance the budget and bring the tax increase down. He said the budget must be passed by November 20, 2010.

**BUDGET
DISCUSSION**

Supervisor Kelly stated that he is working on drafting a time line of events with the Town Engineer and Town Attorney and would submit it to the Board when it is complete.

**COMPREHENSIVE
MASTER PLAN**

Supervisor Kelly said he met with Ed Hoxie from the Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation District to discuss an MS4 grant from NYC DEP. He also updated the Board on a new unfunded mandate requiring municipalities to inspect every septic system in the NYC watershed in their town every three years and said the Town will have to decide how to move forward with that. Supervisor Kelly stated that the retaining wall, sidewalks and playground at Lakeside Park are all underway. He reminded the Board that the New York State Qualifier will be held at Lakeside Park on November 13, 2010. Supervisor Kelly said Ben Scavone from Peter F. Gaito Associates was present to discuss the Lathrop building at Lakeside Park. He asked the Board how they wanted to move forward with phase II of the Lathrop building project, which would be to get costs for the project. He asked the Board to submit any questions before the next week's meeting.

**MS4 GRANT
UPDATE AND NEW
MANDATES**

Councilman Watson felt that the first step should be to check the building for asbestos.

Mr. Scavone agreed saying he would prepare a plan and cost estimate regarding asbestos for the Board's review.

**LATHROP
BUILDING @
LAKESIDE PARK**

MAYER

Councilman Mayer said he has worked with Tom Corrao on a proposed sign ordinance, which he has submitted to the Board tonight for their review. He did not address signs on private property or signs on roadways and he welcomed input from the Town Board on those issues.

Supervisor Kelly suggested modeling those portions of the ordinance following the Village of Pawling's sign ordinance, which allows political signs in only three places.

Councilman Mayer said the Town is much larger than the Village and he wasn't sure what locations to use. He asked for input from the Board.

UPHAM

Councilman Upham said he had circulated a time line for the Master Plan not too long ago and he would find that and share it with Supervisor Kelly and Board members.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Supervisor Kelly opened the meeting for public comment.

Jeff Asher asked to add the mold issue when looking at the Lathrop building. He asked what the next steps were in adopting the 2011 budget.

Supervisor Kelly said the next step was for the Board to work on the budget further and it must be adopted by November 20th.

Mr. Asher said he was strongly in favor of rescinding the ten year lifetime medical benefit for employees. He hoped the Board would simplify the recreation classes and what schedule they follow and create a policy that is written and understood.

Harvey Matcovsky asked if the Board had an audit on the ambulance service to justify what they collect and to justify the cost service.

Supervisor Kelly said there is no mechanism to ask them for that. He will be in negotiations with them beginning this Friday.

Mr. Matcovsky said the Board should consider the cost savings on the health benefits and put it on the agenda in the not so distant future.

Bob Davidson thanked Councilman Mayer for his many years of hard work and dedication. On the subject of signs, he felt election signs should be taken down within a week of the election and all candidates should be held to that and they should be fined if signs are not removed.

Stephen Sollozzo said the Board is trying to balance the budget and he felt the Board should be looking at moving the Master Plan forward and bringing business into the town to mitigate taxes.

Chris Gamaliy asked why the Board was considering a second floor on the Lathrop building.

Supervisor Kelly said it is a concept only and the idea was to use the second floor for offices and using the first floor as open community space.

Councilman Watson said anything that is done with the Lathrop building will not have a tax impact on residents because the Board would use the "Hoffman Trust Fund" and that is the money that would be used for this project.

Carol Compton suggested the Town be involved in the MS4 lawsuit by filing an amicus brief so as not to incur any cost to the Town. Regarding the ambulance service, she has used this service and she stated Medicare paid 98% of it and she only had to pay her co-pay but the service is expensive. She agreed with making full time positions into part time positions. She asked when Lakeside Park would generate income.

Supervisor Kelly said the Board is working on that now and it is ongoing.

Ms. Compton thanked the Board for their hard work.

Janet Couch said she was happy to hear the proposed budget cuts. She asked about the \$300,000.00 cost for ambulance service. Mrs. Couch asked what the Town did before they paid ambulance service.

Councilman Watson said the Town pays to ensure residents ambulance service twenty four hours a day, seven days per week. If the Town didn't pay for this service, the ambulance could be in another town and take quite a long time to get to a person who needed it.

Supervisor Kelly explained that the ambulance service was run by volunteers but there aren't enough volunteers now and it has to be a paid service now.

Greg Lane with Elm Street Partners said Pawling is a first class Town, from its government to its citizens. Elm Street Partners can't move forward with its project until the comprehensive plan is finished. He understood that the Board was working hard on moving the comprehensive plan forward. If they are able to develop what they propose, the tax revenue to the Town would be a couple of hundred thousand dollars. He felt it was too bad the Town was struggling financially.

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PUBLIC
COMMENT
CONTINUED**

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Mayer at 9:00 PM, seconded by Councilman Upham, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk