

**2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
26 GRANGE HALL ROAD, STEPEHTOWN, NY 12168
OCTOBER 30, 2023**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Philip Roder	(X) High. Superin. Alden Goodermote
(X) Council Diana Clark	() Assessor, Jennifer Van Deusen
(X) Council William Jennings	(X) Code Enforcement, Owen Cassavaugh
() Council Everett Madden	() Supervisor's Bookkeeper, Maureen Seel
(X) Council Kyle Kidney	
(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Hoffman	

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

1 from the Public were present

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD:

NEXT MEETINGS OF THE TOWN BOARD

- **SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING TO ADOPT THE 2024 TOWN BUDGET NOVEMBER 13TH, 2023 AT 7:00PM**
- **REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 20TH, 2023 AT 7:00PM**

Supervisor Roder provided an overview of the changes that were discussed in the Budget Workshop meeting. Reported significant (percentage) increases to the Code Enforcement Personal Services and the Highway line items, the board has balanced these increases with unexpended funds and revenues. There is an increase to the Transfer Station revenues due to the board considering increases to services on C&D and bags before the end of the year.

Council Jennings reported that the increases will take effect in January 2024 and decided in December.

Supervisor Roder the Town covers the employees and to keep the building going, those who use the Transfer Station pay to use the services.

Council Jennings notes the significant increase in retirement. Supervisor Roder added that there was a 28% poor investment made by the state and they are correcting it this year.

T. Dormady asked in the CE (contractual funds) for hauling fees and if ERCSWMA has done any bidding.

Supervisor Roder reported that the CE funds are for the hauling fees and the annual contract fee.

Council Jennings reported that ERCSWMA went out to bid and accepted County Waste which was considerably lower than Castello which is who ERCSWMA was using. Castello was \$255/ton, and we are currently paying \$240/ton for hauling fees and tipping fees are \$90/ton for solid waste. Recyclables have a tipping fee of \$105/ton. We are currently paying more to get rid of the recyclables, it's cheaper to make new plastic than to recycle.

T. Dormady questions the amount in the Attorney line since there has not been much used this year.

Supervisor Roder reported that the attorneys will wait until the end of the year to submit their bill. Attorney Crist has not been paid to date.

T. Dormady asked about the 2% increase across the board for personal services and why the Code Enforcement and the Highway Superintendent were getting a bigger increase.

Supervisor Roder reported that the board is attempting to fix the Code Enforcement Officer's personal service line and make it more comparable to other CEOs in the area. The Highway Superintendent follows what is in the Union contract.

T. Dormady asked if the Board would have to hold a referendum with how the budget stands and mentioned it is under 3%.

Supervisor Roder confirmed that a Local Law would not have to be passed and where the budget was, was currently under the required NYS Tap Cap amount.

T. Dormady asked if there were any concerns where funds may feel "tight".

Supervisor Roder mentioned that the revenues are always a concern, especially with inflation.

T. Dormady asked what amount the Town gets for CHIPS and what factors the amount.

Supervisor Roder reported \$176k, town road miles and other factors determine it.

T. Dormady asked if the Library asked for an increase.

Supervisor Roder they were have to submit a referendum to go up for public vote. The Library and the Fire District are their own tax district.

T. Dormady asked why they were listed on the Town's budget.

Council Jennings reported that all the Town's Property Taxes are collected by the Town and then distributed.

T. Dormady asked if the only way to increase the Transfer Stations revenue is to increase bags.

Council Jennings stated yes, otherwise the Board would have to increase taxes. He reported that the services are still a bargain and that the Board has agreed to charge those using it rather than make everyone in town pay for it.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:22 PM

MOTION BY: JENNINGS SECONDED BY: KIDNEY

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY

****A Workshop Meeting** is held every second Monday of every month at **7:00PM** at the Town Hall.

****The next Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, November 20th, 2023** at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

Stephanie M. Hoffman

Town Clerk