

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham, County of Greene and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 7309 State Route 81, East Durham, NY on the 3rd, day of November.

**PRESENT:**

William Carr	----	Supervisor
Linda Sutton	----	Deputy Supervisor
Jerry Cunningham	----	Council member
Nick Nahas	----	Council member
George Deckers	----	Council member
Chris Kohrs	----	Town Clerk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joe van Holsteyn- Highway Superintendent, Thomas Sutton –Police Sgt., David Cunningham – Building Inspector, Tal Rappleyea – Attorney and 16 community members.

Supervisor Carr called the meeting to order 7:30 p.m.

**Mr. Nahas motioned to open the public hearing for the 2016 Preliminary Budget at 7:31 p.m., seconded by Mr. Deckers all in favor motion carried.** (5-yeas Carr, Sutton, Cunningham, Nahas, Deckers)

Supervisor Carr explained that the cap imposed by NYS is .73% above last year's budget. He is concerned with next year's budget unless the current restraints change. The fund balance will not be able to keep the budget under the NYS cap.

The general fund is up only 17 cents per thousand from 2015 due to:

- Payroll increase \$11,263
- Extending the summer recreation program from 4 weeks to 6 weeks \$1,950
- Greene County Paramedic services increased \$1,200 (based on use)
- Reading Room is up \$1,700 due to rent increase,
- Utility expense is estimated to be up \$2,420
- Health Insurance & Benefits up \$16,500
- Supervisor is down \$5,994 due to audit adjustment
- Police Annex is down \$1,000 (most improvements are completed)
- Surplus applied to budget \$12,000

The Highway Fund is down 9 cents even with increases in payroll of \$3,350 and benefits of \$11,250.

The total town budget with general, highway and charge backs is \$8.5917 per thousand or an increase of .0713% per thousand.

**Councilmember Deckers motioned to close the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. seconded by Councilmember Sutton, all in favor motion carried.** (5-yea, Carr, Sutton, Cunningham, Nahas, Deckers)

**Councilmember Cunningham motioned to accept the 2016 preliminary budget to the 2016 adopted budget, seconded by councilmember Sutton all in favor motion carried.** (5-yea, Carr, Sutton, Cunningham, Nahas, Deckers)

The board scheduled the public for the 2016 contracts with Durham Rescue, East Durham Volunteer Fire Co and Oak Hill Durham Volunteer Fire Co for Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisor Carr read a letter for thanks and gratitude received from Cairo Durham Superintendent Tabi for the presence of the Durham Police Department at the High School Campus.

Supervisor Carr shared that he had a conversation with Assessor Bennett regarding conducting a scratch inventory to assess if the time is proper to move forward with the re-valuation that was placed on hold a few years ago. The estimated cost for the scratch audit is \$12,000.00. Supervisor Carr expressed his concern regarding properties that are not properly assessed due to renovations and or demolitions. If this is the case property owners may not be paying their proper share of property taxes. Our last re-valuation was 2003-2004. If we do a scratch inventory now the finding would be used in a re-valuation provided we did it within a couple years of the scratch inventory. Bookkeeper/Assessor Clerk Moore commented that historically a scratch valuation finds that assessments 1/3 of properties are the same, 1/3 go up and 1/3 go down. Councilmember Cunningham voiced his support for the scratch inventory and re-valuation stating there will always be inequities and we need to strive to keep the inequities at a minimal.

Councilmember Sutton requested Hwy. Superintendent van Holsteyn check with Rensselaerville as to why they placed a Camp Medusa Road sign on the corner of Saybrook Valley Hill Road. Hwy. Superintendent van Holsteyn is aware of the situation and is working with their Hwy. Superintendent to resolve; there are issues with emergency services responding to Camp Medusa Road as it changes names at the county line half way down the road. (Greene County end is Saybrook Hill Road and Albany County end is Camp Medusa Road)

Councilmember Nahas mentioned the historical marker for Meeting House Hill had been repainted and replace.

Councilmember Cunningham expressed sadness of losing Wayside Country Inn to fire this week and would like to see the town or our Legislative Representative work with them to rebuild. Supervisor Carr agreed with Councilmember Cunningham and stated that Code Enforcement officer Asaro went over to the site of the fire to let the owners know that we are here to assist them and give them the necessary paperwork to move forward from here.

**Councilmember Cunningham motioned to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. seconded by Councilmember Nahas.**

Minutes of November 3, 2015

**Respectfully submitted:**

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**Chris Kohrs, Clerk/Collector**