

Meeting No. 20
Budget Hearing
November 3, 1997
Hamburg Town Board
S-6100 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, New York 14075

Supervisor Hoak calls the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:	Patrick H. Hoak	Supervisor
	D. Mark Cavalcoli	Councilman
	Kathleen C. Hochul	Councilwoman
	Joan A. Kesner	Councilwoman
	Thomas Quatroche, Jr.	Councilman

Also Present:	George Danyluk	Town Clerk
	James Spute	Director of Finance
	Robert Brown	Senior Account Clerk
	James Connolly	Highway Superintendent

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Information on Fire Exits was provided.

I.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Engineer's report on the acceptance of the SAVAGE SUBDIVISION work done under Public Improvement Permit No. 605 be received and accepted, and that the Supervisor is authorized to sign the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution becomes effective on the day the report is signed by the Supervisor.

Moved: Cavalcoli	Seconded: Kesner
Roll Call:	Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche
	Noes: None
	Carried

II.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Engineer's report on the acceptance of the OLD LAKEVIEW SUBDIVISION work done under Public Improvement Permit Nos. 604 & 606 be received and accepted, and that the Supervisor is authorized to sign the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution becomes effective on the day the report is signed by the Supervisor.

Moved: Cavalcoli	Seconded: Hochul
Roll Call:	Ayes: Noes, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche
	Noes: None
	Carried

III.

WHEREAS, during the construction of Contract No. 2 of the Town of Hamburg Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project being conducted within Town sewer districts which are tributary to the Village of Blasdell treatment facility, it was necessary to perform additional work which was not part of the original contract requirements for this project. This work was due to partially collapsed structural conditions within four sections of the existing sewer system which are designated to be internally lined under the contract. It was therefore necessary to excavate and perform point repairs at the four locations, prior to the lining being performed. This resulted in a negotiated increased cost of \$4,000 for each of the four repairs, for the additional labor, equipment, and materials required for this work; and

WHEREAS, due to the additional time needed for the point repairs, as well as delays associated with wet weather conditions, it was necessary to extend the contract completion date to November 3, 1997; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm Pirnie Engineers and the Town Engineer have reviewed these change order requests, determined them to be fair and reasonable for the work involved, and recommend that they be approved by the Town Board,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to sign Change Order Nos. 1 and 2 for this project, approving a total increase of \$16,000 and time extension until November 3, 1997. This adjusts the total contract amount of New Hope Pipe Liners, Inc. To \$252,703.50. Funds for 85% of this increase are available from the previously granted State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act funding for this project, with the remaining 15% to be from the Town sewer districts within which the work is being performed.

Moved: Cavalcoli
Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche
Noes: None
Carried

Seconded: Quatroche

IV.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hamburg Building Board be authorized to advertise for the Master Plumbers License/Site Utility Contractor License and the Journeyman Plumbers License examination. The examination is scheduled to be given on Tuesday, December 2, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. local time.

The legal notice advertising the examination will be published in the Front Page and The Sun on November 5, 1997 and November 6, 1997, respectively.

Moved: Hochul
Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche
Noes: None
Carried

Seconded: Kesner

V.

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

OPERATING FUND:

BATCH #132	\$700,000.00
BATCH #133	\$169,366.95 unprocessed
PRTRN # 22	\$441,480.39

TOTAL OPERATING FUND DISBURSEMENTS: \$1,310,847.34

TRUST & AGENCY:

BATCH #53	\$ 94,803.19
BATCH #54	\$362,508.55

TOTAL TRUST & AGENCY DISBURSEMENTS: \$ 457,311.75

CAPITAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS:

TOTAL CAPITAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS: \$ 0.00

PAYROLL:

PR # 22	\$410,898.47
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TOTAL PAYROLL DISBURSEMENTS: \$ 410,898.47

PETTY CASH:

TOTAL PETTY CASH DISBURSEMENTS: \$ 0.00

TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS SUBMITTED FOR AUDIT: \$2,179,057.55

Moved: Hoak

Seconded: Quatroche

Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche

Noes: None

Carried

George Danyluk, Town Clerk, reads the following notice as published in the Hamburg Sun and the Front Page:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the preliminary budget of the Town of Hamburg for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 1998, has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, S-6100 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, New York, where it is available for inspection by any interested person, at reasonable hours.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Hamburg pursuant to Section 121 (b) (1) of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972, as amended, and all other applicable statutes, will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at Hamburg Town Hall, S-6100 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, New York at 7:00 p.m. (Local time) on the 3rd day of November, 1997, and that at such hearing any person may be heard in favor or against the preliminary budget as compiled and for or against any items therein contained.

PURSUANT to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following Town Officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor\$67,693

Councilman (4) each\$18,487

Town Clerk\$54,601
Registrar of Vital Statistics\$ 2,781

Highway Superintendent\$65,960

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HAMBURG

Dated: September 22, 1997

GEORGE DANYLUK
Town Clerk
Town of Hamburg

Supervisor Hoak explains that as of September 30th the proposed budget must be filed in the Town Clerks Office. This budget included a tax increase for the Town of approx. 2% and an approx. tax increase for the Village of 5.7%. Since that time from Sept. 30th until today the Town Board has met many times and has met with Village Trustees receiving their input. As of tonight the proposed tax increase for town residents has been changed to a slight decrease of .0003% and an increase for Village residents of 1.2%. Which translates to a slight decrease for Town residents and on an average home assessed at \$85,000 in the Village of Hamburg the increase would be \$3.32 for the year and for a Village of Blasdell resident it would increase \$2.40.

Mr. Spute reviews the budget with the audience. He then thanks his staff for their assistance in preparing this.

Albert Gugielmi, S-5079 Glendale Ave., questions that he is in the Wanakah water district and concerning the bond, the amount each year was supposed to go down, please explain this. Mr. Spute explains that, based upon the capital valuation charge of a \$85,000 home, in 1997 the tax bill was \$201.79 and in 1998 they are projecting a tax bill of \$156.36, a reduction of \$45.00.

Steve Strnad comments that he asked Mr. Spute to include a salary schedule that includes fringe benefits for the Town Board and Department Heads. Mr. Spute explains that of the 5 contracts they have, 4 are presently being negotiated. This makes it difficult to do, but they can make an estimate of what the settlement will be. He questions the raise of an employee in Senior Services. Mr. Spute explains that this is an 18 month increase. He also questions this in Community Development and this is also an 18 month raise.

Ron Martin questions unappropriated funds in the Wanakah Water District. Mr. Spute explains that this occurred when they borrowed the total amount authorized to purchase Wanakah Water Company and do the improvements. Part of this is interest earned and part of it is from projects that came in under bid. They are using this for projects that come up each year through Erie County Water as specified by their Engineers.

Ron Eich, State St., questions who votes on the pay increase for the Supervisor. Supervisor Hoak answers that it is voted on by the 5 members of the Board. Mr. Eich questions why it couldn't be voted on by the taxpayers. Supervisor Hoak states that it is subject to a permissive referendum. Mr. Eich questions why it can't be put on the ballot every year they vote. Mr. Eich asks how he can go about getting this on a permanent ballot so the taxpayers can vote on it. Supervisor Hoak explains that circulating a petition would bring this to a referendum. Councilman Cavalcoli informs him that the Legal Department can provide him with the information he would need to do this.

Steve Strnad questions if this could be put into Town Law. Supervisor Hoak responds that they can research this. Councilman Cavalcoli comments that he should contact the Legal Department on this also.

Carl Kofod questions why the Town Attorney or Deputy Town Attorney is not present. Also, why Town Attorney is not present at any regular Board meetings. Why has the cost of litigation going to outside services gone up. Supervisor Hoak responds that with all the money that has been saved by being self-insured, the Town is making money on the Legal Department. Supervisor Hoak responds that the reason why the litigation fees have gone up so dramatically are Bethlehem Steel and Ford Motor Company. They had to have national experts for referrals for litigation, local people do not have the expertise when you fight National Corporations. Mr. Sorrentino personally represents each case on the self-insurance policy. For the Town to get outside council on this would be wasting money and they have saved \$2,000,000 since its conception. Mr. Kofod questions why there is no legal representation here tonight. Supervisor Hoak responds that he felt it was not necessary. Mr. Kofod states that he is the Town Chairman of the Republican party and he is married to the editor of one of the local newspapers. He questions the fact that it is an election year and the Town taxes went down slightly and the Village taxes went up a small percentage in comparison to previous years. What can we expect in the future? Supervisor Hoak responds that as a Village resident his tax increase amounts to \$3.32 for 1998. As a Village resident, 8% goes to the Township of Hamburg. The amount paid to the Town is minuscule compared to the amount paid to the Village and County and School taxes. Councilman Cavalcoli states that by law the amount distributed to the Villages is set by State Audit and Control. Copies of this law can be provided.

John Wiencek questions why the taxes for the Villages must go up. Is there not somewhere in the Budget that they can make a cut so that Village residents could get the same small tax decrease that the Town residents get. He asks that the members of the Board not take a check at the end of the year for medical coverage, if they are presently covered somewhere else. Councilwoman Kesner states that she has refused to take this. Supervisor Hoak states that the Board will consider this as a tax cut. He also suggested that elected or appointed Department Heads not get a salary increase. Karl Kofod suggests that they compute the number of hours worked by the employees in the Legal Department. Councilman Cavalcoli comments that it is hard to believe that anyone is complaining over such a small increase. Supervisor Hoak responds that back in 1987 when he sought a seat on this Board there was a 21% tax increase. From that time until now the tax increase has never been over 5%.

Mr. Gugielmi comments that he doesn't see money in the Budget for the Town Boat Launch and that last years season wasn't good in that they lost 3 weeks in the Spring and two in the fall for the installation of docks. It is very difficult to get in and out of boats onto these docks. He comments that if the Town had a piece of equipment at the Town Park they could clear out the sand, once a week, from around the docks. Councilman Quatroche responds that the Army Corps of Engineers will not let them put the jetty any further out, because they are a private beach. Because they cannot open it up to State residents they cannot receive any State funding. The Town must incur all the costs. They tried to correct the problem as best they could within the permitting process they were allowed and within the dollars they were allowed. They talked to the Town of Evans about using their machine, which would be very inexpensive. To purchase a machine would be very expensive. Councilman Quatroche suggests that he comes to a shoreline revitalization Board meeting to discuss his ideas.

Wayne questions what happens to the money available for Veterans. Mr. Spute explains that the post must come in to the Town Clerks Office and file a roster of Officers and fill out a voucher.

Phil Best comments that one way to reduce the taxes for next year, if you certify tax roles to give to the School Board and there is a mistake made how does this affect the taxes for next year. Supervisor Hoak comments that it does not affect the Town Budget. Councilman Cavalcoli explains that the school received extra money this year and next year that same amount must be paid back to the County. It is excess money the school should never have received, and therefore not included in their Budget, and must be put aside to be paid back next year. Mr. Best then questions that the budget for this year is approximately \$33,000,000 and that the State Comptroller recommends that the highest fund balance that you can carry is 10% of your appropriations. Mr. Spute responds that the law reads that the fund balance should be of a reasonable balance, it does not specify. You can not do a rough overview of percentages because each and every one you have to look at differently. Within the general fund you have different reserves built in. There are 55 funds that are independent of each other. One thing this sheet does not show are that they book retirements and also the build up of the sick time. Mr. Best questions the percentage of the fund balance and states that he feels it is too high. Supervisor Hoak responds that they questioned Deloitte and Touche about this and if they kept the balance that Mr. Best recommended that by 1999 taxes would have to be raised 25%. Supervisor Hoak recommends that he, Mr. Best and Deloitte and Touche have a meeting on this.

Ron Martin comments that the reason that tax increases have not gone up is that the Town had a re-val done in 1991 and they have bonded money for all their spending.

Carl Kofod questions the loss for the Adult Day Care Center. Supervisor Hoak states that they projected a loss for the first five years. Councilman Cavalcoli comments that the break-even point will be coming at the end of the 1998 budget. Mr. Kofod asks if they should consider more money being spent on advertising. Councilman Cavalcoli responds that they talked about this with Mr. Farrell and his staff and there are programs like this that will be closing and they feel they will be getting enough clientele and they may even reach the Break-even point sooner.

Steve Strnad states that he feels that this will never be self-sufficient. Councilman Cavalcoli states that this will become self-sufficient sooner than projected. He would be glad to go over the figures with Mr. Farrell and Mr. Strnad.

I.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board close the Public Hearing at 8:45 p.m.

Moved: Hoak
Seconded: Hochul
Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche
Noes: None
Carried

Supervisor Hoak opens the Public Hearing for Capital Improvements and states that \$20,000 is budgeted for a new telephone system. Mr. Spute comments that \$100,000 is budgeted for the 800 MHz radio system for Public Safety/Police, and the Lake Shore Drainage \$35,000.

Mr. Gugielmi questions the money for the Lake Shore Drainage. Supervisor Hoak responds that there are 5 targeted areas along the lake shore, all designated with a dollar amount to be addressed and prioritized, from Lake Avery, Ferndale Cloverbank and Wanakah Country Club. Mr. Kapsiak from Engineering can show him the plan. Mr. Gugielmi states that according to Mr. Smith, the State will not open up Route 5 unless it is widened. Mr. Cavalcoli states that with Mr. Connollys help, he has gotten the States cooperation to clean out the Culverts and problems along Route 5. Mr. Connolly responds that Mr. Gugielmi's area specifically is a little off the Lake shore problem. They need to try and run some drainage from up around Woodlawn down. They are trying to schedule this some time in the future. Mr. Connolly comments that he will meet with him on this.

II.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board close the budget hearing on Capital Improvement Projects at 8:50 p.m.

Moved: Hoak
Seconded: Cavalcoli
Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche
Noes: None
Carried

III.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board adopt the 1998 Budget as proposed.

Moved: Hoak

Seconded: Cavalcoli

Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche

Noes: None

Carried

IV.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board adopt the 1998 Capital Improvements Program.

Moved: Hoak

Seconded: Kesner

Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche

Noes: None

Carried

George Danyluk, Town Clerk