

Supervisor Walters calls the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**TOWN BOARD MEMBERS**

|          |                       |              |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| PRESENT: | Steven J. Walters     | Supervisor   |
|          | D. Mark Cavalcoli     | Councilman   |
|          | Kathleen C. Hochul    | Councilwoman |
|          | Joan A. Kesner        | Councilwoman |
|          | Thomas Quatroche, Jr. | Councilman   |

OTHERS PRESENT: Catherine Rybczynski, Town Clerk  
Joseph Coggins, Police Chief; James Spute, Finance Director; Christopher Hull, Director of Community Development; A. Daniel Shea, Police Captain; James Connolly, Highway Superintendent; Richard Boehm, Deputy Town Attorney

**1.**

On a motion of Councilman Cavalcoli, seconded by Councilwoman Hochul, the following resolution was

|         |      |   |   |
|---------|------|---|---|
| ADOPTED | Ayes | 5 | Walters, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche |
|         | Noes | 0 |   |

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorize the Recreation Department to issue an alcohol waiver for the following October 2006 Taylor Road rentals:

October 16, 2006

**2.**

On a motion of Councilman Quatroche, seconded by Councilwoman Kesner, the following resolution was

|         |      |   |   |
|---------|------|---|---|
| ADOPTED | Ayes | 5 | Walters, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche |
|         | Noes | 0 |   |

**WHEREAS**, bids were received on August 28, 2006 for One (1) 2006 Multipurpose Excavator, and

**WHEREAS**, the sole bidder was Vantage Equipment L.L.C. at a price of \$211,646.00.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town accept the bid from Vantage Equipment L.L.C. And funds are available in Account No. H-26 5130.0201.

**3.**

On a motion of Councilwoman Kesner, seconded by Councilman Cavalcoli, the following resolution was

ADOPTED                   Ayes   5           Walters, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche  
                                  Noes   0

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hamburg Town Board authorize the transfer of Community Development Block Grant funds between the following accounts for the following reasons:

- 1)     To remain in compliance with HUD regulations pertaining to the maximum of 1.5 grant years of funding on hand.
- 2)     To initiate funding for the Senior Technology Center Construction project:

From:           CD 28 8668.351; Housing Rehabilitation in the amount of \$127,676.00

To:             CD 28 8662.359 Senior Technology Center Construction.

From:           CD 29 8662.353; Economic Development in the amount of \$75,000.00

To:             CD 29 8662.359 Senior Technology Center Construction.

Councilwoman Kesner explains that this is a new project that will be at the Sowles Road site and they are partnering with People Inc. They will be providing 20 computers for seniors to e-mail their children or pay bills on line.

**4.**

On a motion of Councilwoman Hochul, seconded by Councilwoman Kesner the following resolution was

ADOPTED                   Ayes   5           Walters, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche  
                                  Noes   0

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hold a public hearing on the proposed 2007 budget on October 16, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Hochul comments that there has been considerable interest in the proposed budget and members of the Town Board thought it was prudent to give the opportunity for members of the public to have greater input into the process.

**5.**

On a motion of Supervisor Walters, Seconded by Councilman Quatroche, the following resolution was

ADOPTED                      Ayes    5            Walters, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche  
     Noes    0

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approve the Audit of Cash Disbursements as follows:

VOUCHER #'S

OPERATING FUND:

|            |              |               |
|------------|--------------|---------------|
| BATCH #140 | \$750,000.00 | 14258         |
| BATCH #141 | \$ 37,422.23 | 14295 - 14355 |
| BATCH #142 | \$ 58,981.15 | 14356 - 14358 |
| BATCH #143 | \$671,679.35 | UNPROCESSED   |

TOTAL OPERATING FUND DISBURSEMENTS:                      \$1,518,082.73

TRUST & AGENCY:

TOTAL TRUST & AGENCY DISBURSEMENTS:                      \$ 871,461.76

PAYROLL:

TOTAL PAYROLL DISBURSEMENTS:    \$            0.00

TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS SUBMITTED FOR AUDIT: \$2,389,544.49

Mr. Connolly, Highway Superintendent, reports that he had the consultant do a study on the Blasdell bridges and they will try and fix Helen and Kent Street bridges before winter. They will be sending out the requests for proposals soon. The Labelle Street bridge is a lot more complicated and cannot be completed before winter.

The following is points and concerns, about the 2007 Budget, that each Board Member

commented on:

Councilman Quatroche comments:

1. The deficit term is misleading to the public. The Supervisor agrees that the deficit should be called a gap because by law any municipality cannot have a deficit.
2. The fund balance has never been a concern of our auditors and it exists for a “rainy day” which did happen in 2002 when the stock market took a dip because of 9-11 and we were faced with a large bill from New York State Retirement. The Town has an excellent bond rating which is determined by how much cash is available, how you use your fund balance and your debt ratio. If there was a problem, then Wall Street would not have given us an excellent bond rating.
3. The Town Board, Finance Director and Department Heads should have been consulted when putting together the budget because there is a lot of experience that could have been obtained from them. This has always been a professionally run Town. In the past, even with mixed administrations, they have put politics aside to work on the budget. They have reduced operating accounts to lower than what they were in 1994, they have less employees than they did in 1997, they have had layoffs and made tough decisions to adjust to the economic situation and every year they have had to do that.
4. He will not jeopardize public safety for the sake of a budget increase. There are other areas within the budget that can be cut.
5. He is not willing to play guinea pig with our residents lives. When the County dispatch is tried and proved and in a better fiscal position maybe they could consider it. This is not the time. There are other areas within the budget that can be reduced.

Supervisor Walters comments:

1. He asked the Town Board, at the end of July, to preliminarily accept the County’s offer to turn our Dispatch over to the County so that they could hold public informational meetings and at that point they responded they weren’t ready to make that decision. He has been waiting since then for a response.
2. He informed the Board that the fund balance was low.
3. The revenues coming in are lower than the amount that the Town is spending.
4. There is still a gap between what the Town has in fund balance and what they need to spend. The gap needs to be closed.

5. The money that we receive in December from the County will go into next years budget, this budget will already be finalized at that point.
6. He wishes they would have given the County a chance to make their presentation, however, the County would have needed a commitment before they would invest the time necessary to do that.
7. He feels that the County would continue the level of service, for the Dispatch, that the Town provides now.
8. He did speak with the Director of Senior Services and asked for them to make a 5% cut, which could be a combination of cuts and increased revenues.
9. He stands by his statement that the Town is in worse shape than the Town Board is making it out to be.

Councilman Cavalcoli comments:

1. It was indicated that the Town is in a serious fiscal crisis, which is not the case. The Town was hit with a bill from the State for \$1.6 million dollars, over two years, and rather than bond that money they felt it was prudent, based on advice from Mr. Spute and State Audit and Control, to draw down the fund balance. They planned on taking the fund balance down, it is still within what State Audit and Control recommends.
2. They should not even be discussing turning dispatch over to the County. Based on what he has heard from the taxpayers, the Village of Blasdell, the Village of Hamburg, the Town of Eden, all the fire companies and the PBA. There has never been a single issue, in the twenty years he has been in office, that so many people have felt so strongly about.
3. In the budget, the revenue for the Adult Day Care was increased by \$80,000. In order to do that they would have to raise the fees so high at they wouldn't have anyone coming in there. They also would have to increase the amount of clients, but to do that they would have to increase staff. This is unrealistic. The entire Town Board is concerned about how much it costs to run that department, however, this is where the cooperation should have come in. They should have sat down before the budget was presented to find other ways to lower the cost or increase revenues.

Councilwoman Hochul comments:

1. They are at mid-year and the fund balance will be replenished by December 31<sup>st</sup>. One fund will receive the mortgage tax money and another will receive sales tax with unanticipated revenue because the Legislature is sending additional money from the sales tax.
2. The Town Board was willing to give assistance, they are not Amherst, and they are proud of that. She was sure that when they reached out to him over the past months that he, in turn, would have asked them for help to come up with a bipartisan budget that they could all live with. They need to have a working relationship for the good of the taxpayers. Every single year they have been told that things are tough, she has been told that for 12 years, and every year they have worked together to come up with a responsible budget.
3. She is against turning Dispatch over to the County and doesn't agree that it would be as safe as it is now. If this was put to a vote people would pay \$40.00 for the peace of mind that their call will be answered immediately, that they will get a quicker response time and someone will know where their street is located.
4. They need to clear the public perception that Hamburg is in serious financial trouble because that is not true. The Supervisor needs to leave politics at the door and work with the other four members of the Town Board. If the Supervisor thinks they are in such bad shape then put the budget in the capable hands of the other four Board Members that have the experience and integrity to do it right. They will show him a budget that is not 60%, or even 20% and will not compromise public safety.

Councilwoman Kesner comments:

1. They gave the Supervisor an answer, they disagreed with his idea to turn Dispatch over to the County. They pointed out to him that every volunteer fire company, every taxpayer group and every citizen group in the Town has gone on record that they want Dispatch to remain in Hamburg. The County is under a Control Board and who knows if they would even allow or approve it at this time.
2. The cost for public safety is \$40.00 per year per household and our citizens are willing to pay for their safety.
3. The Supervisor compared turning Dispatch over to the County to her bringing Rural Metro into Hamburg, there is no comparison. They had emergency calls that took 40 to 50 minutes to be answered and the objective of this project was to make sure the calls were answered in 3 - 6 minutes. This program was implemented to save lives.

6.

On a motion of Supervisor Walters, seconded by Councilman Quatroche, the following

resolution was

ADOPTED           Ayes 5       Walters, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche  
                      Noes 0

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board move into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

7.

On a motion of Supervisor Walters, seconded by Councilman Quatroche, the following resolution was

ADOPTED           Ayes 5       Walters, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche  
                      Noes 0

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board close Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

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Catherine Rybczynski, Town Clerk