

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

A Budget Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York was held at the Town Office Building, 2 Academy Street, Greenwich, New York on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Sara Idleman	Supervisor
	Bob Jeffords	Councilman
	Steven Patrick	Councilman
	George Perkins	Councilman
	Eric Whitehouse	Councilman 7:30

Also Present: Town Clerk Elaine Kelly, Clerk to the Supervisor/Budget Officer Kellie Blake and Ken McPhail.

Dispensing with formalities Supervisor Idleman opened the meeting.

1) A notice was received from NYMIR stating their desire to offer additional coverage options to its subscribing members. NYMIR must seek the approval of its membership before offering the new lines of coverage.

RESOLUTION NO. 117-10
NYMIR

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that Supervisor Idleman be authorized to sign the proxy approving of NYMIR's proposal to offer additional coverage options to its subscribing members.

2) Town Clerk Elaine Kelly provided the Board members with a Notice of Public Hearing, as an adjoining land owner, from the Easton Planning Board. The notice stated that a public hearing for the Stewart Resubdivision and the MacMillan Resubdivision, both located on Bulson Road, will be held on Tuesday, October 12 at 8:15 PM at Burton Hall in Easton.

3) Supervisor Idleman stated that she had met with broker Bill Dedrick for our MVP health coverage. The Board decided to change the health coverage for retirees to MVP Gold as of January 1, 2011. The plan is a better plan at a lower cost. Mr. Dedrick will send letters to the retirees notifying them of the change and also arrange a meeting to explain the changes to them.

Discussion on 2011 Budget:

Highway employee Ken McPhail stated the highway employees are requesting a 6% raise for 2011. This would cover the 3% that was not given in 2010 and 3% for 2011 and would keep their wages in

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balance. Ken had asked Kellie to figure what the difference would be between the other departments' request of 4% and the highway request of 6%. This was .02 cents per thousand dollars of assessment. Ken also stated that the department is satisfied with keeping the shoe, boot and uniform allowances the same.

Supervisor Idleman turned the meeting over to Budget Officer Kellie Blake to explain the line items.

Budget Officer Kellie Blake handed out a work copy of the budget and stated that in the column entitled "Tentative Budget 2011" she had entered the figures from the Budget Request Worksheets that were received from the various department heads. Also included was a 4% pay raise for everyone other than the Town Board and the Dog Control Officer. Kellie further stated that there are increases in health insurance and retirement benefit costs.

Councilman Jeffords asked if a raise had been included for the Superintendent of Highways. Kellie stated yes it was. Councilman Jeffords stated that he has a big issue with that. With as many problems as we have with him, how can you award him? Councilman Patrick also asked if it was included. Councilman Jeffords also stated that he has a problem with any salary increases. He stated that the people paying for the increases are not getting any increases. Our people are worth it but he has a big problem with putting any increase on the backs of the taxpayers.

Councilman Patrick asked Councilman Jeffords if he was still willing to increase the wages if we could decrease somewhere else. Councilman Jeffords stated yes, with equivalent dollars so that in the end the tax levy does not change.

Supervisor Idleman stated that she does not agree with that and does not think that is sustainable over time. At the County level and every other level the cutbacks are ultimately going to hurt our infrastructure. Using the budget as prepared tonight, with everything included, Supervisor Idleman gave the following example:

For a taxpayer in the Town with an assessment of \$150,000 their total tax would increase by (.23/1000) which would be \$34.50 plus fire protection.

For a taxpayer in the Village with an assessment of \$150,000 their total tax would increase by (.13/1000) which would be \$19.50 plus fire protection.

She stated that she has a problem with talking percentages because it skews the reality. There are different ways to present information and if we say that we are going to have a zero percent tax increase that sounds great and makes us look really good. But in reality, with this budget, a person in the Town is only going to end up paying an extra \$34.50 a year and for a person in the Village it will be \$19.50.

It was noted that the average house in the Town and Village is \$183,000 with the Town at \$190,000 and the Village at \$165,000. Supervisor Idleman stated that the information will be presented using

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how much the actual dollar amount increase is going to be rather than just a percentage. It can be presented in an honest, transparent, reasonable and sustainable way.

Councilman Perkins suggested changing to a 3% wage increase and look for cost savings to offset that increase.

Budget Officer Kellie Blake then went through the budget line by line with the Board having lengthy discussions on the Dix Bridge renovation, fire protection and the Hardscrabble Lane project.

The Board changed some appropriations as well as some revenues and Budget Officer Kellie Blake will apply the changes and have a revised copy for the tentative budget presentation next week.

Councilman Perkins stated that he, Councilman Patrick and the Youth Committee had looked at the youth activities of this past season. They would like to give Clerk to the Supervisor Kellie Blake a one-time \$500 stipend for her efforts with the youth program. She worked with the State at the beginning of the season to make sure the Town was in compliance with the State's requirements, she helped run the program and spent numerous hours before and after the program making sure everything was in order. The committee tried to come up with the number of hours but she was doing so much and working so hard that it wasn't possible. The committee decided to ask the Board to reward Kellie with a \$500 stipend for her efforts which were greatly appreciated.

RESOLUTION NO. 118-10
Youth Stipend -Blake

Resolution by Councilman Perkins
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that Clerk to the Supervisor Kellie Blake be paid a one-time \$500 stipend for her work on the 2010 summer youth program.

Motion by Councilman Perkins
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse
and passed unanimously by said Board,
that the meeting be adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine A. Kelly, RMC, CMC
Town Clerk