

Supervisor David P. Kelly opened the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 6:30 PM October 14, 2015 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen Johnson, Montemarano, Upham, DeRosa and approximately 20 interested citizens.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Supervisor Kelly at 6:31 PM to discuss legal matters with the Town Attorney, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

The motion to return to the regular order of business was made by Supervisor Kelly at 7:30 PM, seconded by Councilman Upham, motion passed unanimously.

2016 TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION

Supervisor Kelly gave the following Tentative Budget Presentation:

2016 TENTATIVE BUDGET ADDRESS BY TOWN SUPERVISOR DAVID KELLY

Good evening!

One of the most important duties of the Town Supervisor is to initiate and coordinate the annual budget process, and tonight, I verbally present the Tentative 2016 Budget, to the Town Board, department heads, and to our guests in attendance.

First, a few notes about the process of developing this Tentative Budget; Through the NYS Comptroller's Office, I have taken several classes that help Budget Officers in their crafting of municipal budgets, such as this one, that meet the strict guidelines set forth by the State. This budget is based on months of preparation and collaboration between myself, the Town Bookkeeper's office, headed by Jerry Terwilliger, my office staff, the heads of the various Town departments, Dutchess County, New York State Comptroller's Office, New York Association of Towns, all local elected officials, and most importantly, the constituents. I want to thank everyone for the care and consideration they took in making their presentations during this process. The Town Bookkeeper and I spent many hours contemplating the outside stresses against this budget. Stresses that we have little or no control over. We examined every line of this document with a figurative microscope. We reviewed it and reviewed it again until a reasonable and accurate figure was placed in the budget that represented the expenditures, revenues, and appropriations. Calculations were checked and re-checked because this budget remains within the .73 of one percent New York State Mandated Property Tax Cap, commonly called the 2% Tax Cap. This Tentative Budget is not presented in the same format as the previous years' 41 page budgets that have been delivered. This budget complies with the new guidelines put in place by the NYS Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli. This budget is framed in the 100s, 200s, and 400s format to help the State monitor the budgeting practices of municipalities under the Property Tax Cap law.

Our Town, along with the other 931 of the Towns in New York State, is still bound by this Property Tax Cap. Based on the rate of inflation, the NYS Comptroller's Office sets the rate for the next fiscal year in late summer. Our best planning and foresight on the next budget cycle is held at bay until these numbers are released by the Comptroller's office. Again, my Tentative Budget is based not off of a hypothetical 2% cap, but rather the rate set for all municipalities throughout New Year State.

Town Wide Tax Increase for 2016

The 2016 Tentative Budget reflects a .046 cent increase in the Tax Levy from the Town Board's 2015 adopted operational budget. If this budget is adopted, property owners with an equalized assessment of \$150,000 will see a \$6.90 increase in their town wide taxes. This breaks down to a .728 of 1% increase Town Wide.

Delivery of Services

Services to our valuable residents have not been cut or minimized. I will continue to support the Arts and Culture community. Support to youth activities and programs is at its highest level in 7 years. The residents have asked for recreation programs and I will continue to search for innovative funding sources to keep the programs intact. The Highway Superintendent has asked for an additional \$25,000 to be added to fund Snow Control. The Highway Department has not requested an increase in any budget line since 2010, until now. The additional funding is in the Tentative Budget.

After reviewing the initial budget requests with department heads, I requested that each department perform a thorough number-crunching session to keep expenditures at 2015 levels. The entire 2016 tentative budget has a 0% increase in expenditure. Our stand-alone hard costs have seen both increases and decreases in various expenditures. I have projected an increase of 6% in Health & Medical Insurance while there is a 3% decrease in Retirement costs. The mandated MTA Tax continues to be hindrance to all local municipalities within the MTA service area while our neighbors to the east and the county to the west do not have to pay this payroll mandated tax of collectively \$13,118.00 for 2016.

I would like to discuss other aspects of the budget that influenced my budget preparations. Personal services and the cost of the benefits packages for employees have a substantial impact on every municipal budget in New York. The Town of Pawling is no exception. The funds appropriated in my Tentative Budget represent the largest portion of our operational funds. For the next few minutes, I would like to explain the expenditures in the 2016 Tentative Budget with the assistance of PowerPoint.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

The factual numbers within my presentation indicate that this town board has worked diligently to keep costs under control and prevented them from skyrocketing as they have with other taxing districts. I am confident that this budget contains no duplication of services but rather continues the shared services that have proven beneficial to the Town.

The last few slides of the presentation reveal the impact of this board's initiative to take over the operations of the Dutcher golf course; the oldest municipally owned 9 hole course in the country. This majestic course, nestled in the rolling hills of the Harlem Valley, is a major undertaking, but has the potential to be a tremendous revenue stream for Pawling. This 43 acre gem does come with a cost. During budget deliberations, I am requesting that the town board look into opportunities to increase revenues at the course while trying to contain costs. This course has already received well-deserved recognition with the assistance of Dutchess County Tourism, but more can, and must be done, to make this a destination. Food service is something that must be considered. The layout of the clubhouse is well-suited for light fare. As for infrastructure, the course is in need of a fully operational sprinkler system. Like the rest of the region, our course suffered from drought during the height of the golf season. Other courses fared much better because they were able to keep their grass green and playable. If we are going to market the oldest 9 hole course as a golfing destination, we need to bring it up to par. Our employees work tirelessly to maintain the course with the resources we provide them, but more needs to be done. The Dutcher will not be a destination without a well thought out plan of action.

The Tentative Budget that I have presented this evening is not padded with unrealistic goals or pet-projects. This is truly a skeletal budget that manages to meet the needs of the residents without undue burden, and keeps the Town under the State mandated Property Tax Cap.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Cliff Johnson asked about the golf course. He asked if a study of what percentage of residents utilize the golf course has been done.

MINUTES

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes of September 2, 2015 and September 9 2015, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2015100 Payment of Bills for the Town of Pawling

Whereas, the Town of Pawling Bookkeeper has reviewed and prepared the vouchers and has offered them for review, and

Whereas, the vouchers have been approved in accordance with the Town of Pawling policy, and

Whereas, the vouchers have been numbered 20151307 through 20151462, now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pawling Town Board hereby accepts the vouchers as prepared and on the recommendation of the Bookkeeper and hereby authorizes payment of said vouchers for the Town of Pawling on this date in the amount of \$550,492.09.

Resolution 2015102 Billing for Pawling Water District #2

Whereas, Pawling Water District #2 bills need to be approved by the Pawling Town Board, and,

Whereas, the bills have been prepared and submitted in the amount of \$ 14,343.85 for the period of July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 by the Water District Clerk, now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pawling Town Board hereby accepts the billing as recommended for Pawling Water District #2.

Resolution 2015103 Acceptance Justice; Annual Audit Reports

Whereas, the Unified Court Act requires that town justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their respective town auditing boards, and

Whereas, such records then are to be examined or audited by the Town Board members, and

Whereas, the Town Supervisor received the Annual Audit Reports from Justice Daniels and Justice Denton for calendar year 2014 on October 2, 2015 and made said reports available to the Town Board members after the Town Board Workshop meeting of October 7, 2015, and

Whereas, such Annual Audit Reports continued to be available for review and audit to the Town Board members at the Town Clerks Office until the time of the Town Board meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board does hereby acknowledge receipt of the Town of Pawling Justice Annual Audit Report(s) and has been given the opportunity to review and comment on said reports.

Resolution 2015104 Justice Court Grant Request

Whereas, the Pawling Justice Court is interested in submitting an application to the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) for funding of a Capital Project, and

Whereas, the Pawling Justice Court has considered requesting a new Judge's chair, fireproof file cabinets and new Courtroom and security signage, and

Whereas, as part of the application process, the Town Board must approve the project(s) requested by the local Justice Court, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Pawling hereby authorizes the Pawling Justice Court to make application with the Justice Court Assistance Program for the projects stated within the application.

MOTION: Supervisor Kelly
SECOND: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
 Councilman Upham – “AYE” Councilman Montemarano – “AYE”
 Supervisor Kelly – “AYE”

NON CONSENT AGENDA

**Resolution 2015105
 Budget Transfers**

Whereas, budget transfers are needed from time to time for proper accountability, control and operation of a municipality’s budget, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the following budgetary transfers:

General Fund

		Credit	Debit
Increase	1620.426A Bldg. Mtn. & Repairs	12,000.00	
Decrease	1990.400A Contingent Acct.		12,000.00
Increase	1110.402A Justice Contr.-Travel	350.00	
Decrease	1110.401A Justice Contr.-Trning.		350.00
Increase	1410.200A Clerk-Equip.	7,000.00	
Increase	1680.200A Central DP-Equip.	7,210.00	
Decrease	9730.600A BAN Principal		14,000.00
Decrease	9730.700A BAN Interest		210.00
Increase	7250.100A Golf – Per. Svs.	10,000.00	
Increase	7250.415A Golf-Contr. Mtn. Cont.	12,900.00	
Increase	7250.430A Golf-Contr.-Supplies	12,100.00	
Increase	2050.000A Golf Fees		35,000.00
Increase	7230.100A Beach – Per. Svcs.	14,000.00	
Decrease	7020.100A Rec. Admin. – Pers. Svcs.		14,000.00
Increase	7110.200A Parks-Equip.	40,000.00	
Increase	0599.000A Appro. Fund Bal		40,000.00

General Fund Town O/S Village

Increase	3620.100B Bldg-Pers. Svcs	25,000.00	
Decrease	8010.100B Zoning - Pers. Svcs.		25,000.00
Increase	8010.403B Zoning-Contr.-Off. Sup.	250.00	
Decrease	8010.424B Zoning-Contr. Veh. Mtn.		250.00
Increase	8010.410B Zoning-Contr.-Legal Not.	500.00	
Decrease	3620.456B Bldg.- Contr.-Consol.		500.00

Highway Fund O/S Village

Increase	5142.100DB Snow Removal- P.S.	11,696.00	
Increase	9040.800DB Workers’ Comp.	25,604.00	
Increase	2300.000DB Trans. Svcs.-Other Gov’t.		37,300.00
Increase	5142.400DB Snow Removal- Contr.	50,000.00	

Increase	9730.600DB	BAN Principal	165,000.00
Increase	9730.700DB	BAN Interest	2,500.00
Increase	0599.000DB	Appro. Fund Bal.	217,500.00

MOTION: Supervisor Kelly
SECOND: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
 Councilman Upham – “AYE” Councilman Montemarano – “AYE”
 Supervisor Kelly – “AYE”

**Resolution 2015107
 Obsolete Equipment**

Whereas, certain equipment being stored that is obsolete and no longer of use by the Town of Pawling, and

Whereas, as a result the Building and Grounds Department has various piece(s) of equipment that can be removed from our property and inventory list, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board declares the attached list of equipment(s), which shall be made part of the minutes of this meeting, obsolete and surplus to the needs of the Town of Pawling, and be it, further

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the following equipment to be disposed of by the Head of Building and Grounds in a manner consistent with law and/or regulation:

- 1) 1996 ; Ford F150 VIN# 2FTEF15Y4TCA50163

MOTION: Supervisor Kelly
SECOND: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
 Councilman Upham – “AYE” Councilman Montemarano – “AYE”
 Supervisor Kelly – “AYE”

**Resolution 2015108
 Dutchess County Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

Whereas, the Town of Pawling is participating in the Dutchess County Community Development Consortium for fiscal year 2016, and

Whereas, input from citizens and groups has been received and considered, and

Whereas, an application has been prepared which addresses our community concerns, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Dutchess County Community Development Consortium Fiscal Year 2016 application for the Town of Pawling including the certifications included therein by and hereby is approved for a Joint Project with the Village of Pawling, and, be it, further

Resolved, that the submission of said application to Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development is hereby authorized.

MOTION: Supervisor Kelly

SECOND: Councilman Montemarano

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman Upham – “AYE”

Councilman Montemarano – “AYE”

Supervisor Kelly – “AYE”

FURTHER BUSINESS

BUDGET

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to set the public hearing for the 2016 budget for November 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to set the Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

FOOD DRIVE

Supervisor Kelly announced that Assembly Lalor’s Office is conducting a food drive. The food collected in Pawling will go the Community Resource Center.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said the Town Board received a letter from the Planning Board on the technical presentation equipment they are requesting. He was in favor of purchasing the equipment and felt the Town Board should see if there is money in the current budget to make the purchase.

Councilman DeRosa said Margaux Miller is interested in the Zoning Board of Appeals position and Nancy Iankowitz is also interested in a position on a board.

Councilman DeRosa said he attended a class on September 21st in Millbrook on Zoning for Solar Energy. He learned that the State will be creating a model code and he felt the Board should wait for the model code in order to have something to work with.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Helen Grosso said she hoped the Board would discuss the budget before the public hearing and she hoped there would be much more discussion about the budget. She challenged the point that the town taxes have stayed constant since 2011 and asked to see the Library budget and Fire District budget. She asked for additional information on budget items such as the fund balance and Town Board benefits.

Leslie Holleran Mondschein said the point that the budget is simple math is disingenuous and upsetting to her as a tax payer. The Board determines what the bills are, they are not in stone. Taxes are a very serious problem for Pawling and affect real estate values. The idea that anyone should pay more than their fair share of an overtaxed burden is not okay. She felt that people’s questions should be answered when they attend a Town Board meeting.

Stephen Sollazzo said we need a true aggregate number for tax purposes. We need good planning and a new vision for Pawling. There is a lot of work to do here.

Cliff Johnson asked why people come here if there is no dialogue. How would he get his questions answered? He had a lot of questions about the golf course. He asked if there would be budget meetings before the budget is passed.

Supervisor Kelly said he would meet with Mr. Johnson to answer his questions and the Board has historically had budget meetings before the budget is passed.

The motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Kelly at 8:15 PM, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk