

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the regular meeting of the town board of the Town of Pawling at 6:00 PM November 6, 2024 at the Pawling town hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were councilwomen Snow and Pitt, councilmen Mygan and McCarthy, Nancy Tagliafierro, town attorney, and approximately 25 interested citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING/2025 TOWN BUDGET

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by councilman McCarthy, and passed unanimously.

Harvey Matcovsky, resident of Holmes, asked if the double digit health care increase has been included in the budget, and if lesser plans are being considered. He also asked about the Medicare reimbursement and felt that should be capped.

Supervisor Schmitt said the increase has been included in the 2025 budget, and yes, lesser plans are being considered. The board is also considering changing the Medicare reimbursement.

Glenn Carey, resident of Pawling, said he was greatly concerned about the employee health insurance, which will greatly impact their quality of life. Municipal employees work for the benefits, not the salary. The healthcare doesn't seem to be managed in a coherent and fair way for the employees, who are caught off guard and can't plan for this. He believed town board members should forgo their health insurance, they are part time members of the town, and those savings should be used to offset the premium increases the town is planning to pass onto the employees. This will affect employee's quality of life and it will take up any raise they are given.

Gayle Zelazny, resident of Pawling and town justice, felt the board should not cut benefits and force employees and elected officials to take an unwanted healthcare provider. While the resolution says the NYSHIP is still an option, such option is illusory. While there a choice to stay with NYSHIP, once you examine the proposed rates, the only option is to switch to MVP. If she stayed with NYSHIP, her healthcare cost for 2025 would be in excess of \$21,000.00, while MVP would be \$7,567.00, how is that a choice, and the NYSHIP proposal takes away the HRA card, and all copays are our responsibility. This would be a hardship for employees. Four of the five town board members do not take the health insurance. There must be ways to save the town money other than on the backs of the town's most valuable assets, it's employees. She felt the board should do better for the employees.

John Daley, resident, said every municipal employee's work benefits taxpayers and he thought the taxpayers should pay a little of this increase because municipal employees don't make much money.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the healthcare for employees. Following discussion, supervisor Schmitt said no decisions have been made on the healthcare at this time. The healthcare is already included in the 2025 budget. The board will continue to discuss this issue.

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by councilman McCarthy, motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to acknowledge the minutes of October 1, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Snow, and passed unanimously.

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to acknowledge the minutes of October 8, 2024, seconded by Councilman Mygan, and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON ETHICS BOARD

The board discussed a proposed amendment to the Town of Pawling ethics code. Following discussion, it was agreed that the town attorney would create a local law and distribute it to the board for review. A public hearing could be scheduled at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2024-143

Revised Capital Project Budget for the Paving of Lakeside and Town Hall Parking Lots

WHEREAS, a Capital Project Budget for the paving of Lakeside Park and Town Hall Parking Lots was developed by the bookkeeper, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the town board of the Town of Pawling approves the following revised budget for the Lakeside Park and Town Hall paving project:

Park & Town Hall Paving	Cash H.0201	Original	11/6/2024
Capital Project		Budget	Revised
Description	Account	Amount	Budget Amt
Revenue			
Interest	H.2401	0	
NYS Crest Grant (Pavil & Parking)	H.3097	\$14,000	\$14,000
NYS SAM Grant (ADABTHR &PAV)	H.3097	\$4,000	\$4,000
ARPA Funds	H.5031	\$50,000	\$70,000
Hoffman Funds	H.5031	\$25,000	\$25,000
Rec Development Funds	H.5031	\$40,000	\$40,000
Recreation Rev & Approp Adj*	H.5031	\$38,000	\$18,000
Appropriated Fund Balance (A Fund)	H.5031	\$85,000	\$85,000
Bond # 1 (Bldg Imp in H)***	H.5031	\$30,000	\$30,000
Bond #2 (Bldg Imp2 in H)***	H.5031	\$34,000	\$34,000
	TOTAL	\$320,000	\$320,000
Expenditures			
Paving Project	H.7110.2	\$320,000	\$320,000
	TOTAL	\$320,000	\$320,000

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilwoman Pitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman Mygan – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2024-147

Approval of Use of ARPA Funds for Lakeside Park and Town Hall Paving Project

WHEREAS, the Town of Pawling received a partial payment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the federal government, and

WHEREAS, ARPA funds may be used on IT improvements, infrastructure improvements such as capital improvements to the Town of Pawling, and

WHEREAS, the town board plans to use the funds to complete a variety of projects throughout the Town of Pawling, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby approves the use of ARPA funds for:

1. Lakeside Park and Town Hall Parking Lot Paving \$20,000

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 2024-151
Restoration Bond Reduction – ASPCA

WHEREAS, in connection with ASPCA’s request to reduce a Restoration Bond of \$544,000.00, the town board is in receipt of the recommendation of the planning board in which it was determined that a reduction is warranted following site inspection, and

WHEREAS, the planning board requests that the town board of the Town of Pawling reduces the bond 47.6% or \$259,600.00 leaving an amount of \$284,900.00, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby sets the Restoration Bond reduction amount of \$259,600.00.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilwoman Pitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman Mygan – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2024-153
Adopting 2025 Budget

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2024 the town board of the Town of Pawling duly held a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year 2025, at which time the public was invited to attend and be heard, and

WHEREAS, the town board heard all persons desiring to be heard in the matter, and the matter of the budget for the town for said fiscal year was fully discussed and considered by the town board, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Final Budget, as incorporated herein and made a part hereof, is hereby adopted as the annual budget of the Town of Pawling for the fiscal year beginning the 1st day of January, 2025 and that such budget as so adopted be entered in the minutes of the town board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk of the Town of Pawling, Catherine Giordano, shall prepare and certify in duplicate, copies of said annual budget as adopted by this town board, and deliver one copy thereof to the Town Supervisor James Schmitt.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

TOWN BOARD DISCUSSION

Councilman Mygan asked about donations to the town and if the board needs to have a resolution for every donation.

Nancy Tagliaferro, town attorney, said Brendan Liberati from her office has done an extensive memo on this and she hoped to get it to the board soon.

SNOW

Councilwoman Snow asked about the RFQ’s for consultants.

Supervisor Schmitt said the town attorney is working on those and the board should have them soon.

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy said the bathroom project at Lakeside Park should be completed by the end of this month. There is a resolution for change orders for this project.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt thanked all firefighters and first responders for fighting the fire on Old Pawling Road.

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM, seconded by councilman McCarthy, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk