

Minutes

November 26, 2007: Town Board Minutes

Body:

A regular meeting of the Town Board
was held at the Town Hall on Nov. 26,
2007 at 7:00
PM (T-10)

Presiding: Supervisor Michael Shultis

Attending: Councilwoman Barbara Zell, Councilwoman Kate Hyman, Councilwoman
Janet Briggs, Councilman John Gill

Also present: Highway Supervisor Linda Cook and 71 members of the public and press.

RESOLUTION #2007-200:
MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER

Offered by Supervisor Shultis
Councilwoman Briggs

Seconded by

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the October minutes.

ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION #2007-201:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Offered by Councilwoman Briggs
Councilwoman Hyman

Seconded by

BE IT RESOLVED TO accept the Supervisor=s report.

ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION #2006-180:

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Offered by Councilman Shultis

Seconded by

Councilwoman Hyman

BE IT RESOLVED TO accept the Town Clerk=s report dated 11/5/2007.

ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION #2007-181:

CLAIMS AND VOUCHERS

Offered by Councilwoman Briggs
Councilwoman Zell

Seconded by

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Board accepts the audited vouchers listed on Warrant #07-11 dated 11/26/2006, in the total amount of \$ 416,666.20. Charged as follows:

Total General Fund: \$ 181,788.12

Total Highway Fund: \$98,437.54

Trust & Agency: \$ --- Lighting District: \$ 462.70

Capital Projects. \$135,977.79

ALL VOTED AYE

1. TOWN BOARD – OLD BUSINESS

- (A) West Hurley's "Project B" has been completed. The Highway Department has done some additional work to correct some problems.

2. TOWN BOARD - NEW BUSINESS

- (A) The survey and topography maps have been completed for the Rolling Meadows drainage project. The easements must still be obtained
- (B) The Catskill Watershed Corp. has watershed educational grants available to teachers and to non profit organizations located within the NYC Catskill/Delaware watershed. The grants are designed to increase awareness of the city's water system.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. Dean Kraus said that the town has a procurement policy in place for larger projects. He asked why the Highway Superintendent didn't request competitive bids for the paving job on Dughill Road..
- B. Marie Shultis asked why, after two public budget hearings, Councilman Gill increased the budget 12 %. Councilwoman Zell responded that she was unaware of the raised percentage and that there was no workshop meeting in which to discuss

this. Supervisor Shultis responded that the figures were presented at two public hearings and no Board member requested changes at any time since then.

C. Richard Carlson asked if the budget was a “done deal”. He said the adopted budget is a blatant mistake and the public does not want to pay for it.

D. Mike Paccione, CPA asked the Supervisor if it were possible to use Reserve Funds to lower the budget. He also asked that the Board adopt a lower operating budget, and that the departments only spend 92% of their budgeted funds.

E. RESOLUTION #2007-182: RE-[VOTE
ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Offered by Supervisor Shultis Seconded by
Councilwoman Hyman

WHEREAS, the Town of Hurley Town Board must adopt a budget by November 20th of each year as prescribed by Town Law, Article 8, Section 106 - 109, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hurley Town Board voted to reject the Preliminary 2008 Town Budget as motioned by Supervisor Shultis during last weeks Agenda Meeting, and

WHEREAS, an amended 2008 Budget was motioned by Councilman Gill and Adopted in a 3 to 1 vote, which included \$220,700 in increased spending without regard to property tax increases, and

WHEREAS, this amended and adopted 2008 Budget raises property taxes from the 2008 Preliminary Budget by more than 12%, and

WHEREAS, this egregious error needs to be reversed for the good of all Hurley residents,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED TO, rescind the vote for adoption of the 2008 Adopted Budget as amended by Councilman Gill on November 19, 2007, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED TO, adopt the 2008 Preliminary Budget as first proposed by Supervisor Shultis and which was presented to the Public during Two (2) Public Hearings on November 1st and November 2nd , 2007, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED TO, authorize Supervisor Shultis to sign a new authorization form to be sent to the Ulster County Treasurer's Office and the Ulster County Office of Real Property Tax Service to set the 2008 tax rates for the Town of Hurley.

DISCUSSION:

Councilman Gill said that there were two versions of the preliminary budget, that there was no workshop session and that he was unaware that there was a \$500,000 reserve available.

VOTE:

Supervisor Shultis voted
aye Councilwoman Hyman voted aye
Councilman Gill voted nay Councilwoman Zell
voted nay
Councilwoman Briggs voted nay The
resolution failed

**F. RESOLUTION #2007-183:
BUDGET**

VOTE ON NEW PROPOSED

Offered by Councilman Gill
Councilwoman Zell

Seconded by

WHEREAS, the Preliminary Budget was received 11 days after the NYS deadline without any Town Board input, and

WHEREAS this budget was changed without the knowledge or say of the Hurley Town Board and was then presented by the Supervisor of the Preliminary Budget Hearing on November 1, 2007 and November 2, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor never held the budget workshop meeting that was agreed to at said Public Hearing. The Supervisor withheld budgetary information from the Town Board. This behavior made discussions or contributions on the matter nonexistent, and

WHEREAS, an unexpected announcement was made by the Supervisor at the November 19th Agenda meeting that there exists a \$500,000 dollar surplus in the 2007 budget

THEREFORE, be it resolved to apply an additional \$175,000 of unexpended 2007 budget surplus to the 2008 Hurley Town Budget in order to lower the tax rate for Hurley residents in the 2008 calendar year, and

FURTHERMORE, the Town Clerk or her office is directed to forward this resolution the Ulster County Office of Real Property Tax no later than Tuesday, November 27th , 2007 at 10:00AM.

DISCUSSION:

Supervisor Shultis said the resolution was out of order because the resolution does not direct where to put the money. Kevin Salem said the three Board members who previously voted to raise the taxes refuse to lower the taxes for political reasons. Sue Carlson said to stop with the egos as to who is right and who is wrong. Nobody wants the 12% raise in the taxes. Do what is right for the community. Councilman Gill said that his new proposed tax increase would be 2.5%. Phil Sinagra asked the entire board to look at expenditures because he thought they were underestimated.. He also asked the Board to compromise between the two resolutions and do allocations at the Audit meeting. Dean Kraus said that people want their taxes lowered. He again asked why there was no bidding for the Dughill Road paving. Superintendent Cook said that Hurley uses contractors from the county competitive bid list. Wally

Cook asked the Board to please pass a resolution. Diana Cline asked Councilman Gill if he knew that his original resolution would raise the taxes 12%. Councilman Gill said that he did not. Kevin Salem asked that the Board recess for five minutes and work out a budget compromise

RESOLUTION #2007-184A:

VOTE TO RECESS

Offered by Supervisor Shultis
Councilwoman Briggs

Seconded by

BE IT RESOLVED to recess the Town Board meeting in order to work on the budget.

ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION #2007-184B:

VOTE TO REOPEN THE TOWN BOARD MTG.

Offered by Supervisor Shultis
Councilwoman Briggs

Seconded by

BE IT RESOLVED to reopen the Town Board meeting

ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION #2007-185:

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

Offered by Councilman Gill
Councilwoman Briggs

Seconded by

I am withdrawing my previous resolution [#2007- 183].

ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION

#2007-

186: VOTE TO AMEND THE 2008 BUDGET

Offered by Supervisor Shultis
Councilwoman Hyman

Seconded by

WHEREAS, the Town of Hurley Town Board realizes that an error was made in the adoption of the 2008 Budget,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED TO, amend the General Fund unexpended fund balance to \$215,115 and the Highway Fund unexpended fund balance to \$231,400 and decrease DA5112.2 to \$200,000, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED TO, authorize Supervisor Shultis to sign a new authorization form to be sent to the Ulster County Treasurer's Office and the Ulster County Office of Real Property Tax Service to set the 2008 tax rates for the Town of Hurley

ADOPTED: November 26, 2007

VOTE: Supervisor Michael Shultis voted aye

Councilwoman Kate Hyman voted aye

Councilman John Gill voted aye

Councilwoman Janet Briggs voted aye

Councilwoman Barbara Zell voted aye

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Shultis, seconded by Councilwoman Briggs and all voted aye.

Karin Horner, Town Clerk