

November 1, 2018

Schultzville, NY

A public hearing on the 2019 preliminary budget was held on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Oberly, Councilmen Dean Michael, Eliot Werner, Councilwoman Nancy Cunningham and Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin. Councilman Whitton arrived at 7:02 PM. There were four people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 7:00 PM, Supervisor Oberly called the public hearing to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Werner attempted read a statement into the record concerning the massacre in the Pittsburgh synagogue last week that Supervisor Oberly objected to, saying this was not the correct forum. Words were exchanged back and forth between Supervisor Oberly and councilman Werner. Councilman Dean Michael saying he agreed a statement is appropriate, but it should be made at the regular Town Board meeting. Councilman Werner feels it is timely to make the statement tonight and not wait the 12 days until the regular Town Board meeting. By consensus, with Supervisor Oberly saying no, it was agreed that Councilman Werner could read a statement:

As we mourn the horrific and deadly events in Pittsburgh, the Board of the Town of Clinton joins with all Americans who stand in unity to condemn religious hatred and domestic terrorism in all its forms.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Town Clerk read the legal notice that appeared in the Poughkeepsie Journal.

PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Oberly said this is a public hearing concerning the adoption of the 2019 budget. He opened the floor for comments:

Town Justice Russ Tompkins – saw on video the Oct. 18 special meeting that the Planning Board clerk and Tax Collector were raised to \$19 per hour. The court clerks' jobs are very complex and detailed, and they should be at \$19 hour also.

Town Justice Barbara Seelbach – echoes Mr. Tompkins' comment concerning the complexity of the court clerk position. They have additional duties passed on from the state, including to download tickets from the DMV, orders of protection must be downloaded on a timely basis using a computer program, clerks have to sign on to the computer for required rap sheets, they deal with homeland security and ICE issues and she described all of the professionals they have to deal with in conducting their jobs. The court generates money weekly where, although they are not required to cover their costs, so to speak, they do. The court clerks work

daily, including daytime and evening hours and she is insulted that court clerks make less than the other clerks who received raises in this budget.

Highway Superintendent Theron Tompkins -comments were made about his being part time at the Oct. 18 meeting. This is not true as he is on call all the time. It was said in the summer he does half days, and this is not true. Last summer he personally reviewed and painted the trucks to prep for the next year. The cost is \$4000 if we were to send out for this service. This is \$20,000 saved. He would have four week's vacation if he was a crew member and might use days here and there but never takes this time. He described that he works every Saturday in the office to see if people have issues which he then addresses on the weekend. He will take a 5 percent raise, rather than the 7 percent to give money to the clerks who deserve the money. He thanked the Town Board for what they give him.

Dean Michael suggests raising the Court Clerks to the \$19 per hour if we would still stay under the cap. Supervisor Oberly said we would as it would be about adding \$1000 to each clerk salary.

Nancy – audits the Court and their job has more responsibility; their workload has increased 13 percent to date.

Town Clerk Carol Mackin - objects to the piecemeal way the Board is handling personnel and drolling out increases as individuals complain on a meeting by meeting basis. Carol requested a \$19 dollar an hour pay also be given to the Deputy Town Clerk who she described as being a Town official, not a clerk, there is a difference. It is too bad the title of both the Deputy and Town Clerk have the word clerk as the word minimizes the role. Carol stated that she sent a memo to the Board on August 15 requesting they take a comprehensive look at personnel suggesting the need for a full-time employee to manage the work of the Town. Only one Board member replied to the memo. She also pointed out that the Clinton Town Clerk salary is \$20,000 and \$30,000 less than two neighboring Towns with similar populations.

Nancy Cunningham replied that we need to start to look at the standard for the positions across the board. Dean Michael says next year we will start to look at this. The Board members agreed to increase the Deputy Town clerk to \$19 per hour also and Ray Oberly said if the increase causes the budget to go over the tax cap he will add money from contingency to stay under the cap.

Michael Whitton agrees with Town Clerk Mackin. He objects to the piecemeal way the increases have been given and would like to have a more comprehensive overview of this issue.

Councilwoman Cunningham stated they are trying to make up for years of no raises.

Councilman Werner asked about the costs of the cemeteries and how to pay them if the bills come in next year for work done currently. Supervisor Oberly said it will be an encumbrance.

Councilman Dean Michael said he is not happy with the MVP broker.

At 7:31 PM, there being no further comments, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Michael to close the public hearing. All aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:31PM, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Michael to adjourn the meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk