

DECEMBER 4, 2014 – PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening December 4, 2014 at 7:05 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

|          |            |                        |
|----------|------------|------------------------|
| PRESENT: | Supervisor | Rick Morrissey         |
|          | Councilman | Richard G. Clinchy     |
|          | Councilman | Thomas A. Garrity, Jr. |
|          | Councilman | Anthony J. Ciriaco     |
|          | Councilman | William G. Faulkner    |

ABSENT:

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

The Supervisor explained that this was a public hearing with regard to the 2015 Preliminary Budget.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notice of the public hearing that appeared in the Somers Record on November 20, 2014 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day.

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

Ms. Maureen Devine, Susan Lane, Somers, Former Councilman, read a prepared statement stating that Councilman Faulkner was the only Councilman that was not involved in the 2014 budget process. She said that the 2015 deviated from past practices of the 2014 and other budgets. She said that nothing seemed to have changed, there were no employee contracts then nor was there one at this time. Ms. Devine said that the 2015 Budget showed no increases for any employees except for the Elected Officials who salaries must be published. She said that the budget had a 1.5% increase for the Supervisor, with only 1 year in office, the Superintendent of Highways, an employee of about 28 years and the Town Clerk, an employee for 30 years. She said that the Councilmen choose not to take the 1.5% increase, although they added it to the Supervisor's salary. Ms. Devine asked the Supervisor why, when his fellow Board members and all the Town employees were not receiving the proposed 1.5% increase, he didn't refuse the generous offer of the increase for himself. She said that former Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy did not always take an increase with her Board members. She said with regard to the not published Elected Officials who did not receive an increase along with all of the other employees. Ms. Devine said that included the Receiver of Taxes, a 20 year employee, two Town Justices, both with many years of experience, obviously longevity does not enter into the equation. She said that it looked like the only way to get a raise in the 2015 Budget was to have your salary published. She said that she understood that the reasoning could be that they could not raise the salaries of the Elected Officials after they were published. Ms. Devine said that was not necessarily true as it was explained by the Town Attorney at the last meeting and had been done in the past for former Supervisor Harding. She asked why the Non-Union Employees were being penalized by not giving them an increase at that time, if that was the Town Board's intent to do so eventually. She asked why they deviated in the 2015 Budget from past practice of including an increase for all employees. Ms. Divine asked where the slush fund was reflected in the Preliminary Budget that would be needed to activate the necessary transfers to eventually adjust the budget lines. She said that as the Board knew they could not expend over the amount in a budget line and they will have to make all of those transfers and that was going to be a Bookkeeping nightmare.

There being no one else to be heard on motion of Supervisor Morrissey, seconded by Councilman Garrity, the public hearing was declared closed at 7:15 PM.