

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the regular meeting of the town board of the Town of Pawling at 6:00 PM October 1, 2024 at the Pawling town hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were councilwomen Snow and Pitt, councilmen Mygan and McCarthy, Nancy Tagliaferro, town attorney, and approximately 10 interested citizens.

MINUTES

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to acknowledge the minutes of September 4, 2024, seconded by Councilman McCarthy, and passed unanimously.

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to acknowledge the minutes of September 11, 2024, seconded by Councilman McCarthy, and passed unanimously.

2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Town Bookkeeper Christine Mitchell gave the following presentation on the 2025 tentative budget.

2025

TOWN TENTATIVE BUDGET SUMMARY

Estimated tax increase:

1.27% if you live in the Village= \$5.91/1,000

2.72% if you live outside the Village=\$9.00/1,000

How do I easily calculate my 2025 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 \$9.00

Your Town Tax is \$2,700

CONTINUED SERVICES

- Park & Recreation Programs
- Contracted Ambulance Service
- Transfer Station
- Golf Course
- Paving, plowing & road maintenance
- Building Department increased staffing in house vs contracting
- Added \$35K for a Town Planner

PERSONNEL

- 2.75% wage increase for all employees & elected officials
- FT Code Enforcement Officer added to Building Department
- Additional PT Clerk added to Justice Court during 2024

PERSONNEL CONTINUED

Benefit increases

- Retirement system contribution about \$326K. Rates by Tier have increased over 9% from 2024 to 2025
 - Health insurance is estimated at a 15 % increase. We will know the new rates in November.
- Total 2025 health insurance costs are over \$1.2 million annually across all Funds. **This is the**

major budget challenge the Town faces going forward. We lost the savings of switching to the NYSHIP Excelsior Plan this year when they increase rates 49% for Family & 23% for individual plans. The Excelsior Plan will terminate 12/31/24. The Town will automatically switch back to NYSHIP Empire if it does not choose an alternative. **This expenditure is not sustainable in the five year plan.**

EQUIPMENT & CAPITAL IN BUDGET

\$46,670 Total in General Fund A Budget

- \$13,270 Central Data Processing (A.1680.2) Annual computer upgrades
- \$14,000 Garage Equipment (A.5132.2)
For two new Garage Doors
- \$ 5,000 Park Equipment & Capital (A.7110.2)
To fix the retention pond wall
- \$5,000 Golf Course Equipment (A.7250.2)
To pave cart paths
- \$400 Golf Course Clubhouse Equip (A.7260.2)
For 6 pull carts
- \$9,000 Transfer Station container (A.8160.2) paid by Transfer Station Capital Program

CAPITAL BUDGETED HIGHWAY FUND (DB)

Paving (DB.5112.2) \$575,000 for 2025
\$265,000 of revenue from NYS CHIPs program (DB.3501) is budgeted to offset the tax cost

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL FUNDS

Pawling has been granted \$611,690 in American Rescue Plan Act funds

Funds have been spent & allocated as follows:

- \$94,215 Used for a new Well at Water District 2
- \$107,750 Used on improvements to Town Hall
- \$81,479 Used for the Great Lawn Project
- \$74,620 Used for the Roller Hockey Rink
- \$7,000 Used for a new Town website
- \$100,000 Used for the Lakeside Pavilion project
- \$30,000 Used for Fire Alarms, Keypad etc. Town Hall
- \$20,000 Allocated for Speed limit signs
- \$20,000 Partial cost Lathrop generator
- \$21,004 Town Hall generator
- \$8,700 Turf Robot to line fields
- \$2,500 Lake accessible wheelchair
- \$2,482 ADA Compliant Beach Mat
- \$3,712 Town Hall Lighting project
- \$1,372 Fertilizing Great Lawn

The balance will be used for Paving the Lakeside Recreation Area.

USE OF FUND BALANCE (savings) 2025

The Town use of Fund Balance in the 2025 budget compared to 2024 Adopted Budget changed as follows:

	Adopted 2024	Tentative 2025	Change
A Fund	\$157,590	\$150,185	(7,405)
DA Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0	-0-
B Fund	\$132,575	\$145,000	12,425
DB Fund	\$153,180	\$200,000	46,820
SW2 Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-0-
WL Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	2,000

How much will we have left 12/31/25? About \$890k in A, \$47K in DA, \$695k in B, \$868k in DB, \$61K in SW2 and \$49k in WL, assuming we use all of our 2025 appropriation. Fund Balance estimates are monitored and updated on a regular basis

TAX LEVY LIMIT for 2025

Tax Levy limit for 2025 is \$4,766,918 for all Funds and special districts
We are currently under the limit by \$73

GENERAL FUND (A) Revenue Highlights

- Golf Fees (A.2050) \$315,000 Golf revenue continues to do well
- Fines & Forfeited Bail (A.2610) \$105,000
- Park & Rec Summer Camp (A.2001.01) \$210,000

General Fund (A) Revenue cont.

- Park & Rec Charges (A.2001) \$100,000
Increased additional Rec Programs
- Refuse & Garbage Charges (2130) \$275,000
Transfer Station Revenue
- Mortgage Tax (A.3005) \$252,000, 2024 Mortgage Tax collections are about 94% of 2023.

GENERAL FUND (A) Other Expenditures

- Auditor (A.1320.4) \$31,780 for independent audit, had NYS Audit end of 2020
- Ambulance (A.4540.4) \$561,480 New contract in 2022. There was a significant increase. This contract expires 12/31/26.

DEBT

Total Town Debt for all Funds as of 12/31/24 will be \$7,122,433.

General Fund Debt (A) \$1,720,809 Total Bonds

- \$885,125 4% Bond for Lakeside Pavilion, final payment 2044
- \$ 49,125 4% Bond for golf course irrigation, final payment 2044
- \$ 98,250 4% Bond for a truck & fairway mower
Final payment 2044
- \$437,972 1.45% Bond for Building Improvements, final payment 2037
- \$120,803 1.45% Bond for Equipment, 2037
- \$ 96,480 4% Building Improvements, Paid 2037
- \$ 33,054 4% Golf Course Mower, Paid 2037

General Fund BANs (Bond Anticipation Notes)

\$400,000 For the Lakeside Boathouse/Pavilion Project.

Highway Fund Outside Village (DB) \$2,446,880

- \$384,908 2021 1.45% Bond for Trucks, paid off 2037
- \$132,132 2021 1.45% Bond for Town portion of Hurds Corner Improvements, paid off 2037
- \$281,874 2021 1.45% Bond for Highway Equipment, paid 2037
- \$893,334 4% Paving Bond, paid 2037
- \$317,132 4% Truck Bond, paid 2037
- \$294,944 4% International Truck, paid 2044
- \$142,556 4% Backhoe, Paid 2044

Special Districts-

Whaley Lake Dam District \$2,115,998

- 1.45% Bond paid off 2037
- 2025 rate per unit will be \$302.17 vs \$299.97 in 2024, a .7% increase

Water District 2 \$438,747

\$151,314 1.45% Bond paid off 2037
\$287,433 4.39% BAN renewing 12/24
2025 rate per unit will be \$4.90 vs \$4.45, or \$490 per household, a 10% increase
The debt has been issued for District improvements

The board discussed the tentative budget and supervisor Schmitt thanked Ms. Mitchell for preparing the budget.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2024-129

Billing for Pawling Water District No. 2

WHEREAS, Pawling Water District No. 2 bills need to be approved by the Pawling Town Board, and

WHEREAS, the bills have been prepared and submitted in the amount of \$13,989.80 for the period of July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 by the Clerk to the Water District, Catherine Giordano, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Pawling hereby accepts the billing as recommended for Pawling Water District No.2.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman Mygan – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2024-130

Award of Bid for Heating Oil and Service of Oil-Fired Heating Equipment

WHEREAS, bids were duly advertised and noticed for #2 Heating Fuel Oil and Service Boiler Maintenance Service for the year 2024-2025, and

WHEREAS, the bids have been submitted for the Town Board’s review and tabulations have been provided by the Town Clerk, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following bids for #2 Fuel Oil be awarded per the specifications within the bid packet to Morgan Fuel & Heating Co. d/b/a Bottini Fuel in the amount of plus (+) \$0.245 per gallon, the Boiler Maintenance Service bid is hereby awarded to Morgan Fuel & Heating Co. d/b/a Bottini Fuel in the amount of \$125.00 per hour, the fixed price bid is hereby awarded to Morgan Fuel & Heating Co. d/b/a Bottini Fuel in the amount of \$2.79 per gallon.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman Mygan

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman Mygan – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “RECUSED” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2024-131

Adoption of the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission Budget for 2024 and Acknowledgement of Commission Stipends

WHEREAS, the Town of Pawling received a request from the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission to approve the budget, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Pawling has reviewed the budget on file with the Town Clerk, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Pawling hereby approves the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission Budget for the calendar year 2024 as follows: Revenues in the amount of \$1,345,541.24. Expenditures in the amount of \$1,042,643.00. Bonding costs in the amount of \$302,899.00. Total Budget of \$1,345,542.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Pawling does hereby acknowledge the 2024 Pawling Joint Sewer Commission Stipends as follows: Chairperson \$7,000.00 per year, Vice Chairperson: \$6,000.00 per year, Commissioner (5): \$5,500.00. Total: \$40,500.00 per year.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilwoman Snow

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “NAY” Councilman Mygan – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2024-132
Establishing 2025 Rates for the Transfer Station

WHEREAS, the Town of Pawling operates a Transfer Station for the benefit of the residents of the Town of Pawling to dispose of rubbish and debris on their property, and

WHEREAS, to best operate the Transfer Station the Town Board of the Town of Pawling set rates that offset the cost of operating the Transfer Station, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Pawling sets the 2025 permit rate as \$390.00, \$30 per sticker to capital account, and \$60.00 for an additional household permit, \$20 per sticker to capital account and \$250.00 per sticker after July 1, 2025, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a single vehicle may be allowed into Transfer Station for multiple properties provided each property pay the full price of sticker and is hole punched per sticker purchase with an approved waiver by the Supervisor.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman Mygan – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2024-133
Establishing Temporary Building Permit Fee Amnesty Period

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Pawling has identified over 400 expired and open building permits and is looking to motivate property owners to close out permits and improve efficiency of the building department, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Pawling establishes a temporary building permit fee amnesty period as set forth in this resolution:

1. The Temporary Building Permit Fee Amnesty Period shall exist starting October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for properties with past due building permits.
2. The Building Inspector and Clerk of the Building Department are directed to notify all known residents with past due Town building permits with two mailings via U.S. Mail one in October 2024 and one in November 2024.
3. The Town Board of the Town of Pawling does hereby authorize flexibility on application fees for past due building permits. During the Temporary Building Permit Fee Amnesty Period, effective October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 application fees may be reduced at the discretion of the Building Inspector. The Temporary Building Permit Fee Amnesty shall include fees pertaining to the renewal of the expired permit, final inspection and the appropriate closing of the permit only. Any additional fees that may arise during the course of the final inspection and any additional actions necessary to appropriately close the permit, as required per the Town of Pawling and New York State are not included under this Amnesty.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilwoman Snow

The board discussed whether there should be a flat fee or if the fee should be left to the building inspector's discretion for the amnesty program. Following discussion, resolution 2024-133 was tabled until next week's meeting.

TOWN BOARD DISCUSSION

SNOW

Councilwoman Snow said the Fayne Daniels Walkathon was held on September 14th, and raised approximately \$30,000.00 for the Pawling Resource Center. This past Saturday was the Rotary Fall Fest and they raised approximately \$15,000.00. Councilwoman Snow said she reached out to county executive Sue Serino to discuss sidewalks along Route 22 in the area of the Castagna development, and Ms. Serino will get back to her. She wished everyone celebrating Rosh Hashanah a year of peace.

MYGAN

Councilman Mygan said he has scheduled a meeting next week on site at Castagna Drive with the head of the department of transportation, which handles the loop bus. The seniors living in the Woods development can't get anywhere unless they have a car. He hoped a bus stop could be put there and utilized for the residents. He would let the board know what happens at the meeting.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said he attended a zoom meeting with congressman Lawler this week, and one of the things discussed was funding for sidewalks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion at 7:00 PM to enter executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension or removal of a particular person or corporation, seconded by councilwoman Snow, motion passed unanimously.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:15 PM and adjourned the meeting. No action was taken.

Town Clerk