

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING  
September 30, 2005 - 5:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hundt at 5:05 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was conducted.

Emergency Exits were pointed out by the Supervisor.

Roll Call:

Councilman Devine	Present
Councilman Russell	Present
Councilwoman Doyle	Present
Councilman Carroll	Present
Supervisor Hundt	Present

ALLEN PROPERTY REFERENDUM

Supervisor Hundt read the resolution proposing a bond issue (maximum of \$800,000) for the purchase of the Allen Sand & Gravel property. The parcel is about 67 acres located between Route 22 and old Route 22 between the hamlets of Amenia and Wassaic. There are many potential uses for this property, among them: transfer station, wastewater treatment facility, town garage, salt shed, recreation facilities, senior citizen center, and so on. The term of the bond issue would be 20 years since that is considered the "usable life" of the facilities that are proposed for the site. Although it is not required by law, the decision to float the bond would be put before the voters as a referendum item on the November 8 ballot.

Councilman Carroll questioned why the town was preparing the contract of sale since that is usually done by the seller. Councilwoman Doyle explained that the conditions in the contract are important to the Town, so it makes sense that the Town prepare the contract. Supervisor Hundt further mentioned that the Allen's did not want to meet with the town in negotiations without a contract.

RESOLUTION # 29 OF 2005: REFERENDUM FOR BOND ISSUE FOR ALLEN PROPERTY PURCHASE

MOTION: S/Hundt  
SECOND: C/Russell  
ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - NO C/Devine - NO  
C/Doyle - AYE C/Russell - AYE  
S/Hundt - AYE  
MOTION CARRIED 3 to 2.

SNOW REMOVAL

Supervisor Hundt mentioned that it is time to advertise for the bids for snow removal. The specifications will be the same as last year and can be picked up in the Town Clerk office.

AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR SNOW REMOVAL BIDS  
MOTION: S/Hundt

SECOND: C/Carroll  
ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - AYE C/Devine - AYE  
C/Doyle - AYE C/Russell - AYE  
S/Hundt - AYE  
MOTION CARRIED 5 to 0.

#### WELL BIDS

Supervisor Hundt announced that all the bids were in for the drilling of the new town well, according to Gary Bonds.

#### 2006 BUDGET REVIEW

Budget Director Rae Dechille said that she had prepared the "Tentative Budget" which is due to be filed with the Town Clerk by Monday October 3. The Tentative Budget is the "wish list" of all departmental requests amended according to the last budget review meeting. Before the budget is presented at a public hearing, meetings will be held with most town departments to discuss in detail their requests. If these meetings involve only one or two Town Board members (fewer than a quorum) then the meetings are not subject to the open meetings law and the public need not be involved.

According to the Tentative Budget, the General Fund would increase about 8% over last year, but this could hopefully be reduced to 6%. One item that will come out of the Tentative Budget is the highway salt shed. However, the salt shed cannot be removed from the General Fund budget without a Town Board resolution creating a capital project for it.

#### BUDGET - TRI-WALL

Councilman Carroll questioned the Tri-Wall money which is now at about \$270,000. Rae explained that the money was being held in a separate account but that no capital project had been created.

#### BUDGET - SALT SHED GRANT

Councilman Devine reminded everyone that the salt shed grant is about to lapse and will be lost to the Town. Furthermore, the Town will have to repay approximately \$14,000 (of the \$58,000 grant) that was already spent.

#### BUDGET - EMT SERVICE

Robert Boyles asked if the tentative budget included money for paid EMT service. Supervisor Hundt said that a capital project fund was being considered and Rae suggested that tax money be put into an "ambulance fund" so the General Fund would not be affected. Councilman Devine agreed that this is something we should deal with and put money away for now. Responding to a question from audience member Wayne Euvrard, Rae said that money could be added to the Town Budget after tonight, as well as cut.

#### BUDGET - BOND ISSUE DOWN PAYMENT

Councilman Devine questioned if the down payment for the \$800,000 bond (probably 10%) needed to be included in the budget. To this Rae replied that the down payment is usually paid from the proceeds of the serial bond and, therefore, would not need to be included in the budget. If a sewer fund is established, there will be attorney fees, title search fees, and other ancillary costs.

#### BUDGET - SALARIES

Councilman Carroll pointed out that the last page of the budget with the salary figures was traditionally separated by elected and non-elected positions.

BUDGET - NEXT MEETING

The next budget meeting is set for Tuesday October 11 at 6:00. The goal is to adopt the budget at the November 17 Town Board meeting. The Tentative Budget will be available to the public at no charge.

BUDGET - GRANTS

Councilwoman Doyle asked how grants should be accounted for in the budget, for example, a \$3,000 grant that is expected in December after the budget has been adopted. If a small grant comes in, it can be included as revenue without modifying the budget. Alternatively, a budget modification could be done. If you have a good commitment for a grant, include it in the budget as revenue and also as an offsetting appropriation.

Councilman Carroll observed that the Public Access money in the budget does not include the \$4,000 Patrick Manning technology grant because the money was not yet committed. Councilwoman Doyle noted that the money is now committed. Rae Dechille cautioned against lumping all grant money into one account as it could cause problems differentiating among the various expenses, revenues, and interest earned.

BUDGET vs CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

In capital projects funds, revenues and expenses do not lapse at the end of the budget year. Interest earned can be used only for the original purpose of the fund.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was voted for unanimously. Meeting ended at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gail Hermosilla,  
Amenia Town Clerk

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Gail's home PC:\Town Clerk\minutes\2005-09-30.Special-Budget, referendum, snow.doc, 10/07/05