

PUBLIC HEARING - PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2007 - NOVEMBER 9, 2006
TOWN OF BRIGHTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY

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**A Public Hearing on the proposed 2007 Preliminary Budget was held on Thursday, November 9, 2006,
at 6:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, 12 County Road 31, Paul Smiths, NY**

CALL TO ORDER: Public Hearing was Called to Order by Supervisor Peter Martin at 6:03 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Martin, Council Members: Sheila Delarm, David Knapp, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Elaine Sater - Town Clerk, Richard Meagher - Budget Officer, Donald Oliver - Superintendent of Highways,
Amber McKernan - Tax Collector

RESIDENTS: There were several residents present

GUESTS: None

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Notice of the Public Hearing for the 2007 Preliminary Budget was published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on Tuesday, October 31, 2006, and posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board, at local post offices and businesses, with the following salaries: Supervisor: \$10,492; Council Members (4): \$2,450 each; Town Clerk: \$8,835; and Superintendent of Highways: \$36,445.

The Budget Officer Richard Meagher gave a brief summary of the 2007 Budget. The taxable assessed value of the Town increased by 71% due to the reevaluation. The assessment for tax purposes in 2006 was \$118 million. It increased by \$83 million to \$201 million for the 2007 budget. The implied tax rate per Thousand dollars of assessed property value for each fund for 2006 and 2007 tax years are as follows:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>Tax Year</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
GENERAL	\$ 1.38667	\$ 2.47580
HIGHWAY	\$ 0.98285	\$ 1.49780
FIRE ONLY	\$ 0.31744	\$ 0.51440
Total implied tax payment per Thousand of Assessed	\$ 2.69 (decrease of 40%)	\$ 4.49

STREET LIGHTS (RT86 - 25 Parcels only) \$ 16.00 (increase of \$2.00) \$14.00

If the value of your property increased by 71% (for example from \$100,000 to \$171,000) then your Town taxes will go up from \$449 in 2006 to \$460 in 2007 (an increase of \$11.00). If your \$100,000 property did not increase your \$449 Town tax from 2006 will decrease to \$269.00 for 2007.

The Total tax levy in 2006 was \$530,493, it increased by \$12,095 to \$542,588 for 2007. This is an increase of about 2.3% over the 2006 budget. The 2006 budget was a 2.6% increase over the 2005 budget.

The floor was opened to the public.

John Quenell - Asked where were the estimated fund balances. According to Section 107 of Town Law fund balances for the opening and closing of the budget year are supposed to be recorded on the preliminary budget. He questioned how the interest income was calculated. He was sorry to hear that the fund balances were not available at this time as they should be part of the preliminary budget.

Richard Meagher said he was not aware that this was a requirement for the Budget since the other towns where he is budget officer have not required this information as part of their budget in the past. He had the Fund Balances available as of October 31, 2006 as follows: General: \$ 283,199; Highway: \$121,407; Fire District: \$1,888; Street Lighting: \$926; Town Hall Capital Project: \$6,929; and Highway Garage Capital: \$11,130

Interest income was increased for the General Fund to \$10,000 and left at \$4,000 for the Highway Fund; the amount of interest received in 2006 as of September 1 was \$9,300 for General and \$4,000 for Highway.

Supervisor Peter Martin said the interest rate for the CLASS accounts are at 5%.

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Rouse Fountain - Asked if there were any funds in the budget for repairs to the White Pine Road Bridge or would reserve funds be used. The Town Hall Project is also not in the budget, how will this be funded. He recommended that the Town sign only a one year contract for the rescue services, not a three year contract. He asked if the Town had renegotiated a contract with the Highway Department this year. He asked what percent of the Justice revenue the Town received.

Supervisor Peter Martin said he did not have any figures to put into the budget at this time for the bridge repair and reserve funds could be used. Pat Willis is heading up a fund raising effort for the Town Hall Project. There is also a grant available from Senator Betty Little. When the bids go out for the Town Hall Project then there will be a cost amount available to work with to determine which funds to use. The plan is to go with a one year contract on the rescue service. The Town Board is still in negotiations with the Highway Department. The percentage of the Justice revenue is not known; the Comptroller's Office determines what amount is paid by the Town each month.

David Knapp said the percentage of Justice revenue was dependent on the type of violation and was not a straight percentage of revenue.

Kevan Moss - Asked what line is used for maintenance for the Town Hall. Asked if there was revenue for using the town hall or the park and was there a schedule for using the town buildings.

Richard Meagher said A1620.4 is the maintenance line for the Town Hall. This is budgeted at \$7000, \$6753 was actually spent in 2005. The revenue from the use of town buildings is under line A2001 Park and Recreation Charge, there was \$50 received in 2006.

Supervisor Peter Martin said the revenue is from donations.

Amber McKernan - Asked where the State Aid revenue from the STAR program was recorded.

Richard Meagher said the line A3040 should read STAR and not "Real Property Tax Admin", he will look at it.

There were no further comments from the floor.

Motion made to Close the Public Hearing by Supervisor Peter Martin **at 6:25 p.m.** and continue with the Regular Board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater
Brighton Town Clerk