

Budget Public Hearing Minutes
November 16, 2015 at the Rockland Town Hall
Called to order by Chairman Cashman at 7:30 p.m.
Closed at 7:47 p.m.

The Clerk, Treasurer, and all Town Board members were present. Also present were Andrew Hanlon (Wrightstown Spirit), Rick Van Vonderen, Dorothy Cashman, Jim Paque, Bob Gerbers, Dave Stubenvoll and Karen Cashman.

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Clerk Charette verified that the public hearing was properly noticed.

A Power Point presentation and hard copies of the proposed income and expenditures for 2017 along with the actual income and expenditures through October 2016 were provided to electors. The Town Board held two meetings in October to work on this proposed budget. Chairman Cashman walked the electors through the presentation which demonstrated the proposed budget for 2017. The following are some of the points mentioned:

- 1) The Assessor Expense category will increase by 3% to reflect an increase in the Assessor's compensation.
- 2) The Clerk's Expense category is increasing by 1% to allow the Clerk to purchase new software.
- 3) The Hickory Ridge Drainage Improvement project is projected to be completed in the spring of 2017. The Town took out a loan in January 2016 for this project. Eleven monthly payments were made in 2016. Twelve monthly payments are projected to be paid in 2017 causing this expense category to go up by 9%.
- 4) The snowplowing and chip sealing line items under the Highway/Roads Expense category will increase slightly. Chairman Cashman informed the public that it was beneficial for the Town to contract with a private vendor in 2015 for snowplowing services. Brown County is not committing trucks to neighboring municipalities which means that these towns will have to wait for service.

Karen Cashman, 2563 STH ZZ, asked whether Carter Trucking and Excavating will replace a mailbox if it damages it. Chairman Cashman explained that, just like Brown County, Carter's will replace or repair a mailbox if it was one of their trucks that directly damaged it. If the snow coming off the truck plow caused the damage, Carter's will not repair or replace the mailbox.

Jim Paque, 5591 River Oaks Drive, asked whether Carter's will repair grass that has been damaged due to snowplowing. Chairman Cashman explained that this type of damage will not happen when the ground freezes prior to the first snow fall. Last year, the snow fell before the ground froze and Carter did repair some areas.

5) At the November 10, 2016, Brown County Joint Municipal Court meeting, members learned that the annual membership fee will increase to \$2,500.00 in 2017. In 2016, the fee was \$1,000.00. The court purchased a new computer system and no longer has reserves to cover the cost of the court.

6) The Town Board expense category is projected to increase by 10% if the Electors approve a \$1,000.00 increase to the Chairperson's annual salary.

7) The town hall maintenance line item is set at \$15,000 to replace an air conditioner, paint the interior walls, reseal the parking lot, and remodel the town hall office.

Jim Paque asked whether the \$15,000.00 was an estimate. Chairman Cashman stated "yes" and that if that full amount is not used it will return to the general fund.

8) The Proposed tax levy requested is \$ 477,489.00.

Chairman Cashman stated that the Town's value is \$196,865,100.00. Based upon the requested levy, the Town's mill rate would be approximately 2.4255 per \$1,000.00. A Power Point slide demonstrated how much that would be for a home valued at \$250,000. The slide also demonstrated what other levies of neighboring municipalities were for 2017.

The Power Point presentation also included Resolutions #2016-08 and #2016-09 that the electors would consider adopting at the Special Elector meeting immediately following the public hearing.

Public Input

None

Chairman Cashman closed the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

All minutes have been taken truthfully and honestly and to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Jann B. Charette,
Town Clerk

Minutes approved as written / with corrections (**strike one**) by the Town Board on Monday, December 5, 2016.

Dennis J. Cashman
Town Chairman