

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2015**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 22nd day of October 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Thomas Fallati
 Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury
 Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir
 Councilman Gerald Wood
 Councilwoman Marion Cooke
 Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilman Robert Bolte

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2016 Tentative Budget.

Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override had been held, no one was present, and no written comments had been received.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to adopt the Tax Cap Override – Local Law No. 3 of 2015; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

At this time, Attorney Fallati left the budget workshop meeting.

Supervisor Lounsbury went through the Tentative Budget. All changes that were made prior to this meeting were reviewed and approved. The following matters were discussed in more detail:

1. The Assessor's requested a raise. Supervisor Lounsbury was against this due to her efforts in trying to keep the budget in line. She felt that the Town could not give raises across the board in the same year. If the clerks, who are seriously underpaid, are given raises this year, then next year the clerks could stay the same

and elected officials could get a raise. She noted that as wages are increased, expense lines also go up.

Addressing the Assessor's computer equipment, Supervisor Lounsbury reported that she contacted I.T.S and it would cost \$875.00 for the workstation (computer); \$250.00 for set-up; Office 2013 program \$209.00; for a total of \$1,334.00. An additional printer would be approximately \$300.00 and there would be a contract fee of \$411.00/year. ORPS would charge \$130.00 annually. This gives a total of \$2,175.00 to set up a new computer.

Councilwoman Sedlmeir would like to accommodate the Assessors so that they can be more efficient. Councilwoman Cooke did not expect the figures to be that high and she was concerned that with more than one person using the ORPS program, it opens the door for error.

Councilwoman Sedlmeir suggested inviting the Assessors into the meeting, being that they are already in the building, to explain in greater detail what they are asking for and why. She is in favor of the additional workstation for the Assessor's office. Councilwoman Cooke and Supervisor Lounsbury agreed that the work has been getting done for years without any additional computers. Councilman Wood stated that he felt it should ride for now.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury addressed the raise which was requested for the Town Clerk. Councilman Wood said he has been thinking about Superintendent Bates' standpoint on raises. Councilman Wood is in favor of giving the Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent a raise. Councilwoman Cooke, as well as Councilwoman Sedlmeir, agreed that the Highway Superintendent deserves a raise because it has been some time since the Superintendent received a raise. Councilwoman Cooke does not, however, feel the Town Clerk should be raised because the Town Clerk's position had received numerous raises before Clerk Kraker took office. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that former Town Clerk Hallenbeck had received a couple of raises just before she retired. Town Clerk Kraker reported that her research proves, and as her budget request documents, the Town Clerk's position has not received a raise since 2011. Councilwoman Cooke insisted that during her 6 years in office, she knows that Town Clerk Hallenbeck received raises during that 6-year tenure. Councilwoman Sedlmeir's feelings are that the Town Clerk should be raised stating that she is here for all meetings in the evening as well as her regular hours during the daytime, in addition to the workload.

It was settled that the Town Clerk would get a \$500 raise.

3. Discussion was had regarding the building repair line. Although Bob Bolte has done much of the work and repairs at Town Hall free of charge, there may come a time when Bob is not available when a repair is needed. The consensus was to leave the line as is and not reduce it despite the fact that not much has been used thus far this year.

4. Supervisor Lounsbury has worked hard on getting the medical supply line down and it will be lowered by another \$100. Also, the housekeeping line item has been eliminated, saving another \$150.

5. With the return of the Canon copier, the photocopier lease line can be lowered by \$1,500.

6. All the Board members agreed that the fuel oil line could be lowered by \$1,000, but the electric would be increased by \$1,000.

7. Councilman Sedlmeir encouraged the Board to give the Highway Superintendent a \$3,000 raise, but a \$2,000 raise was agreed upon.

8. Supervisor Lounsbury checked into what it would cost to have a seasonal employee and/or one of the highway employees mow the grass for the three parks. Councilman Wood questioned why other Towns could perform their own maintenance on their parks and cemeteries and the Town of Rensselaerville cannot.

9. It has been agreed upon that the Library get the additional \$1,250 making a total of \$25,000 which is what they were at several years ago.

10. To accommodate Superintendent Bates' request for additional funding of \$3,400 for road materials, the gas/oil line was lowered by \$3,400.

11. It is the consensus of the Board to lower the 'truck', 'miscellaneous' and 'equipment repairs & maintenance' line items (under Road Machinery) by \$5,000 each.

Another Budget Workshop Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2015 at 7:00 PM to continue the review the proposed budget.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to set the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget for November 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM; 2nd by Councilman Wood.
Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk