

Supervisor David P. Kelly opened the Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM November 1, 2017 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen Upham, Johnson, Montemarano, DeRosa and approximately 27 interested citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING/2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Kelly opened the public hearing on the 2018 preliminary budget.

Mr. Bill Deitz, resident from 27 Meadow Lane, Pawling, submitted written comments to the Board commenting/questioning certain budget lines and he reviewed them with the Board. Some of the accounts he questioned were as follows: Assessor account 1355.453, General Fund Appropriations account 9060.800, General Fund Revenue account 1081.000, General Fund Revenue account 2050.000A, General Fund Revenue account 2130.000, and General Fund Revenue account 5031.000. He hoped the incoming Supervisor would have an opportunity to comment on the budget.

Helen Grosso said a budget has to do much more than follow line items. She felt a budget document should show a few years of budget data so as to have a basis for comparison, as stated in the NYS Comptroller's Citizen's Guide to Local Budgets. She asked if the Board had any data laid out for them to know what they actually spent in previous years. She asked how the Board could make a decision if they don't know what they've spent. She asked if the Board knew what the fund balance was right now.

Betsy Montgomery from 13 Quaker Hill Road, Village of Pawling, said she compared the AUD's to the budgets for the past few years. She said there have been monies left over in various different lines year after year. She wondered what happened to the balances of budgets lines for past years. Also, there are errors in the budget. Do we have to go through every single line in this budget?

Harvey Matcovsky, resident of Holmes, New York said he is a certified financial planner. He did not see how anyone could do a comparison of budgets without an accurate year over year comparison, it's impossible. State filings show there is a fund balance over the previous years of about \$200,000.00, which the Board should have known and given to departments for improvements. The \$25.00 surcharge for the transfer station should be approximately \$100,000.00. He hoped the new Board would take more care in the budget process. He felt resident's questions on the budget should be answered.

There were no further questions and Supervisor Kelly closed the public hearing.

TRANSFER STATION PRESENTATION

Councilman DeRosa said the attendants are not present at this time to discuss the work they are doing at the transfer station.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposed resolutions would be placed on the November 8, 2017 Town Board meeting agenda.

FURTHER BUSINESS

METRO NORTH/NYS EMPIRE TRAIL

Supervisor Kelly said he met with representatives of Metro North earlier this week regarding a proposed trail that goes from New York City to Canada. There is a section that would go through Brewster, Patterson, Holmes, Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill. They are doing assessments and preliminary design work. They are looking at beginning construction in 2019-2020. The Governor has appropriated money for this project. Metro North representatives have met with Dutchess County representatives on this project. There is an informational meeting on

November 13, 2017 at Pawling High School from 6 to 8 PM. This meeting is open to the public. He would distribute the information on this to the Board.

PAWLING SOCCER CLUB STORAGE SHED

Supervisor Kelly said Mark DelBalzo, head of the Pawling Soccer Club is requesting that the Soccer Club be granted a 10x10 space for a shed next to the Teen Center. The shed behind the Lathrop building belongs to Lacrosse. He suggested Mr. DelBalzo work with Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds and the Board can act on it next week.

WHALEY LAKE DAM UPDATE

Councilman DeRosa said Whaley Lake is lowered to the level it will be for the entire year while the work is being done. The project is moving forward and going smoothly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Diamond of Diamond Properties, owner of Kirby Hill Farm on Quaker Hill, said he had come before the Board back in December to discuss having some events at the farm. They ran into an issue with site plan permit fees. The Planning Board is asking for a \$21,000.00 permit fee. They are doing no construction and they are asking for only a partial change of use for one structure on a 277 acre property. There are actually two lots, one is 171 acres they are not touching that one at all and he felt this should not be part of the discussion or the fees. They are only working on half an acre of the 76 acre parcel and he did not understand \$21,000.00 in site plan fees.

Supervisor Kelly asked Mr. Diamond to make an official written request and the Town Board can discuss this with the Planning Board and let him know what the outcome is.

Councilman DeRosa asked Mr. Diamond to put in the submittal a description of what he plans to do on the property. There may be health, safety and welfare issues so the written submittal is necessary.

Mr. Diamond said he is not changing anything but would like to hold some events in the barn. He said the Planning Board will not speak to him until he pays the \$21,000.00 fee.

Supervisor Kelly said if the use is changing from a barn to a catering facility that is a change of use. Once the submittal is made by Mr. Diamond, he would then distribute to the Town Board and discuss it with the Planning Board and Town Attorney.

Vinny DiMarco said he appreciated all of the hard work the Board put in on getting the budget passed, as it is a complicated process. He was happy to hear about the trail and he is available to help if needed. He said future Town Supervisor James Schmitt noticed that the leaders from the roof water are not connected to the underground piping at the Holmes Whaley Lake Civic Association building. He asked for permission to connect those pipes on a voluntary basis.

Supervisor Kelly said he would like to speak to the Town's engineer and find out why they are not connected before anything is changed. Also, it cannot be connected to the subsurface disposal system that is there because that is an East of Hudson project and nothing can be connected to it.

Harvey Matcovsky said he is frustrated with the transfer station discussion, which has been ongoing for years and nothing has been done. He felt the way the transfer station is running now is unfair and he felt it should be changed.

Jill Norgren, resident of Holmes, asked for a date when people could be here to discuss transfer station issues. Should she assume there will be no change for next year? She asked for notice of when there might be discussion on the transfer station.

Councilman DeRosa said the Board has discussed the transfer station almost every meeting for the last year or so to try to educate people on what needs to be addressed. The Board is getting ready to now discuss changes they may want to make. He explained that the attendants were hired to help at the transfer station and in order to keep them for next year, he felt that the sticker price would need to be raised or the Board may have to consider reducing the number of days the transfer station is open.

Councilman Johnson said the Board looks to hit the ground running January 1st and have enforcement. The sticker price may have to be raised to pay for the three attendants to continue on.

Mrs. Norgren felt the offers of discussions and the interest of citizens of the town has been there for well over a year, and she really looked forward to seeing this move forward.

Supervisor Kelly said this has been discussed every month in open discussion and a year ago he proposed not to fund the transfer station and all heck broke loose. People have commented and the Board has done a lot of work on this over the past year. The transfer station looks 100% better than it has in the past. He did not fund the transfer station attendants in the 2018 budget and if the Board wants this to continue, they will have to find the funding for it. The transfer station is based on a user fee.

Bill Deitz agreed that the people using the transfer station should pay for it. The cost for the new truck and compactor should be rolled into the revenues. When he looked at the budget, he saw none of that.

Supervisor Kelly said there is money to be used from the transfer station fees for the truck and upgrading the electric.

Helen Grosso said regarding the budget, she said it looks like taxes are going up \$50,000.00 and the total budget is going up about \$80,000.00. She said on page 3, the CE line went up from 2017 almost \$10,000.00 and there is no detail. She asked how the Board could make a decision not knowing any detail. She asked if the Board was going to discuss the budget. In the Assessor's budget, there is a part time position that has been changed to full time and presumably this position will have benefits. She asked why it wasn't important enough to discuss this and let residents know why the Board is adding full time staff in this current climate. She asked if there was any time this Board will discuss the budget.

Supervisor Kelly said the Assessor's Aide full time position was done to serve the constituency better. This was done over two years and it was discussed in last year's budget. Supervisor Kelly said the Board has been astute in its fiscal responsibilities and he took heed to Mrs. Grosso's comments. It is the Board's tax dollars too and they watch the Town's money very carefully. In six years, the tax rate has gone up only ten cents. The Board has heard resident's questions and can now discuss the budget.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk