

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Brighton on Wednesday, November 1, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Paul Smiths-Gabriel's Fire Hall, Route 86, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

PRESENT: Supervisor Christopher Leifheit
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer
Linda Dobson
John Quenell

ABSENT: Roger Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Sater-Town Clerk, Peter Duquette-Bookkeeper, and Don Oliver-Superintendent of Highways

RESIDENTS: There were three residents present and Peter Crowley, reporter from the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

GUESTS: None

Meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor Leifheit **at 7:04 p.m.**

The Purpose of this Public Hearing was to discuss with the Public the 2001 Preliminary Budget for the Town Of Brighton.

A public notice of this public hearing was published on Tuesday, October 24, 2000 in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise. Notices were posted at the three Post Offices in the Town and at businesses in the Town.

Supervisor Leifheit thanked the Board Members and the Superintendent of Highways, Don Oliver, for the good work they did on the 2001 Budget. He felt they did a thorough job.

The floor was opened to public comments:

Tom Willis- Garondah Road, Rainbow Lake: Stated he had been coming to the Budget Hearings since 1992 and asked questions about the following areas:

APPROPRIATIONS – GENERAL FUND			
NAME	CODE	AMOUNT	Question/Reply
Town Board CE	A1010.4	\$400	Q>Is this amount enough for the new council member to attend training? R> Yes it is.
Court Clerk	A1130.1	\$1,500	Q>Is this an increase in pay? R>This is an increase in hours worked not pay
Deputy Supervisor P.S.	A1220.1	\$250	Q> Why is this added? R> Not reflected in the past, but it was paid each year
Tax Collector CE	A1330.4	\$1,150	Q> Why is this reduced? R> Copier was purchased last year and no equipment is needed this year
Attorney CE	A1420.4	\$1,500	Q> Why is this reduced? R> Services not anticipated to be used this year
Buildings CE	A1620.4	\$6,000	Q> Why is this reduced? R> There is a change in the Building Complex plan and no well is being put in this year. A filter system may go in for the water.
Contingent	A1990.4	\$25,000	Q>Why is this increased? R> This is a function of the budget and will be used to cover emergencies such as repairs to equipment. The contingent account has been removed from the Highway Fund because it is not allowed.
Fire Control	A3410.4	\$1,000	Comment> Town should have a plan like the highway replacement plan for dry hydrants in the Town
Dog Control CE	A3510.4	\$1,000	Q> Is this the cost of the Tri-Lakes Humane Shelter R> This is the recommendation of the Dog Control Officer since there is no contract yet from the shelter
Board of Health, CE	A4010.4	\$50	Q> Why was this reduced? R> Has not been used but kept in to cover any cost to Town
Town Garage CE	A5132.4	\$12,500	Q>Every year money is in this category for fixing the Town Garage, why is now reduced? R>The building needs repair or replacement. This will be looked at this year to determine which is more economical.
Agency HUD	A6460.4	\$2,000	Q> Why is this reduced? R>There is only one project left to complete on the HUD'94 Grant and it should be closed in 2001. This figure is based on Friends of the North County (HUD Administrator) recommendation.
Programs for the Aging	A6772.4	\$0	Q> Why is this at zero? Will this account be removed? R> Money is not needed this year by Brighton Senior Citizens, account will not be removed since it could be used in the future

Playgrounds/Rec PS	A7140.1	\$12,875	Comment> This should be divided into two accounts to show two salaries are reflected in this number, \$2,000 for maintenance and \$10,875 for Park Attendant
Playgrounds/Rec Center CE	A7140.4	\$6,000	Q> Why the increase? R>Increase in fuel costs and planned repairs to equipment
Youth Programs CE	A7310.4	\$2,800	Q>Why the increase? R>Covers Civic Center \$1,500, Saranac Lake Youth Program \$1,000 (new program), and Franklin County Snowmobilers \$300
Planning CD	A8020.4	\$0	Q> Why is this reduced from last year? R> No anticipated usage in 2001
Landfill CE	A8160.4	\$5,000	Q> Why is this reduced? R> Supervisor is not up to speed on this project, bond has been approved for Landfill Cap expenses.
Cemeteries EQ	A8810.2	\$500	Q> Budget shows nothing spent in 1999 and 2000 why keep it in? R> Funds were spent, not reflected on this line in budget
Cemeteries CE	A8810.4	\$3,000	Q> Why the increase? R> Need to do a survey of cemetery plots and map them
State Retirement	A9010.8	\$3,200	Comment: This should be higher by \$100 if it's a Function of Salaries (3%)
Social Security	A9030.8	\$8,100	Comment: This should be higher by \$100 if it's a Function of Salaries
Workmen's Comp	A9040.8	\$13,850	Q>Why is it so high? R> Combined with Highway, not in Highway budget
Disability Insurance	A9055.8	\$700	Q> Why the increase? R> Combined with Highway, not in Highway Budget
Hospital & Medical Insurance	A9060.8	\$54,000	Q> Does this cover whoever is eligible to get it? R> Coverage is being reduced for Town Officials, co-pays are going to be included.
REVENUE – GENERAL FUND			
Clerk Fees	A1255	\$300	Q> Why are clerk fees for 2000 so high (\$662), but budget for 2001 is so low? R>Dog Licenses and Building Permits are reflected here
Interest & Earnings	A2401	\$10,000	Q>Why do you expect this to be so high next year? R> Funds in the NOW account are going to be shifted to the CLASS Investment Funds that has a higher interest rate
Youth Programs	A3820	\$0	Q> Why is this reduced? R>Supervisor did not meet deadline for application for grant

APPROPRIATIONS – HIGHWAY FUND			
NAME	CODE	AMOUNT	Question/Reply
Capital Improvements	DA5112.2	\$30,000	Q> What is this going to be used for? R>Paving White Pine Road as far as possible
Services-other Govt PS	DA5148.1	\$7,500	Q>What does this pay for? R>Overtime, winter weather makes or breaks it, winters are milder now
State Retirement	DA9010.8	\$2,350	Comment> This should be raised by \$100 to be more accurate as a function of the salary at 3%
Hospital & Medical Insurance	DA9060.8	\$27,600	Comment> This works out to benefits of \$9,200 per employee, this should be looked at during union negotiations
REVENUE – HIGHWAY FUND			
Consolidated Highway Aid	DA3501	\$20,000	Q>Why is this so high when the funds for 1999 or 2000 are so low? R>Checks are received in December so funds are not reflected yet
APPROPRIATIONS-SPECIAL FUNDS			
FREMSA	?	\$1,000	Q> Is there a contract with FREMSA? R>No, they have not asked for the funds this year

Additional Comments:

- a. Revenue Summary of all Funds needs to reflect \$700 in Preliminary Budget for Street Lighting, not in Sept. 1 Actual YTD
- b. Could a separate line item be set up grant funds from the Community Enhancement Project? Yes one will be added
- c. Why were salary changes made for the following positions:

1. **Tax Collector (A1330.1)** Decrease of \$1,500 to \$4,500? The current tax collector has been in the job 33 years and is planning to resign in December 2000 and she has earned the extra salary. A new collector should not start out at the same salary as an experienced one. Salary is reduced to what it was three years ago in 1998.
2. **Town Clerk (A1410.1)** Increase of \$250 to \$7,500? There is no salary policy in the Town. The Town Clerk has not increased in 3 years, Town clerk asked for a 3% increase for cost of living.
3. **Playgrounds/Rec Centers PS (A7140.1)** Increased from \$11,950 to \$12,875? This reflects an increase in pay for the Park Attendant to \$7.25 per hour instead of giving an increase in compensation.

Elaine Sater-Town Clerk: Asked if a separate account could be set up for Records Management. The funds could come from the Town Clerk Expenses.

Summary of 2001 Preliminary Budget

Total Appropriation Summary of all Funds

NAME	AMOUNT
General Fund	\$277,175
Highway Fund	\$195,022
Street Lighting	\$ 700
Special Fund (Fire & Rescue)	\$ 74,085
TOTAL	\$546,982

Total Revenue Summary of All Funds

General Fund	\$38,050
Highway Fund	\$43,200
Street Lighting	0
Special Fund (Fire & Rescue)	0
TOTAL	\$81,250

To be raised by Tax and Fund Appropriation

General Fund	\$239,125
Highway Fund	\$151,822
Street Lighting	\$ 700
Special Fund (Fire & Rescue)	\$74,085
TOTAL	\$465,732

General Fund Application of \$25,000

TAX LEVY

General Fund	\$214,125
Highway Fund	\$151,822
Street Lighting	\$ 700
Special Funs (Fire & Rescue)	\$ 74,085
TOTAL	\$ 440,732

There were no more questions from the public.

Motion made by Supervisor Leifheit **to adjourn the Public Hearing for the 2001 Budget at 8:04 p.m.**, second by Alicia Bodmer, All Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine W. Sater
Brighton Town Clerk