

Minutes of the Budget Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held October 23, 2003, at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present:	Robert Young – Supervisor Gary Hulbert – Councilman Linda Sutton – Councilwoman Robert Elpel – Councilman
Absent	William A. Carr, Jr. – Councilman
Recording Secretary	Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk
Others Present:	Wesley Moore – Highway Superintendent Charles Soderblom – Town Clerk Cindy Moore - Bookkeeper Thomas Sutton – Police Sergeant Al Schmidt – Code Enforcement Officer

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. There were eleven people present.

Chief Rusty Sala explained the budget for the East Durham Volunteer Fire Co. Mr. Elpel asked what the Contributions/Dues line item consisted of. Mr. Sala explained that he believed it was for FASNY Dues and Computer Program. Mr. Sala will check with the president, as he was the individual who condensed the information to fit the form that the town requested. Mrs. Sutton asked about the equipment line item. Mr. Sala explained that they need to replace six air packs that are from 1973 at a cost of \$3,500 a piece. Mr. Hulbert questioned line item for the driveway. Mr. Sala explained that the project is estimated to cost \$45,000 and they currently have \$10,000 in reserve. They are building the fund so that the project can be completed and done properly. The process will include the removal of the clay and replace with proper drainage material and pipes. In addition they need to replace the roof on the Cornwallville Fire House, the windows, and wood floor in the East Durham Meeting Hall.

Treasurer George Wood explained the budget for the Oak-Hill Durham Volunteer Fire Co. Mr. Hulbert asked about driveway repairs. Mr. Wood explained that they are preparing the driveway to be blacktopped.

The board discussed the budgets of the fire companies and determined that they would each receive the same tax rate of .75 per thousand. They would give East Durham approximately \$83,000 and Oak-Hill \$75,000.

President Rick Vanderbeck explained the budget for the Durham Ambulance Squad. They have reduced the budget request by \$3,000 from last year. They still need to obtain equipment for their offices. They have received \$41,000 from the third party billing. They placed \$36,000 in capital reserve and \$5,000 went towards bills. Mr. Young asked what the \$7,000 in insurance cover and it was explained that it for liability and auto. Mrs. Sutton asked if the Medicare number had been received and it was explained that

the Medicare number was received in February but they are still waiting for the Medicaid number. Mr. Elpel asked what was expected to be received from Medicaid, Mr. Vanderbeck stated that it was very difficult to estimate as Medicaid doesn't pay the full amount billed and until something is received, they have nothing to base an estimate on. Mr. Hulbert asked if the heating fuel was purchased on state contract. Currently they are purchasing their heating fuel from Layaways in Middleburg. Mr. Hulbert asked what the year of the ambulance was. Mr. Mahler, Captain, stated that it was 1999. Mrs. Sutton asked if the squad was billing patients for the amount collected through the third party billing. Mr. Vanderbeck explained that the squad accepts what is received from the third party billing. If a taxpayer receives an additional bill, they should contact the squad and they will contact the billing service to have the billing closed.

Mr. Mahler explained the billing for the Greene County EMS system. The usage is up from what was projected mainly due to the increasing changes in the NYS protocols. The fees collected are used for salaries and supplies. Equipment and training is funded through grants. The board requested quarterly reports from Greene County EMS and Durham Rescue so that they could have a better handle on call volume and expenses.

Mr. Schmidt explained the budget for the building department. He explained that with the increased requirements from the state they are putting in additional hours. They have also increased the amount of money the town receives by enforcing these regulations. They used to do three inspections on a new construction and now they are expected to do between seven and ten. Mr. Heller is averaging 20 hours a week and Mr. Schmidt is averaging between 25-30 hours. They attended approximately 170 hours of schooling this year and estimate 160 hours required next year. It take approximately three days to review a set of plans unless it is Stiefels, they take three to four weeks. It is mandated by the state that new septic systems now require an engineer to perform the perk test and design. The town can approve replacement systems. Mr. Heller usually performs the inspections on footings and foundations and Mr. Schmidt usually performs the interior, framing, plumbing, electric, and sheet rock inspections. Additional discussion followed. It was determined that the board would budget \$7,000 for Mr. Heller and \$10,000 for Mr. Schmidt. The contractual budget would be \$4,000.

The board reviewed the budget submitted by the Highway Superintendent. It was determined that the board would increase the salary for the Highway Superintendent and clerk by 2% over the 2003 budget. The remainder of the highway budget was reviewed and the board agreed to accept it as proposed.

It was brought to the attention of the board that there was still an outstanding bill for Catskill Mountain Signs for the production of the 911 signs. It was discussed and a **motion was made by Mr. Hulbert, seconded by Mrs. Sutton to pay the bill in the amount of \$,916.80 for 878 911 signs. All were in favor.**

The board discussed the Library funding. Mr. Elpel, Mr. Hulbert and Mrs. Sutton suggested \$8,000, Mr. Young suggested \$6,000. The amount settled on was \$8,000.00. \$1,000.00 automatically goes to the Cairo library annually.

The benefits were budgeted as projected from the state and the board will set up a meeting at a later date to discuss options on the health insurance costs.

The board reviewed the rest of the budget and gave salaries a 2% increase and honored line items as they were submitted.

Mr. Hulbert made the motion to adjourn at 10:07.

Minutes Approved:

Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk