

DECEMBER 5, 2013 – PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening December 5, 2013 at 7:30 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Mary Beth Murphy
	Councilman	Richard G. Clinchy
	Councilman	Frederick J. Morrissey
	Councilman	Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.
	Councilman	Anthony J. Ciriaco

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 2014 Preliminary Budget.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notice of the public hearing that appeared in the Journal News on November 26, 2013 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day.

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

The Supervisor said as a matter of general information there was a zero percent tax increase in the proposed budget. She said that no positions had been cut and it generally funded what it had in the past, such as additional paving. The Supervisor said that in her review that day with the Director of Finance they observed a few items that the Board needed to address in the budget. She said that there was an employee who was entitled to longevity that was not included and needed to be and that was going to be split between Safety Inspections and Zoning. She said that the calculation methodology for CSEA employees with both steps and the COLA increase was not correct and that was adjusted. The Supervisor pointed out that there was a small increase in the assessed valuation, which was a good thing and that was also adjusted. She said that the Director of Finance had been working with the New York State Department of Taxation to ensure that their filing was under the tax cap. She continued that they would make that filing once the Board directs that the Preliminary Budget would be the final budget. The Supervisor said that they would make the filing before the adoption of the Budget on December 12, 2013.

Councilman Garrity said that he sent an email with regard to the Police Department. He said that they had a situation over the last few years where some Officers retired and since then they had hired one new Officer. He said in discussing this with the Police he realized their Department was very thin. Councilman Garrity said that their services were also being requested much more often with all of the new Community Events that were being added. He said that there was an Officer that was out on sick leave at that time and he wanted to propose that the Board add one Police Officer to the Department provisionally until the other Officer returns to work. Discussion ensued with regard to the hiring of a provisional Officer. Councilman Clinchy said that he would like to have an executive session with the Police Chief to get an overview of the Department as to what they had and what was needed. He said that this would help him to understand that statutes of the Department although he had no issue with adding the Officer.

The Supervisor asked if the Board had any other changes to make to the Budget and if they were agreeable with it at that point. She said that she was looking for a consensus of the Budget so that she could make the proper filings as they were required to do before the Board adopted the final Budget.

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There being no one to be heard on motion of Supervisor Murphy, seconded by Councilman Clinchy, the public hearing was declared closed at 7:45 PM.

Town Clerk