

October 23, 2008

Schultzville, NY

A special workshop meeting of the Clinton Town Board was held on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Jeff Burns and Councilpersons Michael Appolonia, Dan Budd, and Frank Venezia. Councilman Dean Michael and Town Clerk Barbara Joyce were absent; Deputy Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin was present in her place. There were three members of the audience.

At 7:00 PM Supervisor Burns called the meeting to order and led the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Supervisor Burns asked the representatives from the Library, Pat Cortese and Chris DeFrancesco, to discuss the 2009 Library budget that was presented to the Town Board.

Pat Cortese said the budget presented is a 3% increase over 2008; there is a 414 proposition on the ballot with information on the measure on the Library's website. Chris DeFrancesco said the ballot measure is at \$110,000, if it fails, the budget reverts to \$63,860. The discussion continued with Board members and the following points were made:

Pat Cortese said the Library can't rely on volunteers to staff; the Library Board wants to hire paid staff to meet the needs of the community. Volunteers are great for fundraising and they are hard to train. Paid workers are committed workers. In response to a question from Supervisor Burns, Ms. Cortese said if the 414 fails, the Library will cut salaries first, then book purchases, and office supplies.

Councilman Venezia asked several questions, including how much of the community are we serving in the Library? Ms. Cortese did not have a specific answer but said that we receive double the amount of boxes of books on loan from other Libraries for our patrons' use and the programs are growing. She and Mr. Venezia went back and forth on the need for staffing the Library with a full time director and whether or not there is a documented need for the full time position. In addition, Ms. Cortese said that the use of the Library computers is an important part of the services they offer. Mr. Venezia, who was looking for specific numbers of patrons and more details on the use of the Library, said being the highest per capita Town in Dutchess County he doubts there is anyone in Clinton without their own computer and wondered what programs these patrons are using on the Library's computers. He also commented that there are other perks the Library receives from the Town including, maintenance, heat and utilities paid for by the Town in addition to the funding it receives. Mr. Venezia does not support the initiative and questioned the public relations effort put forth by the Library Board. Mr. DeFrancesco explained that there is information on the initiative on the Library website and that certain people were targeted in the community that the Library Board anticipates will spread the word on the ballot initiative. Mr. DeFrancesco commented that the Library Board made their best effort. Mr. Venezia said it seems the ballot initiative was kept quiet and it sounds like the Board targeted a select group of people to receive information, a strategy with which he disagrees.

At this time, Mr. DeFrancesco explained the Proposition 414 process and pointed out that the Library offers services to everyone in the community for free and turns away no one.

Dan Budd said the Library budget went from under \$10,000 about 10 years ago to \$63,000 today showing that the Town Board is supportive of the Library. He feels that this is the wrong time to go from \$63,000 to \$110,000 as we are trying to keep the budget at bare bones given that status of the economy.

Supervisor Burns reviewed the rest of the general fund budget: all salaries are at 3% increase, except his and Highway Superintendent Tompkins who did not want one. Frank Venezia thought the Building department clerk was a temporary position that has turned into a permanent one. Supervisor Burns will check on this.

Supervisor Burns reviewed the Recreation budget and that the gate guard will increase to seven days per week and the we will have a two-week camp in the summer of 2009. Frank Venezia asked if we are charging for the camp as other Towns do. Supervisor Burns will follow up. The Community Day budget is now zero and the Planning Board/ZBA Clerk's hours are increased at the request of the Chairs. Overall, income is down by about \$36,000 and Supervisor Burns has cut expenses by \$50,000 from 2008 to 2009. Highway Superintendent Tompkins said he can do more cutting and Supervisor Burns would like no increase in the budget but is shooting for a 1% to 2% rate increase.

At 8:25 PM, MM Supervisor Burns, 2nd Councilman Venezia that the Town Board adjourns the meeting. All aye except Councilman Michael who was absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Town Clerk
Carol-Jean Mackin