

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2012
TOWN OF BRIGHTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY
November 10, 2011

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A Public Hearing for the Preliminary Town Budget for 2012 was held on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Highway Garage, 17 County Road 31, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing was Called to Order by Supervisor John Quenell at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF TOWN OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor John Quenell, Council Members: Peter Shrope, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: Council Members Jeffrey Leavitt

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

RESIDENTS: Six residents were present

GUESTS: Richard Meagher – Bookkeeper/Budget Officer

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Notice of this public hearing was published once in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on Thursday, November 1, 2011. The notice was also posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board and at three post offices and businesses in the Town on November 1, 2011 as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2012
TOWN OF BRIGHTON

LET IT BE KNOWN that the Town of Brighton Board will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, November 10, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Garage, 17 County Road 31 (aka Jones Pond Road), Paul Smiths, NY, to hear public input regarding the proposed 2012 Annual Town Budget in accordance with Town Law Section 108. The Regular Monthly Board meeting will begin immediately after the close of the Public Hearing. The proposed salaries for certain elected officials are as follows:

Town Board Members (4): \$2,755 each

Town Supervisor: \$11,380

Town Clerk: \$9,774

Superintendent of Highways: \$41,125

The 2012 Preliminary Budget is available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours on Tuesday and Thursday from Noon to 5 p.m.

Supervisor John Quenell said the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear comments on the Preliminary Budget for 2012. This public hearing can be held no later than the Thursday after the General Election which is November 10. The amount to be raised by taxes is \$579,849 which is a 2.6% increase over 2010, with adjustments allowed by the State brings the increase to 2% which is the amount allowed under the new State levy cap. A letter was received from the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. (SLVRS) revising the amount of the SLVRS contract for rescue services from \$25,403 to \$21,600, a decrease of \$3863.00 from the Preliminary Budget amount.

The floor was opened to the public for comments.

Elaine Sater thanked the Town Board for the 2% salary increase and suggested that the Board give themselves a 2% raise also since the Rescue Contract amount was decreased by \$3000.

Lydia Wright had an email, dated November 9, 2011, from Amber McKernan who could not attend, asking where the interest for the Bond Anticipation Note was in the 2012 Budget and what line will the amount be drawn from. Lydia Wright also asked about where the attorney fees for the project are coming from.

Supervisor John Quenell said the interest would be paid from the Town Hall Restoration Capital Project fund along with the Attorney fees. These are reimbursable fees against the grant.

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Holly Huber asked why the Town did not budget for revenue from scrap metal when there is a large pile behind the garage.

Richard Meagher said the Town only puts an amount in the Budget when it is expected, such as when the truck was sold this year, \$5000 was in the 2011 Budget.

Tom Tucker said the Fire Department has spent 131 man hours in the last week answering calls. They contribute a lot to the community and he hopes their budget will not be reduced.

Lydia Wright said she received information concerning the NYSHIP health insurance. She said the Town must contribute toward the expense of an individual plan (50%) for an employee as well as family policies (35%) to use the insurance. Also since the benefits for elected officials were reduced in 2011 during their terms, the Town may have to reimburse people for the 10% taken from them. The health insurance line should be increased.

Supervisor John Quenell said she is presuming that the Town is staying with the NYSHIP health insurance

Tom Tucker said only full time positions should get health insurance

Nik Santagate said that the history of the health benefits was to keep salaries at a minimum; at the time of Supervisor Al Graf's administration, the Town Board thought that health insurance was a good way to offset higher salaries for elected officials.

Supervisor John Quenell said that was before premiums began increasing by large amounts

Tom Tucker said the Board should be elected by their peers and not get paid for a public service, like the school board.

Holly Huber asked about the codes for properties listed on the exemptions list

Richard Meagher said the Assessor Doug Tichenor provided this report and could answer her questions

There were no further comments from the floor.

Motion to Adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m. made by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Peter Shrope, Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Absent 1 (Tucker)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater
Brighton Town Clerk