

Supervisor David P. Kelly opened the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM October 12, 2016 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen Johnson, Montemarano, Upham, DeRosa and approximately 50 interested citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Kelly opened the meeting for public comment on agenda items and there were none.

2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ADDRESS BY SUPERVISOR KELLY

Supervisor Kelly said the Town Board adopted the budget as a preliminary budget at the last meeting. He gave the following presentation:

Good evening - One of the most important duties of the Town Supervisor is to coordinate and lead the annual budget process, and tonight, I verbally present the Tentative 2017 Budget to the Town Board, department heads, our residents, and our guests in attendance.

Let me say, a lot has gone into developing a complete and inclusive budget. During my entire career as a public servant, I've taken numerous classes that have taught me very valuable information on all aspects of government and its processes. When it comes to budgeting, I have worked directly with members of the NYS Comptroller's Office on learning to expertly craft a municipal budget that not only meets the strict guidelines set by the state, but is also beneficial to the town and its residents.

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, the New York State Comptroller's Office, NYS Budget Office, New York Association of Towns, all local elected officials, and most importantly, the residents.

Everyone involved with this process deserves thanks for the care and consideration in their presentations to me. There are a lot of internal and external factors that have to be considered in the budget process, and it's not always easy or in our control. The Town Bookkeeper and I painstakingly considered every detail both large and small in order to come up with the most comprehensive and fair document possible that represented the expenditures, revenues, and appropriations accurately. This budget remains well under the .68 of one percent of the New York State Mandated Property Tax Cap, commonly called the 2% Tax Cap. For the 4th straight year, I am providing a budget that is under the tax cap and I have put the residents in the right position to receive their rebate checks from the State once again. After the latest renewal of the Property Tax Cap Legislation in Albany, we know this legislation will be around for a long time. Since its inception or MANDATE, through my leadership, the Town of Pawling budgets today and into the near future will keep us in good shape to weather out any minor hiccups that come our way.

I have paid very careful attention to all of the guidelines put in place by the New York State Comptroller, and I am proud to say that this budget fully complies with all of them. I have also heard from my fellow board members and our residents that they preferred the expanded format from previous years instead of the 2016 format. This budget is presented in the expanded version so that everyone can see the most detailed breakdown possible, but, we will adopt it in its 100s, 200s, and 400s format as the New York State Comptroller's Office suggests.

The 2017 Tentative Budget reflects a **.002 cent decrease** in the Tax Rate from 2016. Valuable services to our residents again are not cut or minimized. I continue to offer funding to keep the Teen Center operational as requested by the Recreation Director. As we review the Budget, you will see that there is a slight reduction in their 'requested amount'. Through proper management, we have achieved savings in both the Personnel and Contractual lines without sacrificing our services to these youths and their families. In the "Other Recreation Programs"; Ice Skating, Basketball, Running Club, and Flag Football are current programs to keep both the youth and adults active. The residents have asked for new and creative recreation programs and I will continue to search for innovative funding sources to keep the programs intact.

The Arts and Culture community has a slight increase in this budget. We have a very successful and free “Music by the Lake” Summer Concert Program. Director Ed Beauchamp maximizes every dollar to bring us the highest quality of artists to this program. Over the past two years, New York State Electric & Gas has sponsored what equals to one concert each year, and I will continue to seek outside funding for these programs. These partnerships continue help to promote the “giving back” to the community in many ways.

As we work through the budget, you will see **most** of the expenditure lines are at the same funding levels as 2016 adopted budget. As I prepared this budget, the data showed that we were able to move \$149,010 into the unassigned fund balance from 2014 to 2015. For a budget over 5 million dollars in total, we under spent by \$149,010 dollars. As we budget, our projections were spot on. People talk about zero budgeting, but how can you when we live in such a volatile environment. Look at Gas, Electric, and Fuel Oil over the past three years: one year it’s \$3.00 a gallon, the next it’s \$1.40. Electric is just as bad: look at the rates per kilowatt hour from year to year. There has been increases and decreases two fold in these utilities alone.

Wendel Weber in Building & Grounds has requested to realign some of his personnel staff. He has requested to not fill the full time vacant position, and to retitle the “Laborer” to “Maintenance Worker” and hire additional Part Time staff. An additional request is made to title the current Part Timer to Permanent Part Time. His contractual lines are at the same level except for a few which deal with maintenance contracts. These lines have seen increases each of the past few years as well.

Our overall general liability insurance coverage policies have increased as we have found a few areas of risk and concern. In working with our broker, we will experience a slight increase of 1.8% to meet our needs.

The ambulance service we contract for will see a slight 2% increase.

The Transfer Station has been a topic of concern for the past few years. I commend Councilman DeRosa, Town Clerk Giordano, and Highway Superintendent Daley for their work on a plan for the Transfer Station. The reality is, the state has installed a new MANDATE, we are required to accept e-waste from our residents BUT we have to pay to remove it from the facility. These costs were never budgeted in 2016. I am not offering to budget for this in 2017. The hope is that the amount of e-waste will diminish over the next few months. As for the rest of the facility, we need a new compactor, new personnel building, the retaining wall is bowing out, the roof covering the recycling bins must be changed, and now we are told we need a new truck to haul the boxes. It has given us many years and it is beyond its life expectancy. After looking at these large future expenditures and the fact that we are one of very few communities to operate a Transfer Station, I would suggest that this be the last year to fund this transfer station. 2017 should be a transition year from town operated facility to a closed facility. We should not be in the trash business.

The Highway Superintendent has asked for just a few lines in the budgets to increase. The Superintendent has requested a large increase in the DA budget for Bridge line 5120.4, two line within the DB budget; 5112.2 (Improvements) and 5130.2 (Machinery). For two of these requests, I have to reject his request as they should be considered for bonding. If I were to agree to these increases, the overall budget would increase to the tune of 11% by itself - well above the Tax Cap legislation. As for a part of conversation, if the Board agrees to bond these projects, there is very good chance that we would have to exceed the Tax Cap when preparing the 2018 budget. I would like to note, once again, The Highway Superintendent has managed his department well and has not requested an increase in many of the budget lines since 2010.

Supporting the Town Clerk’s initiative to be on the forefront of electronic document retention through the use of laser fiche has been and will continue to be a budget priority. We have been able to handle this within current appropriations, so this beneficial project can continue without drastic increases. The goal of this project is to have certain documents online and accessible to all at the click of a mouse.

In the assessors department, the only personnel change that we have is that of a part time clerk. I have included into the budget to change that position to full time status as of September 1st of

2017. In conversation with our contracted assessor, starting September we will start the process of an internal reevaluation of our town properties. The main thrust of this expanded position is to do the bulk cleanup of the properties within the town. Once the town board approves moving forward with a full reevaluation, our inventory will be free of errors and omissions, allowing us to have to contract for far less services.

As we look into the B budget, not many changes are offered for your consideration. The Building and Zoning Department is our largest department within the B – Budget and has requested very little changes. The Code Enforcement Office has requested much needed additional computer hardware and software for the site inspections. After further conversation, we will be purchasing this equipment in 2016 from current budget lines.

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 \$5821 for 2017. Once again, this is a tax to subsidize the rail system on the backs of the tax payers.

As many of you know, personnel services and the cost of benefit packages to employees have an impact on every single municipal government in New York and across the country. In comparison with other towns in Dutchess County, the salaries of Pawling employees and officials are much, much lower than average, which is one way we keep personnel costs as low as possible. To this, I offer a slight two percent increase to all staff members of the Town. This budget has an added revenue line from health insurance, by adopting this budget in this form. The Town Board would need to make a change to the Employee Handbook requiring all employees that accept the single member health plan to pay 7 ½% of the cost of the plan. This is ½ of the cost the current family plan members pay for health insurance.

For the next few minutes, I would like to explain the expenditures in the 2016 Tentative Budget with the assistance of PowerPoint.

As you can see from my presentation, I and the town board will work very hard to once again keep costs under tight control and prevent them from skyrocketing as they have in other districts. I am confident that this budget does not compromise any services to our residents while still taking care to ensure that there are no duplication of services and waste. As I also illustrated, the largest portion of your taxes goes to the school system, with (%) going to the county, (%) going to library and (%) going to fire, and as such, our town budget has a relatively minimal impact on your overall tax burden.

Ensuring that the town budget keeps costs as low as possible while still maintaining services and programs is what residents have come to expect. This budget is not padded with unrealistic goals or pet projects or wasteful spending; it is an efficient and skeletal budget that preserves our vital services and supports our employees all while keeping us again under the State mandated tax cap.

I look forward to working with all of you during these next few weeks and we move to adopt a 2017 operational budget that meets the needs of our department heads and our constituents alike.

PAWLING AMERICAN LEGION: COMMANDER MUSELLA

Commander Musella explained that he was here to speak about the American Legion building. He explained that he has been working with Board members for three long years on the repairs of the Legion building. He met with Board members each of three years, after which he was hopeful something would get done. The list of concerns was extensive, most importantly that the exterior of the building be repaired. He was assured that things were moving forward. He obtained bids for the exterior work but was told there was no money for this project. He was not being told the truth. Some work was done on the interior of the building, at which time he suggested the man hours be used on the exterior of the building. He is tired of false promises, results at this time are all that matter. The building is an embarrassment and the American Legion sign has been removed. He thanked the community for their continued support.

Councilman Johnson said the Town Board has discussed plans for the Legion Building at the last three meetings. The Town secured funding for renovations to both buildings so they are not spending taxpayer dollars they don't have. He suggested Mr. Musella be more involved all of the time.

Supervisor Kelly said there is an agenda item discussing the Legion Building renovation plans. The Town has secured a \$50,000.00 grant for the renovation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Kelly moved resolution 2016100 to the Non-Consent agenda.

Resolution 2016101 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 \$ 14,453.35 for the period of July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016 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 2016102 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 Report from Justice Daniels and Justice Zelazny for calendar year 2015 on September 12, 2016 and made said reports available to the Town Board members, 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 12, 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 2016103 Planning Department - Refund Escrow Account

Whereas, the Planning Board on October 3, 2016 has passed a motion to release the balance of the escrow account for Hellerer/Cart, and

Whereas, the Planning Board has notified the Town Board to release the refund for the balance of the escrow account, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby accepts the recommendation of the Planning Board to release the escrow funds in the name of Hellerer / Cart and hereby directs the Bookkeeper to pay said amount plus any interest.

MOTION: Supervisor Kelly
SECOND: Councilman Upham

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NON CONSENT AGENDA

**Resolution 2016100
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 20161290 through 20161404, 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 \$170,943.11.

MOTION: Supervisor Kelly
SECOND: Councilman Johnson

Supervisor Kelly offered an amendment to change the last two numbers in the last “Whereas” to 20161405 and to amend the dollar amount to read \$171,393.11, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Supervisor Kelly said this is to fulfill a waiver request for a golf course member. All were in favor of the amendment and it passed.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2016100:

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

Resolution 2016104 Adopting Negative Declaration – Amendment to Chapter 215-43.1 – “Telecommunication Towers and Facilities”

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Pawling has reviewed a proposed Amendment to Section 215-43.1.G (“Telecommunications Towers and Facilities”) Of Chapter 215 of the Town of Pawling Code entitled “Zoning”, to amend the first paragraph Thereof and to add “Residential Zones”; and setbacks and

WHEREAS, Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2016 of the Town of Pawling has been drafted; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Assessment Form identifying and analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Local Law has been prepared; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered and reviewed the proposed Local Law as an “action” subject to SEQRA pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.2(b) and §617.3(g); and

WHEREAS, to determine whether the action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, the Town Board has compared the impacts that may be reasonably expected to result from the action and compared them against the criteria for determining significance set forth in SEQRA, 6 NYCRR §617.7 (c); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has thoroughly analyzed and identified the relevant areas of environmental concerns to determine if the action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and has taken the requisite “hard look” at the potential environmental impacts of the Action: and

WHEREAS, the Town Board concludes that the proposed Local Law will not have any significant adverse environmental impacts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.6(a)(1)(iv), the Town Board classifies the action as an unlisted action; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.6(b), the Town Board concludes that the action shall be subject to uncoordinated SEQRA review: and, be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.7(a), the Town Board issues and adopts a negative declaration for the proposed Local Law, based upon its determination that the action will not have any significant adverse environmental impacts.

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 2016105

**Adoption Amendments to Chapter 215-43.1
Telecommunications Towers and Facilities**

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2016 to provide for an Amendment to Section 215-43.1.G (Telecommunications TOWERS AND FACILITIES”) of Chapter 215 of the Town of Pawling Code entitled “Zoning”, to add language to the first Paragraph thereof to state “...in a Residential Zone...” and said amendment had been introduced To the Town Board of the Town of Pawling; and

WHEREAS, a negative declaration pursuant to 6NYCRR 617.7(a) was adopted by the Town Board for proposal Local Law No. 2 of 2016; and

WHEREAS, public hearing was held on September 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at The Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Boulevard, Pawling, New York, upon notice duly published in the Poughkeepsie Journal as required by law; and

WHEREAS, a public discussion was heard at such hearing concerning proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2016; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, the Town Board of the Town of Pawling hereby amends Section

215-43.1.G (“Telecommunication Towers”) of Chapter 215 of the Town of Pawling Code Entitled “Zoning” by amending the first paragraph thereof as follows:

Lot size and setbacks. Each proposed telecommunication tower and telecommunication facilities structure, in a Residential Zone, shall be located on a single lot and shall comply with applicable setbacks requirements. If a Telecommunication Tower and supporting equipment are to be erected in a Residential Zone, then it must be on its own individual lot. No other uses are allowed on the Telecommunication Tower individual lot. Adequate measures shall be taken to contain on site all ice falls or debris from tower failure and to preserve the privacy of adjoining residential properties. Setbacks for a telecommunication tower are to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board, with proper guidance by their professional consultant, and, be it, further

RESOLVED, this Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

MOTION: Councilman DeRosa

SECOND: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman Upham – “AYE”

Councilman Montemarano – “AYE”

Supervisor Kelly – “AYE”

FURTHER BUSINESS

- A) **RENOVATIONS: 158 CHARLES COLMAN BLVD.**
- B) **RENOVATIONS: 160 CHARLES COLMAN BLVD.**

Councilman Montemarano said he is awaiting bid specifications for both of the buildings. He should have them very soon. He will then have the Town Attorney to look at them and then release them.

Supervisor Kelly under both A & B, he made a motion to authorize Councilman Montemarano to work with the Town Attorney and Engineer, and upon acceptable bid packets to release them at a date confirmed with the Town Clerk for a bid opening, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

PESH

Supervisor Kelly said the Town is required every year under Public Employees Safety & Health to hold certain training for employees.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to work with The Workplace and to pick acceptable dates to hold a town wide employee training for which all town offices will be closed for a part of the day, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

CDBG

Following discussion, Supervisor Kelly made a motion to apply for the CDBG program based on the Legion building, the rear handicapped accessibility ramp, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Councilman DeRosa asked if this could be done in conjunction with the Village.

Supervisor Kelly said the engineer can explore that possibility. The project will be the handicapped ramp with the potential of a connecting sidewalk in a joint application with the Village.

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glenn Carey thanked the Supervisor for his time in the budget process. He also wanted to talk about a local organization that is having an impact on the tax situation in Pawling. Last week, a postcard went out, which he was grateful that Supervisor Kelly responded to on social media because the postcard was extremely misleading and stated that the budget process last year was not an open process, which it was. Anyone was welcome to come, comment on the budget and to meet individually with anyone here who wanted to meet one on one. If he was not mistaken, many meetings took place between representatives of the Pawling tax cut group, Supervisor Kelly and possibly other Board members. To send a postcard out stating that this Town Board has not had an open process is reprehensible. It is probably intentionally misleading and unfair to the Supervisor and the Board. Also, recently this week they sent out an email which said let's continue the positive trend of the 2% decrease that happened in the school taxes. The school taxes went down by 2% because the residents had been overtaxed by the school district for a number of years and that money is now coming back to the taxpayers. That was not done as a result of any effort other than giving the money back to the community they were overtaxed on. He is going to give statistical data, which is accurate. Contrary to the claim from last year from Ms. Helen Gross, who is the designated owner or representative of Pawling Tax Group, she is the one who filed the certificate of business, she stated that numbers can be manipulated any way you want. The numbers he is going to state cannot be manipulated in any way. They are the mill rate and calculations on which people's taxes are calculated. The percentage is the percentage. There is no fooling around with these numbers. Over the last six years, taxes at the town went up 1.73%. It goes up a little as you go back a little further, five years was 6.54%, 4 years 6.92%, three years 4.28%. That is the average, the increase from that point in time, from five years to where it is now. Taxes have gone up 1.73% in the last six years and last year .43%, over the last two years 1.9%. Those are the real tax rates. They talked about a 15 year tax increase in Pawling of 160%. Nothing could be further from the truth. Town taxes in the last fifteen years have gone up 102%. What people have to calculate into that is that the town acquired Lakeside Park and a big bond issue, and also had a large tax implication because of the pension plan when the stock market crashed into 2007, 2008 and into 2009. That is what had a big impact on the tax increase. The local Town Board here has done a stellar job, particularly over the last six years of controlling taxes. That's the message that should be out. When he goes on Pawling Tax Cut, all they do is criticize the Town Board, they don't say much about the school and they don't say anything about the Village. The Town Board has done a stellar job to control the taxes in this town. He understood Mr. Musella's passion and he respected him for coming tonight, he has worked on this project for four years and he was grateful that something would be done. But he worried that the Pawling Tax Cut group are tying the Board's hands from being able to spend money on a project like that. The negativity that comes out of Pawling Tax Cut and the direction they are leading this in is to try to reduce taxes. Reducing school taxes 2% they say is a positive trend. The only time that is a positive trend is when we have a commercial development base that is growing that is allowing that to happen, because if you are reducing taxes without an increase in the commercial tax base, you are hurting the infrastructure of this town, it is going to cost more in the long run. The town parks aren't going to be able to be repaired, roads will be neglected and in the long run, our property values will suffer because of that. He has spoken with representatives from realtors in the Town of Pawling and every single one of them has said that Pawling Tax Cut is having a negative impact on the real estate market in this town. He has stated that to Pawling Tax Cut, he has posted it on their website, they don't respond and they ignore it. He has asked them to identify themselves as to who they are and who the spokespeople are and they refuse to say. They don't post on their page who their spokespeople are or who the people who run that organization are. He is mad and he will speak up about it because it is effecting his town, his community that he loves and it is effecting his property values. It is time the community knows the truth. Enough is enough. Taxes have not gone up 160%, in the last 15 years, the town has gone up 102%, the town tax for the Village has gone up 128%, Pawling Fire District 114%, School Tax 84% and the Village 71½%. Those numbers are the factual actual numbers. As a matter of fact, there is at least one member of the Pawling Tax Cut group who has challenged his assessment three times and had it reduced, so his taxes have gone down. He supported a 2% increase for the employees. He appreciated all of the Board's efforts. They should not allow their hands to be tied from not giving a tax increase when we have critical infrastructure matters that need to be addressed in this town to protect us for the long term.

Jill Norgren, resident of Bundy Hill Road in Holmes wanted to thank the use of tax dollars to make Bundy Hill a drivable, safe road again and one that keeps property values up. She wanted to ask about the recycling center being discontinued. She asked if plans would be in place to educate and police so that we don't end up with substitute dumps on country roads such as Bundy Hill Road. She felt it was important to roll out a plan so the environment is not destroyed any more by taking this action.

Supervisor Kelly said this is just a projected suggestion of his based on upcoming necessary expenditures to keep the program going. It would be the Board's decision to go ahead with it or not and a plan to do it. A few miles up the road in Wingdale, people can bring their trash or there are common haulers. For 2018, he is not looking to fund this at all.

Dr. Thomas Bloom commended the Board for their actions on the budget. He felt the Highway Superintendent has done a fabulous job and felt that regarding the closing of the transfer station, we should hear from the Superintendent himself as to any benefits to the town if it were closed or if he would have to terminate some employees. He would speak in opposition to closing the transfer station right now until he hears more facts from the Superintendent.

Betsy Brockway residing at 7 Holm Run, said she looked through the budget and commended all of the hard work on it. She understood how hard it was to crunch the numbers with the tax cap. She saw there was money for NYS DEC for the permit for the lake. She hoped that would be put in on a timely basis and someone will be on top of that, it needs to be done before we start swimming in the lake next year. She looked at the numbers for the beach. She saw a decrease overall in the waterfront. She is hoping it doesn't reflect the usage this year because the lake was closed three weeks out of the season. She hoped through creative budgeting, there would be a fully successful season next year. She was in favor of having non-residents use the beach and every dollar that comes into the gate helps support the wonderful waterfront we have. She asked if there was any plan for controlling the geese.

Supervisor Kelly said the budget for the beach was requested at \$55,000.00 funding, he placed \$45,000.00 in the budget, collectively the personnel costs have not been met in that line. If the revenue is there, it can be used during the year. He did not want to over budget.

Mrs. Brockway said there are some rainy days that can be factored in. She was concerned about late August when college kids go back to school and the beach had to be closed for lack of lifeguards. She asked if there was a creative way to keep the lifeguards in the local area employed. She was in favor of thinking about creative resources. She was willing to work on a marketing plan to make sure we don't lose this wonderful asset.

Supervisor Kelly said the geese are migratory birds so he is working with a federal agency on controlling them.

Helen Grosso said this is a healthy discussion and she appreciated it and she appreciated the presentation and all of the details. She wondered if she would be able to get the Supervisor's budget presentation. Regarding Glenn Carey's comments on budget meetings, she could only remember a couple of meetings. She asked about getting more information about the golf course and getting cooperation there. The tax bill for the town may have gone up 1.73% over five years but the value of her house went down a great deal in those years, from \$650,000.00 to \$400,000.00, paying the same taxes. There is a much bigger picture than just the tax rate. The big issue she wanted to talk about was this Board making a gesture, to join that trend. It is one thing to say the school district collected a lot of money they shouldn't have and she agreed with that totally. They have had the benefit of State law to put it away in reserve funds, which means they have to use it for what those funds are intended. She believed that meant school taxes aren't going up and she is going to push very hard for it to continue to go down 1 or 2%. Mrs. Grosso said Supervisor Kelly stated the tax levy is projected to go down \$1,035.00. And yet he said the difference in last year's budgeting is \$147,000.00. Mrs. Grosso asked why the Board can't choose to give us a negative tax rate. Is there is a reason not to make that gesture. It doesn't have to be big but it would be powerful. She talked to real estate people who are very positive about the efforts of the Pawling Tax Cut group. Now they can tell buyers the school taxes have gone down in the last four years. If they could say the town tax is going down too, wouldn't that be exciting. And you can add that you expect the tax role to keep going up with the commercial improvements. She asked the Board to consider setting aside and clarifying the golf course budget to the point where you can clearly say the cost of the golf course is paid for in the revenues. The other issue she wanted to bring up is that the tax collection department is quite expensive, approximately \$80,000.00 including benefits. And we have a part time tax collector

and assistant, in this day and age we don't need that many personnel and don't need to be paying \$80,000.00 for tax collecting. The school is doing it for \$5,200.00 to spend two months to collect taxes. The reality is it is just not necessary to do it the same way it was done in the past. She would bring more numbers to justify that. She would like to see the actual numbers for 2015 in the budget for comparison. There are no total numbers for 2016 so it is very hard to compare. She hoped there would be more discussion before closing the transfer station. She asked for the presentation that was made in August to be put on line. She felt that a 2% increase for employees was reasonable. She felt the contribution to health insurance of 7½% was exciting. She said health coverage for elected officials was out of line compared to other towns, in particular the town justices. If the Board would consider giving a negative tax increase, it would be very exciting.

Supervisor Kelly said his budget message would be placed in the minutes and will be posted on the website in a couple of days. In relation to the school taxes, part of the decrease is due to the lack of enrollment in the district and also that many teachers retired and those positions were not filled due to lack of enrollment. So that along with the fact that we have been overtaxed for years, there was a minor change in the school tax and we are finally getting our money back and not being taxed at the rate they were taxing us before. Regarding health benefits, the 7½% is not law, it is proposed. Any employee who has family coverage pays 15%, including elected officials.

Glenn Carey said Ms. Grosso said that the tax collection department costs \$80,000.00. The tax collector is budgeted to receive \$15,132.00. He did not want a positive gesture of a tax decrease that would then result in the next year having to increase it twice as much. That is not how you run a government. A tax decrease is not realistic. Everything goes up and everyone has to pay taxes. We have to pay taxes, all we ask is that they are reasonable and kept under the tax cap, which is a challenge in itself and the Board should be commended for that. He did not know of any town that has given a tax decrease.

Supervisor Kelly said the total cost of the tax collection department for 2017 is proposed at \$47,225.00.

The motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Kelly at 8:20 PM, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk