

Minutes of the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Durham held October 30, 2003, at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: Robert Young – Supervisor  
William A. Carr, Jr. – Councilman  
Gary Hulbert – Councilman  
Linda Sutton – Councilwoman

Absent: Robert Elpel – Councilman

Recording Secretary Charles Soderblom - Town Clerk  
Others Present: Sean Springer – The Greenville Press

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. Seven people were present.

Mr. Cullie asked why the cemetery account had been reduced from \$1,000 to \$500. The Board explained that this was the amount the Highway Superintendent figured he could do the work for. No new equipment was needed and the majority of the mowing is used in the park. That is the only item that the Town pays for in the cemeteries.

Mr. Springer asked what the amount of surplus being carried over was. The reply was that we don't know the exact amount, but it generally is in the neighborhood of 100 to 120 thousand dollars.

Mr. Carr commented that comparing the 2004 tax rate to that of 2003, there was a fifty cent reduction for 2004. Part of this was a reduction in the highway budget and part was the increased total valuation.

The Library was discussed.

It was pointed out that the employees received a 2% increase with the exception of the building department, who received a greater increase due to the increased workload and the amount of fees they bring in.

The big increase in the State Retirement was questioned. Mr. Carr replied that the State has to make up the money they have lost due to the decrease in the value of the stock market. The Clerk added that the policy was changed last year so that everyone with over 10 years retirement service did not have to contribute to the fund. So now the employer has to make up for that shortfall.

The amount of fines was also discussed.

**Mr. Carr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hulbert. All were in favor.**

Minutes Approved:

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Charles G. Soderblom, Town Clerk