

**PUBLIC HEARING
2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
OCTOBER 25, 2021**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by ***Lawrence Eckhardt*** at **7:03 PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt

(X) Highway Superintendent, Alden Goodermote

(X) Councilman Philip Roder

() Assessor, Jennifer VanDeusen

(X) Councilman William Jennings

(X) Councilman Everett Madden

(X) Councilman Pam Kueppers

(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Wagar

A quorum (X) was () wasn't established.

 3 from the Public were present

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD & PUBLIC COMMENT:

L. Eckhardt: the reason for this meeting is to discuss the 2022 Town Budget. A 2% cap is allowed without passing a local law to increase the budget, the allowable figure is \$926,758.00 this is set by the state. Tax base has gone up since last year due to the revaluation from \$243,862,321.00 to \$304,219,951.00. The increase over last year as the budget stands would be approximately \$0.68 lower than last year. Health insurance for the Highway employees the Union has reported that if we find a comparable plan at a better price we can outsource the health insurance. The current health insurance offered is not the best.

P. Roder reminds the council and the public that the \$20,000.00 that was set aside a couple years ago for the Building Repairs fund was from when the Library was voted in as their own District. The Tax Base increase could be beneficial depending on whether your assessment increased or not.

T. Dormady: questioned the Constable Department and what the responsibilities are.

L. Eckhardt: reported that the current Constable Department is to provide security for the Court and can provide assistance with eviction notices. The State requires significant annual training.

T. Dormady: questioned if the Dog Control Officer is one person.

L. Eckhardt: reported that the current Dog Control Officer is one position, and she is currently the Dog Control Officer in New Lebanon as well.

T. Dormady: questioned if the Code Enforcement Officer was one position.

L. Eckhardt: reported that the personal services line is split between two positions who is currently Owen and Dean. *Supervisor Eckhardt reads the 2021 salary sheet to give the public a break down.*

T. Dormady: question regarding the funds in the Attorney line. Are they on a retainer?

L. Eckhardt: the attorneys bill us for their time, they are not on a retainer. At the end of the year transfers are made to cover the accounts that are over budget to balance things out. The Comptroller's office wanted us to do the transfers throughout the year but we like to see what accounts are actually over the budget therefore the

town Board and the departments can see who over expended and plan accordingly for the following year. February of the following year we typically have all the books closed and the final figures are in from the previous year. All of the Organizations get a check at the beginning of the year except the Seniors they submit vouchers for the usage of their allocated funds.

T. Dormady: questions why the Highway Superintendent is paid from the General Fund.

L. Eckhardt: He is an elected official; the State Comptroller's Office provides the account numbers and requires it to come from the General Fund.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:09PM

MOTION BY: W. JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: P. RODER

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

****A Workshop Meeting** will be held **Monday, November 8th, 2021 at 7:00PM** at the Town Hall.

****The next Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, November 15th, 2021 at 7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

Meetings will be available on Zoom until January 15th, 2022.

Stephanie M. Wagar
Town Clerk