

November 9, 2021

Schultzville, NY

The Clinton Town Board met on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Oberly and Councilpersons Michael Whitton, Councilman Juliano, and Councilman Dean Michael, and Councilwoman Cunningham. Town Clerk Carol Mackin was also present. There were four people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 6:00 PM, Supervisor Oberly called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUSINESS

1. Preliminary Budget

Supervisor Oberly commented that the Assessor notified him at that Town assessment has been lowered but that didn't change the tax rate.

The Board members discussed the 2022 draft Preliminary budget:

Dean Michael: is concerned about the fund balance being low and we are not budgeting for the future, including the revaluation and the updating of the Zoning Law and for any emergencies that may occur, as well as making income projections to fit the budget which may not be accurate. Supervisor Oberly said 10% of this budget is bonds for the new highway trucks and the buildings. Councilman Whitton said the fund balance will be at the low level of allowable in the fund balance policy or 25% and we will be able to add money to that surplus at the end of the year. In addition, the tax collector will forward the collected taxes earlier than she typically does which will help with the cash flow. Councilman Juliano suggest monthly billing of taxes to help cash flow; Supervisor Oberly said the State does not allow that. Supervisor Oberly said we used the same amount of surplus to balance the budget, we just have less available in surplus. Councilman Juliano is concerned about a recession and we may not collect the budgeted revenue for sales tax and mortgage tax. Councilman Whitton said the budgeted income numbers are a conservative guess but he feels they are accurate to the best we can predict them. He feels we are in an emergency with our employees as we can't keep people and then we can't find people to replace them because of the salary. Councilman Juliano suggests cutting elected salaries or go over the tax cap to keep the fund balance healthy. Looking at salaries, he suggests raising the new Building Department Clerk from the \$19/hour in the budget to \$21/hour as she does not need training. Councilman Michael said all Clerks are at \$21 per hour so she should be at that level also. Councilwoman Cunningham said we need to stick with the salary increases for non-electeds. Supervisor Oberly asked to see a job description for the new Building department clerk. Councilwoman Cunningham will have that for the December Town Board meeting. The Town Board would like to see the tax decrease from 6% to 3% with a tax rate of \$2.12/1000 and add money back into the surplus.

MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the 2022 Preliminary Budget and will hold a public hearing on said budget on Friday, November 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Clinton Town Hall.** All aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:35 PM, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Whitton to adjourn the meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol-Jean Mackin".

Carol- Jean Mackin
Town Clerk