

DECEMBER 1, 2011 – PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening December 1, 2011 at 7:50 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

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| PRESENT: | Supervisor | Mary Beth Murphy |
| | Councilman | Harold R. Bolton |
| | Councilman | Richard G. Clinchy |
| | Councilman | Frederick J. Morrissey |
| | Councilman | Thomas A. Garrity, Jr. |

ABSENT:

Also present were Kathleen R. Pacella, Town Clerk, Patricia Kalba, Deputy Town Clerk and Roland A. Baroni, Jr., Town Attorney.

The Supervisor said that this was a public hearing with regard to the 2012 Preliminary Budget.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notice of the public hearing that appeared in the Journal News on November 22, 2011 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day.

The Supervisor said as an introduction and a point of interest the budget did fall within the 2% tax cap that had recently been adopted by the New York State Legislature. She said that it called for appropriations of \$12.6 million, a tax rate of \$13.27 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in Somers that equated to about \$795.00 for the average taxpayer whose home was assessed at \$60,000.00. She said that the major issues that had affected the budget this year had been a reduction in their overall assessed value in the Town and a reduction of the Mortgage Tax revenue. The Supervisor said that the budget did call for the abolishment of the Conservation Board, changes to the Town Historian position with a lesser salary and they were looking at a potential part-time position for the Planning Board Secretary. She displayed a chart that showed how the Real Property Taxes were broken out. She said that the Town was responsible for 6.6% of the Taxes. The Supervisor said that in 1998 the Town portion was 7.3% of the Tax Bill. She said that the Town Board was obligated to adopt a final budget on or before December 20, 2011.

The Supervisor declared the hearing opened and asked for comments from the public.

The Supervisor said in reviewing the budget she noticed some flaws that needed to be corrected. She pointed out that the two part-time positions in the Police Line, the Secretarial Staff as well as the Crossing Guard were inadvertently not given the 1.5% increase. She proposed giving those positions the increase which would amount to \$442.00 and deducting that from the Police Contractual Line to cover the difference. The Supervisor said that the increase was also left out for the Plumbing Inspector position, an increase of \$313.00 needed to be given and deducted from the Safety Inspections Contractual line.

The Supervisor said that as all of them knew the Town had been very actively involved in the Stormwater Management Regional efforts. She said that she had been appointed as President of the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation. She said that part of some of the work that they had done in connection with Stormwater Management the Town of Somers obtained a grant for all of the Towns to do Stormwater Retrofit projects. The Supervisor said that the grant was in the amount of \$250,000.00 and the Town Planner had done a lot of the work associated with that grant. She said that the grant was going to require more work because Somers was the recipient and would be responsible for entering into IMAs with the other Towns that some of the money would be dispersed to. She said that she spoke to the other communities and they were agreeable for Somers to pay the Town Planner out of the grant monies for the responsibilities associated with implementing that grant with the other Towns. The Supervisor proposed that they increase the Town Planner's position back to the full-time position and increase the

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Town's Revenue line to reflect the revenue that the Town would receive from the grant. Councilman Morrissey asked if that was going to be a wash with regard to the budgetary lines. The Supervisor said that it would be. She said that the amount was \$18,683.00 and there would be a salary increase and a revenue increase for that amount. She said that this would not affect anything in the Budget. Councilman Clinchy asked what the Town Planner budget line would be. Councilman Garrity asked if that salary line was going to be \$85, 698.00. The Supervisor said that the salary adjustment would be \$88,269.00 and that would be reflected in the revenue side at \$18,683.00.

The Supervisor said that those were the things that she had been working on to try to stay under the tax cap. Councilman Morrissey said that he applauded the Supervisor's creativity.

The Town Board entered into an executive session with regard to personnel at 8:00 PM.

The Supervisor said that a Board member had pointed out to her in the executive session that her math was off with regard to the salary for the Town Planner. She said that the salary should be \$86,983.00 and the revenues line should be adjusted accordingly and it will be less than the \$18,683.00 as previously stated.

There being no one else to be heard on motion of Supervisor Murphy, seconded by Councilman Garrity the public hearing was declared closed at 8:10 PM.

Town Clerk