

**Town of Hamilton Budget Meeting Minutes  
2015 Budget and Fire District Public Hearings  
Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm  
Held at the Hamilton Public Library, 13 Broad Street, Hamilton, NY**

**Present:** Eve Ann Shwartz, Peter Darby, Chris Rossi, Suzanne Collins, Sue Reymers, Brynley Wilcox, Michelle Myrto **Absent:** David Holcomb

**Others Present:** Sam Cooper, Bob Cornell, Willard Fuller, Hilary Virgil, Gair Meres

Supervisor Shwartz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The legal notices for the budget hearing and both fire contracts were published in the Oneida Daily Dispatch, Newline in Mid-York Weekly, Town Website and Town Office.

**RESOLUTION 2015-125: To Move 2016 Tentative Budget to Preliminary Budget**

On a motion of Councilmember Peter Darby, seconded by Councilmember Chris Rossi, the following resolution was ADOPTED: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Resolved that the 2016 Tentative Budget be moved to Preliminary Budget.

**PUBLIC HEARING- Fire Protection Contracts for Village of Hamilton**

On a motion of Councilmember Chris Rossi, seconded by Suzanne Collins the public hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m.

Supervisor Shwartz asked three times if anyone would like to speak. With no one wishing to speak, on a motion of Councilmember Suzanne Collins, seconded by Peter Darby the public hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING- Fire Protection Contracts for Village of Earlville**

On a motion of Councilmember Suzanne Collins, seconded by Chris Rossi the public hearing was opened at 7:06 p.m.

Supervisor Shwartz asked three times if anyone would like to speak. With no one wishing to speak, on a motion of Councilmember Peter Darby, seconded by Chris Rossi the public hearing was closed at 7:07 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING- 2016 Preliminary Budget**

On a motion of Councilmember Chris Rossi, seconded by Suzanne Collins the public hearing was opened at 7:07 p.m.

Councilmember Darby reviewed the progressions of the 2016 Budget. There are 6 different tentative budgets that were shown. There were two major changes to revenue

and expenses to this budget. The support to SOMAC and the way we receive sales tax from Madison County. The County has withheld a 3<sup>rd</sup> of the sales tax which is applied to the County tax for the town outside taxpayers. The budget that the Town is looking at is Budget #6. The Town will be contracting with the Bookkeeper. The change in sales tax method and the contribution from Colgate and Lebanon for the ambulance will be a tax levy increase of 7.14%. The salary increase and the short fall with SOMAC budget will go from \$234,000 to \$250,000. The Town increased the support for the libraries and support for the Earlville Food Cupboard.

There was discussion about SOMAC and Colgate's contribution to the ambulance. Why they have changed the amount they were contributing. Waiting for Town of Lebanon to finalize their budget and what they will contribute to SOMAC. SOMAC increased their wages to compete with other ambulance services. There may be potential future costs because retirement is not offered as of right now. There are benefits, but only one person takes them. There is no money set aside for capital equipment plan in this budget that SOMAC has provided. The PCD is helping out by looking for grant money. In a rural area there are not enough calls to generate revenue to cover the cost of full time ambulance service.

Supervisor Shwartz says she is going to Wampsville Friday to vote on a Consultant to work with the County to do a 6-9 month study of all the emergency services for the County. The study will compare Madison County to other Counties and show their strengths and weaknesses.

Councilmember Darby says that the money for SOMAC will sit in the Town Bank and SOMAC will have to come to the Town to justify why they need the money. The Town budget for SOMAC is \$187,500 which includes the Town of Lebanon. There was discussion on what the budget would be without SOMAC. Councilmember Darby began reviewing the 2016 Preliminary Budget. The presentation included information on Colgate's gift, which was originally applied to the A side (Town wide) of the budget using it for snow removal and equipment. The sales tax goes to the B side (Town outside) and then, Colgate money was moved to the B side that allowed moving the snow removal and equipment, which made a big change to the budget. The wages were moved for the mechanic to the A side. Tax rate increase for Town outside and Town wide are the same. Councilmember Darby went down through the budget of expenses and revenues. There was review of the tax rate calculator. The summary page of the Fund balance was discussed and that two major projects will be using part of the Fund

balance to be funded (salt storage building and 38 Milford Street). There is a promise of \$150,000 in grant money to us. None of the Fund Balance is being used to help reduce the tax rate.

Several members of the audience asked questions during the presentation. Supervisor Shwartz asked if anyone else wished to speak. With all persons desiring to be heard, on a motion of Councilmember Peter Darby, seconded by Chris Rossi the public hearing was closed at 8:26 p.m.

The budget will be approved next Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office, 16 Broad Street, Hamilton.

Supervisor Shwartz spoke that they tax the Town on what it needs to operate on and the Fund Balance is for special projects or emergencies. If we didn't have that money in the Fund Balance we would have to borrow money.

**RESOLUTION 2015-126: To Move 2016 Preliminary Budget to 2016 Proposed Budget**

On a motion of Councilmember Sue Collins, seconded by Councilmember Chris Rossi, the following resolution was ADOPTED: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Resolved that the 2016 Preliminary Budget be moved to Proposed Budget.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Chris Rossi, seconded by Councilmember Peter Darby, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Michelle Myrto  
Town Deputy Clerk