

2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN BOARD

TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
26 GRANGE HALL ROAD,
STEPHENTOWN, NEW YORK 12168
NOVEMBER 4, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by **Supervisor P. Roder** at **7:01 PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Philip (PJ) Roder

(X) Council Diana Clark

(X) Council Kyle Kidney

(X) Council John E. DeFreest Jr.

(X) Council Tammy Madden

(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Hoffman

(X) Alden Goodermote, Highway Superintendent

(X) Jennifer Van Deusen, Assessor

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

1 from the Public were present

- OPEN SEALED BIDS RECEIVED BY THE TOWN CLERK FOR THE F-600
- PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED 2025 TOWN BUDGET (BUDGET ATTACHED)

RESOLUTION #41 OF 2024

OPEN SEALED BIDS FOR NEW 2024 OR 2025 FORD F-600 4x4 CAB
AND CHASSIS TRUCK

WHEREAS: THE TOWN BOARD HAS PUT OUT A BID REQUEST FOR A NEW 2024 OR 2025 FORD F-600 4X4 CAB AND CHASSIS FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, AND

WHEREAS: THE TOWN CLERK HAS RECEIVED 1 SEALED BIDS FROM:

1. MARCHESE FORD, NEW LEBANON, NY FOR \$74,525.00

, AND

WHEREAS: THE TOWN BOARD WOULD LIKE TO TENTATIVELY HAVE THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT AND TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW THE BIDS TO MAKE SURE ALL SPECS HAVE MET THE REQUESTED REQUIREMENTS, AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION FOR PURCHASE.

MOTION BY: T. MADDEN

SECONDED BY: DEFREEST, JR.

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NYE

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Reminders to All Participants who would like to speak: (this meeting is on Live Stream and is being recorded)

- Raise your hand prior to speaking
- Announce your name and the Town you reside in.
- There is a 3-to-5-minute window for each speaker per Resolution 1 of the fiscal year
- Any disruptive conduct will be addressed at any meeting if the Town Board is willfully disrupted by a person or by a group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting impossible. The Chair (Town Supervisor) may recess the meeting or order the person, group or groups of persons willfully disrupting the meeting to leave the meeting or to be removed from the meeting. Disruptive conduct includes addressing the Board without first being recognized, not addressing the subject before the Board, repetitiously addressing the same subject, failing to relinquish the podium when requested to do so, or otherwise preventing the Board from conducting its business.

T. Dormady (town resident) stated that everyone is looking at a 4% increase except some additional increases in the Transfer Station line. Dormady questioned the \$3,000.00 in the contractual line for Dog Control since the amount spent is not even close to \$3,000.00.

Supervisor Roder confirmed that these fees are for impoundment fees.

T. Dormady questioned why the Highway Superintendent's funding lines were in the General Fund and not the Highway Fund, and what longevity funds were.

Supervisor Roder explained that these account numbers are created at the State Comptroller's level and that the Highway Superintendent is an elected official, whereas the crew are highway employees hired by the Town. Longevity funds are written into the Highway Union Contract and we provide the same benefits in the union contract to the Highway Superintendent that we do the employees.

T. Dormady questioned why the street light line was at \$5,000 but are only projecting to use \$4,000, what the Youth Commission contractual line and Adult Recreation lines cover.

Supervisor Roder reported that the amount has been coming down since the Town switched to LEDs it was over \$7,000.00 and we have been gradually decreasing as we get a better understanding of the costs. The Youth Commission CE line is the Summer Youth Program and holiday events that are put on throughout the year Easter and Halloween. The Adult Rec. CE line covers the Trips that the Senior Citizens Group go on throughout the year.

T. Dormady expressed concerns with the Transfer Station equipment line, he reported being a substitute at the Transfer Station and not having any equipment to mow, sweep, or a blower to clear walk ways.

Supervisor Roder explained that he sees no issues in ordering supplies to help keep the Transfer Station cleaned up.

Council Clark reported that some of those funds will be going to a collection bin for electronics.

T. Dormady questioned the \$25,000.00 increase in Sales Tax Revenue and asks how that is projected.

Supervisor Roder shows a trend chart for the last few years indicating a consistent increase in Sale Tax Revenue and reported the current amount to be around \$391,000.00. Supervisor Roder anticipates one more check for this year which historically has been around \$100,000 or more.

T. Dormady asked about how Transfer Station revenue.

Supervisor Roder reported that this is a revenue account where permits, bags, any items paid for at the Transfer Station to dispose of.

T. Dormady asked about Per Capita and how it is calculated.

Supervisor Roder reported that this is based of population.

T. Dormady questioned the Mortgage Tax revenue line.

Supervisor Roder reported that this item is a guess, we never know what will happen. If sales in town are high or refinancing then we will see more, if they are down we will see less. Can never figure out the trend here.

T. Dormady asked about the other Youth Commission line item in revenues and asked what it was for.

Supervisor Roder explained it is revenue that the Town receives.

T. Dormady questioned what the Estimated Unexpanded Balance line was.

Supervisor Roder explained that this is money in the savings that the Town Board uses to help balance out the budget. He reported that the Town has not used any unexpended balance in many years.

T. Dormady asked about the Snow Removal contractual line and wanted to know what these funds were allocated for.

Supervisor Roder explains that this is for salt, sand, to fix plows, fuel, everything to maintain the roads in the winter.

T. Dormady questioned the 40.6% increase in the State Retirement line.

Supervisor Roder explained that this figure is dictated by the State.

T. Dormady asked why there was an increase in the general fund for the highway superintendent's health premiums but there isn't for the highway fund.

Supervisor Roder stated that he would have to look into that to make sure there was enough in that line item.

Town Clerk Hoffman explained that the figure included a 4th employee should the Highway Department hire a 4th person.

T. Dormady asked about the Insurance Recoveries.

Supervisor Roder explained that these funds were received from the insurance company from an accident that the Highway Superintendent was involved in and it was totaled. We spent \$100,000 on a body for the truck already and another \$74,000.00 tonight for the truck.

T. Dormady asked if the Fire District provided a reason for their increase this year, and asked if the ambulance is included with the fire district.

Supervisor Roder reported that they did not, that the Town does not have control over their funding. They have not increased it in a very long time.

Council T. Madden reported that the ambulance is part of the Fire Districts budget and they need a new one. Their budget went up for vote.

T. Dormady asked the board if they were comfortable with the budget or if they felt it was tight.

Supervisor Roder reported that the budget is tighter with more accurate figures. Historically the Unexpended Balance has never been used. The board has batted around increasing the taxes, but at this time no one feels like it is a good idea.

Highway Superintendent Goodermote asked if the board has looked into putting money in CDs or in an account where it could gain money, and that the board used to in the past.

Supervisor Roder reported that he will look into this option.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:36 PM

MOTION BY: MADDEN

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF: 5 AYE

0 NAY

****The next Regular Meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on Monday, November 18th, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.**

Stephanie M. Hoffman

Town Clerk