

TOWN BOARD  
Special Meeting  
October 3, 2016

A special meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on October 3, 2016 with the following members present:

Supervisor: Robert T. Wood  
Councilman: Michael Stolzer  
Councilman: Brett Holleran  
Councilwoman: Patricia Jacob  
Councilwoman: Patricia Riddell Kent  
Town Clerk: Cheryl L. Shackelton

Others present: Randy Mowers

**2017 TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION**

A special meeting was called to order for the purpose of presenting the 2017 tentative budget. Following is Supervisor Wood's 2017 budget message:

This budget year the tax cap limit is .6% as the rate of inflation is less than 2%. This is a reduction from last year's tax cap rate. The tax cap challenges all communities to improve the way services are provided and ensure that services are provided in the most cost effective way. This budget as presented continues the fiscally responsible path the town has been on. This budget is \$11,389 under the tax cap.

General Fund

This budget has no increase in the general fund levy. Non property tax revenues have been showing modest growth which will help. The Town Hall building is now 22 years old. This budget includes a new roof and a replacement boiler. Both will be funded with building reserve funds that we have saved over the years. Other highlights include a modest increase in wages for our employees, new equipment for the meeting room which will allow better presentations. We will continue to offer the town residents the services they expect.

Highway Fund

The highway budget includes the allowable growth factor of 1.0078% which keeps the tax rate the same as it has been. The cost of the equipment and tools that keep our town roads clear and safe continues to increase. Items to be replaced this year include: Replacement of a truck chassis, installing a plow wing and dump body on that chassis, rehabbing the old chassis and moving the water truck body to that chassis and the purchase of a new 4x4 pickup. We are currently budgeting an adequate amount to keep our equipment current and up to date. There is also a modest increase in the paving budget. While we have been able to keep up with road conditions we must continue to fund road repairs adequately. The highway department has begun to do much more work in house saving town tax payer's money.

Water & Sewer

Improved the metering in all of the sewer districts ensured that flows are accurately measured. This increased accuracy resulted in substantial increases in flow measurements over the last two years. This budget eliminates the reliance on fund balance to soften the blow of the increased costs to town sewer users.

#### Capital Projects

This budget includes the long anticipated Southside Water District capital project. Estimated at \$8.8 million we have been working on this project for eight years. Funding agencies include EFC, ESD, and others. Nearly half of the project will be funded with grants.

Supervisor Wood concluded saying this budget provides the services residents expect in an efficient and cost effective way.

Discussion: The Board discussed the replacement of the Town Hall roof and different possibilities such as a metal roof versus shingles. Councilman Stolzer expressed interest in exploring the potential to add a solar energy component to the replacement of the roof. The Board was in agreement that this would be a good time to utilize that opportunity. The Board also discussed a possible solar component for the highway garage. Councilman Holleran stated that he would like the town to start planning and saving for a new highway building.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Recreational Path – Councilwoman Jacob expressed her interest in pursuing a recreational path for biking and jogging that would run along Upper East Street and around the reservoir (and possibly through Wilber Park and Oneonta High School, as well). She said that in order to qualify for a grant the town would have to develop a plan and actually start the project. Supervisor Wood agreed that a path would be a great asset, but questioned if there would be a better area in the town. He added that he would like to work with the City of Oneonta on this endeavor. The Board also discussed a similar project for State Highway 23 Southside to run concurrently with the construction of the Southside Water District. Lamont Engineers is looking into grant funding for the Southside sidewalk project.

Councilman Holleran expressed interest in purchasing a “wrap” to let town residents know that we have a green vehicle.

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell-Kent to adjourn the meeting (3:35pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton  
Town Clerk