

DECEMBER 3, 2009 – PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening, December 3, 2009 at 7:50 PM at the Town House 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Mary Beth Murphy
	Councilman	Paul Z. Meyer, Jr.
	Councilman	George R. Dieter
	Councilman	Richard G. Clinchy
	Councilman	Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.

ABSENT:

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

The Supervisor said that this was a public hearing with regard to the 2010 Preliminary Budget.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notices of the special meeting that appeared in the North County News on November 26, 2008 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day.

The Supervisor explained that the 2010 Preliminary Budget provided for 12.2 million dollar expenditures which was down from 12.5 million dollar expenditures in 2009. She said that it did increase the tax rate from \$11.08 per \$1,000.00 of Assessed Valuation to \$11.64 per \$1,000.00 of Assessed Valuation. She said for the average house that was assessed at \$60,000.00 the increase was about \$33.24 annually or from \$665.30 to \$698.54. The Supervisor said that the significant changes in the budget were found in the Engineering line, the Town's longtime Engineer would be retiring and a consultant Engineer retained. She said that the functions of the Department would remain the same however, the consulting Engineer would oversee all permit and Planning Board applications, as well as all notice of violations and work with existing staff to properly review those matters. She said that they had also consolidated the collection of the Amawalk-Shenorock Water District receipts and bills into the Tax Receivers office and an employee that was retiring from the Water Department would not be replaced. The Supervisor said that they had limited the Teen Lounge availability and there were reductions in spending lines in nearly every Department. She said that employee pension costs were up significantly as well as Health Care costs and overall the Board tried to keep a balance of necessary services with keeping the cost to the taxpayer as low as possible.

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

Dr. Henry Olsen, Heritage Hills, said that he thought that the Board was being over optimistic on the Mortgage Tax line. He said that in 2009 they estimated \$1,000,000.00 and received \$292,000.00. Councilman Clinchy said that was not a full year it was only partial. Dr. Olsen asked what the actual figure was. The Supervisor said for 2009 it was about \$685,000.00. Dr. Olsen said that was still about \$300,000.00 less than what it was supposed to be. He said that he thought that the Town was optimistic on their Interest and Penalties of \$200,000.00. He said that he felt that Revenues were more optimistic than they anticipated.

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