

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2009 AT 6:00 PM AT TOWN HALL,
ONE OVEROCKER ROAD, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK**

PRESENT: Supervisor Myers
Councilman Baisley
Councilman Seminara
Councilman Conte
Councilman Cifone
Town Attorney Mahar
Town Clerk Miller
Deputy Town Clerk Salvatore

ABSENT: Councilman Krakower
Councilman Tancredi

***NOTE:** Attachments pertaining to a particular Town Board Meeting will be found after the minutes of that meeting, which are kept in the official minute books, held in Town Clerk's Office.

Public comments made during a Board Meeting may be heard on the audiotape of that particular meeting, which is kept in the Town Clerk's Office

{ } designates corrections

6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE THE FLAG

Supervisor Myers: First item on our agenda this evening is to continue the Public Hearing we started last week on the Budget. I make a motion to reopen the public hearing: Supervisor Myers/M. Cifone

CARRIED: 5-0

Bob Casement: I have a list of things here. Contracted services, page 1, it was in the budget for last year for \$37,000, now it is \$62,000. What does that include?

James Wojtowicz, Town Comptroller: There is a Maintenance fee for the landfill each year, is one part and the other part is for the audit who audit each year.

Bob Casement: What is longevity?

Councilman Baisley: That is what the employees get for the amount of years employed here. It's the amount of years under the Union contracts and steps. All the employees in the Union get longevity. They are listed on the "Stick out page".

Bob Casement: Page 2 – Postage. \$15,000. That seems kind of high.

James Wojtowicz: That's the Court and they do mail out the notices to collect revenue, like fines, etc., and they have to pay the going rate now a days, which is 44 cents each.

Bob Casement: Like the Assessor's postage. It went from \$2800 to \$8500.

Supervisor Myers: Because they have to do a Townwide mailing again to every one of the property owners.

Councilman Seminara: It's not unusual. That's where she tells everyone what their assessment is and whether it changed or not.

Town Attorney Mahar: In addition, we have a Special District Budget and we have a public hearing on the Special that we had in October.

Supervisor Myers: So, we have to send postcards for that. That's every three years, and this is the year.

Councilman Seminara: So, that's normal business then.

Bob Casement: Ok, Page 14, Management Services of \$90,000, what is that?

Councilman Baisley: That is the contract that manages Central Garage for Bill Galbraith. We approved this last week with no increases.

James Wojtowicz: There are three employees, Mr. Casement, and Mr. Galbraith is the Manager and that includes all the vehicles in Town and they are all in good running order, I believe.

Bob Casement: The gas and oil went from \$5,000 down to \$480. Why such a decrease?

Councilman Baisley: We were looking at that, also. We don't understand it either. He spent \$1,700 this year, but, we assumed he can make it up in his materials and supplies, so we didn't make that big of an issue out of it. He may have a stock pile on some from buying it ahead of time.

Bob Casement: Page 24. The Telephone went from \$250 to \$720.

Town Comptroller: That's the Recreation Department. The \$720 is for two cell phones. We got a good deal where we pay \$30 a month for the cell phones and Tom has one and his assistant has one.

Councilman Baisley: We don't have to rent any radios any more, they have the cell phones instead.

Bob Casement: Ok, Page 27, uniforms went from \$600 to \$1,300. When this year you only spend \$144.

Councilman Baisley: He had left overs from other years and so didn't have to buy as many this year.

Bob Casement: Adult Recreation went from \$20 to \$27 when you only spend \$14 this year, Page 36.

Town Comptroller: Part-time labor, Mr. Casement, you are questioning?

Bob Casement: Yes.

Tom Meyering, Recreation: Sir, that's anticipating going from a three day week senior center, to a five day week senior center.

Supervisor Myers: Also, Mr. Casement, where it says the spent part, the 14, that's only through September, that's not through the end of the year.

Bob Casement: Ok, Police Department, the Traffic control from \$5,000 to almost \$30,000.

Councilman Baisley: That's for upgrading some of the computer equipment on the traffic machines. I think its 15 traffic lights that we anticipate needing work on some of them. The mice and things are getting into them and some upgrade work needs to be done on that.

Supervisor Myers: Also, some of the worst roads need to get remarked.

Bob Casement: Ok, I also noticed that postage went from \$2,000 to \$2,400 when year to date its only \$300, page 50.

Police Chief Mauro: We put in for extra postage because we are experiencing costs for returning electronic equipment, computer and photographic equipment in the car or motor vehicles. Sometimes we can't anticipate the frequency of those repairs. The manufacturers or retailers will only permit it to be shipped via a certain company and some of that equipment has to be shipped out to the west coast or central United States and some comes from Canada and so we have experienced an increase in the cost of postage for returning equipment. We also send out a large volume of mail for warrants and notices and things of that nature responding to Freedom

Of Information requests, accident and insurance company requests, documents to the State and Federal FBI agencies.

Bob Casement: Also, contracted services, what is that? Page 50

Police Chief Mauro: In this budget, I've assumed the budget for the Animal Control Officer. That's part of it and we also had to contract services out for all our technology and related equipment. We have a private vendor for that.

Bob Casement: Page 86. Contracted services – computer went from \$20,000 to \$60,000 and year to date is \$9,000.

Supervisor Myers: That's really for repairing anything that they need to fix in the Water Department. He's trying to upgrade some stuff and trying to have enough money in case of a real problem like the water line on Davis Avenue, that we have the money to fix it on hand because that one cost us something like \$80,000 for a little piece of line. It's very expensive.

Bob Casement: Also, under that, fuel oil, going from \$12,000 to \$10,000 but, year to date is only \$3,000.

Councilman Baisley: That's one of the lines we are looking to decrease, also.

Bob Casement: Ok, Repair and maintenance of lines from \$50,000 to \$80,000 and year to date is \$12,000.

Supervisor Myers: That's the water lines that we need to have in there to fix, like when Davis Avenue went, it was an old asbestos pipe, which we have a lot of asbestos pipes in the ground and they are incredibly expensive to fix.

Bob Casement: I noticed the Highway Department is in there for motor vehicles for \$266,000.

Supervisor Myers: It's the yearly lease rate for all the vehicles they have.

Bob Casement: I also wanted to suggest a moratorium on fixing the roads for a year because they are now in pretty good condition. Weren't you scheduling a lot of roads for this coming year?

Supervisor Myers: I don't think we are intending to bond any more for roads at this time.

Councilman Seminara: Not yet, there has been no authorization. We pretty much have exhausted all the previous bond money. We used it all up and on schedule. We generally do our bonding on a two year cycles. We've done about \$22 million worth of work and we got an awful lot of roads done and that's good, however, in 8 years, other roads have gotten a little bit worse, so we are not quite half way of having that finished. I think that's something the Board has to weigh.

Bob Casement: I don't mean to discontinue the thing, I just thought to put it over a couple years due to the economy at this time. Overall, I believe the Finance Committee is doing a very good job.

Sue Salem: Mr. Casement covered quite a few things I was looking at, there has been quite a few big jumps in a lot of things in the budget, but, what has bothered me most is the fact that the Health Insurance and the Insurances have gone ridiculously high. Who do we buy our insurance from? There must be some way to cut back on that. Its 20 Grand for insurance, I don't get that!

Supervisor Myers: We found out today, just today, that MVP, which is our main carrier, the rates are going up 10 ½% .

Sue Salem: Can't you get someone else?

Supervisor Myers: Well, our carrier is working on negotiating some changes in the contract and NYS, in its infinite wisdom, put on a 4% surcharge on all medical insurance and passing it to the insurance company, and this is to offset the budget deficit. They did this last March or April,

and they granted the insurance companies the ability to pass that on to the customer. We don't know if that 10 ½% includes the 4% surcharge or not yet. They were still trying to clarify that today. It truly is outrageous!

Councilman Baisley: What we did last year was, we changed some of the co-pays, and it didn't save a lot, but saved us \$100,000. This year we are looking at the same package and there are different packages coming back. We are working with the carrier to bring down the insurance. We're looking at eliminating some of the vehicles downstairs and car pool the vehicles to get some of the vehicles off the insurance. That should save us another decent chunk of money. We may have some preliminary numbers back for us soon.

Supervisor Myers: The Unions have been very good about working with us to change the insurances and packages for the employees to benefit the Town. Both Unions sat down with us last year and increased the co-pays, etc.

Sue Salem: What are we going to do when the residents come in next year and get a reduction in their taxes because the values have all gone down? We are going to lose tax money there.

Councilman Seminara: There is a fixed number of dollars going to be collected basically through taxes in the budget, so, when the assessment goes down again, that's set the prior year, and it will impact the next year.

Nancy Zverev: I would like to thank Attorney Tom Mahar for his letter. It actually made my day. I will follow through. There is a lot of research to do before I write a formal letter to Saland and Miller although I don't envision much support from them. The one thing I did want to mention where you are bringing up how we can't do it through a referendum, I never intended it as a referendum. If I, by getting a few signatures, can get on Row G of the ballot on a general election, I would think we could have Row A, B and C for the various budgets and I didn't see it as a financial thing, I don't want to do it as a referendum. It's a one shot deal once a year. I honestly can see, in general, where any politician would want the people to determine the amount of money they want to spend for their particular services and elect at the same election those people to administer that money, basically. But, I do believe there is quite a grass root movement that is not really happy with the way the State, for that matter, basically, everything is copped down and you just pay.

Councilman Seminara: When the State makes decisions, there are various regions, for instance, New York City has so much power in the Assembly and the State. There are things that we would like to do that wouldn't even affect them, but we can't get it on the agenda because they don't care. Also, there are some competing interests that if it's good for one area, it's bad for another, so it's very difficult for someone from the suburbs or the smaller areas of the State of New York to affect the changes that we would need to help us in this community. Look at the MTA Tax, right there is an example. So, we have a disadvantage in that regard. So, it's very difficult. It's not that the people who represent you don't care, it's the people who's interests are opposite of yours don't let it happen. (He assured everyone that the Town is going to do every thing to try and keep the taxes down, because the Town Board pays the same taxes and "We would like to lower our taxes as much as you would like us to lower yours.")

Motion made to close the public hearing and resume the rules: Supervisor Myers/M. Cifone

CARRIED: 5-0

11:13-SM 1 PUBLIC HEARING

Close Public Hearing On Town Budget
For the Fiscal Year Of 2010

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Poughkeepsie adopted its Preliminary Budget for the year 2009 on October 21, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board set November 4, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, Town of Poughkeepsie, One Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY as and for the date of the public hearing on said Preliminary Budget; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was held on November 4, 2009 at 7:00 PM and on November 13, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall of the Town of Poughkeepsie, One Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Poughkeepsie does hereby close the public hearing in regard to the adoption of the Preliminary Budget, as amended, as the Town of Poughkeepsie Budget for the year 2010.

SO MOVED: J. Baisley/J. Conte

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Councilmen Baisley, Seminara, Conte, Cifone and Supervisor Myers.
Nays: None CARRIED: 5-0

11:13-SM 2 AMENDMENTS Supervisor's 2010 Budget

WITHDRAWN FROM AGENDA

11:13-SM 3 ADOPTION Preliminary Budget As Amended As
2010 Town Budget

WITHDRAWN FROM AGENDA

11:13-SM 4 REAFFIRM Vote To Authorize Supervisor To
Execute Eight (8) Master Standard
Federal Aid Highway & Marchiselli Aid
Project Agreement For Creek Road

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Poughkeepsie does hereby readopt and reaffirm its vote in regard to authorizing the Supervisor to execute the eight (8) Master Standard Federal Aid Highway and Marchiselli Aid Projects Agreement to include the construction and construction inspection for a project identified as PIN 8760.62 Creek Road: City of Poughkeepsie Line to Cottage Road, Town of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County Stimulus Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Resolution was and is adopted by a roll call vote.

SO MOVED: Supervisor Myers/J. Conte

Councilman Seminara: This is a very inefficient way of spending money, the wrong level of government is putting the money forward and creating a lot more requirements. I think a lot more money goes into creating employment regarding paperwork rather than roads and this is very ineffective and inefficient.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Councilmen Baisley, Conte, Cifone and Supervisor Myers.
Nays: Councilman Seminara CARRIED: 4-1

11:13-SM 5 PROCLAMATION Arlington Fire District

PROCLAMATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Poughkeepsie does hereby congratulate the Arlington Fire District for being honored by Upsilon Tau Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. as the Outstanding organization of the Year, which award will be presented at

the annual awards dinner held Friday, November 13, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the American Bounty of the Culinary Institute of America.

DATED: November 9, 2009
Poughkeepsie, NY

PATRICIA MYERS, Supervisor
On behalf of the Town Board of
The Town of Poughkeepsie

Supervisor Myers: The only other business we have on the agenda this evening is a complaint that has been filed against A-1 Taxi and we will refer it to the Legal Department.

REFERRED TO LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Motion made to close the meeting: Supervisor Myers/M. Cifone

CARRIED: 5-0

MEETING CLOSED AT 6:40 PM

SJM:lkm