

The October 05, 2011 regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon was called to order by Supervisor Wormuth at 7:00 pm in the A. James Bold Meeting Room at the New Town Hall with the following members present:

Melinda A. Wormuth, Supervisor
Walter F. Polak, Councilman
Regina C. Parker, Councilwoman
Paul L. Hotaling, Councilman
Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk
Lyn A. Murphy, Town Attorney
Matthew J. Chauvin, Deputy Attorney

Craig A. Hayner, Councilman- Excused

The Town Board Workshop was held in the Board Room at 6:15 pm; no action was taken. Supervisor Wormuth stated that the meeting will be different this evening because we are going to present our Town Budget. We have copies of the budget, and we have copies of my notes, which are budget highlights that may be helpful for people to take with them if they have any questions, as well as tonight's agenda. Please feel free to come to the front and take copies.

The Supervisor then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Wormuth gave a few moments for anyone who would like to pick up the copies that are provided up front.

REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TOWN ATTORNEY

Councilman Hotaling reported that Saturday October 1st at the Town Park was the 3rd Annual the Fall Festival that is usually outside. The weather was not the best, and everyone all worked together including the Recreation Department, Park's department and Halfmoon Celebrations, and got everyone inside the Clubhouse. Even though it was a not a good weather day, there were still 350-400 people in attendance. He wanted to thank all of the people for their efforts.

He also stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and there will be approximately 30 people representing Halfmoon who signed up to do the Mechanicville- Stillwater Breast Cancer Walk in Tallmadge Park.

Councilman Hotaling also mentioned that October is Fire Prevention Month. Every year he attends the Halfmoon-Waterford Fire Department Open House on Fire Prevention. It runs from 12:00-4:00 and if you can make it and show support for the Firemen these guys donate a lot of their time to the community and keep us safe.

Supervisor Wormuth requested from the Board a motion to have October be declared Fire Prevention Month in the Town of Halfmoon.

RESOLUTION NO. 204

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board declares October Fire Prevention Month in the Town of Halfmoon.

Attorney Murphy asked that the Board consider a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign a contract with World Pay US Inc., which would permit electronic and credit card payments for any fees to the town at this point in time.

Supervisor Wormuth stated those fees would allow people to make County tax payments through their credit card.

Attorney Murphy said that this would be for the County taxes that they usually pay through our Tax Collector.

Supervisor Wormuth said that this would be a convenience for our residents. The Town will not incur any costs to implement this process, nor will the Town receive any income. It is just a convenience for our residents who choose to utilize paying their bills that way.

Attorney Murphy said that it also allows those who winter elsewhere, to be able to pay their taxes electronically, they will not have to find a way to come to Town Hall to pay their County bill.

RESOLUTION NO. 205

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilwoman Parker: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with World Pay US Inc. permitting use of electronic and credit card payments for the Receiver of Taxes.

Supervisor Wormuth thanked Mrs. Pingelski for all of her hard work and knows that she did a lot of research on this. She knows that this is an issue that has been moving through the county and she certainly appreciates her keeping us up to speed on that.

Mrs. Pingelski thanked the Board for their support.

Councilwoman Parker stated that Senior Craft Fair will be November 19, there are many trips the seniors have and they are posted at Town Hall and on the web site.

The other item is that there will be a Pet Adoption and a Blessing on Saturday from 1:00-3:00 at the Gazebo at Abele Park.

Supervisor Wormuth wanted to mention that we have received many requests from people who live in Sheldon Hills for a speed limit reduction and a red light at the Sheldon Hills entrance. We have been unsuccessful working with DOT on that. Her request to the Board is going to be to submit a written letter based on requests from our residents and a recommendation from the Planning Department that we look at reducing the speed limit where it is 55 from Sheldon Hills down to Ted Bailey's Hill. The rest of that road is either 45, and then as you head into the City of Mechanicville it turns to 30. So at this point, if we are not going to see a red light put in by DOT, based on the increase traffic as an interim step, I would request that the Board submit a recommendation to DOT requesting a decrease in the speed limit.

RESOLUTION NO. 206

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board submit a letter of recommendation to DOT to decrease the speed limit on the road by the Sheldon Hills entrance.

Supervisor Wormuth opened up public privilege for discussion of agenda topics; no one had any questions or comments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS - month of September

1. Town Justice Wormuth Total Cases – 296 Total Fees Submitted to Supervisor \$33,342

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|----|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| 2. | Town Justice Tollisen | Total Cases – 257 | Total Fees Submitted to Supervisor \$24,575 |
| 3. | Senior Express | Total # Riders- 350 | Total # Meals- 489 |

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Received** from the Town Planning Board Resolutions approving the following: Change of Tenant for Pkg. Group LLC at Crescent Commons Plaza located at 1471 Route 9, for Mr. Rooter of Greater Albany located at 392 Hudson River Road, and for Halfmoon Mobile Mart located at 1588 Route 9.

Received & Filed

2. **Received** from US Army Corps of Engineers, copy of letter to the attorney of Amy DiModugno in response to letter dated August 30, 2011 in which they asked for an extension of time while they consider Ms. DiMudugno's case.

Received & Filed

3. **Received** from Mindy A. Wormuth, Budget Officer / Chief Fiscal Officer, filing of the 2012 Tentative Budget document and transmitted to the Town Board as required by Town Law.

Received, Filed, Print & available to the public with out having to FOIL it. As we get to the end of our agenda I will go through some budget highlights on that for anyone who has any specific questions.

4. **Received** from Halfmoon Fire District #1 (Hillcrest), West Crescent Fire District, and the Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District #1, Notice of Public Hearing on their proposed 2012 Budgets and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board.

Received, Filed, Print and attach to our budget that will go to the County

5. **Received** from Andrea's Pub, 1436 Vischer Ferry Road, and notification of intent to renew their liquor license.

Received, Filed & Print

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 207

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board amends Resolution #194 from September 7, 2011 approving agreement for extension of the Town of Halfmoon Consolidated Water District to include the extension is for the Glen Meadows PDD.

Supervisor Wormuth stated that this project has been before the Board. The Board has seen the limits of what this land considers.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 208

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves and order paid all vouchers for all funds listed on Abstract dated October 05, 2011 totaling \$480,265.50.

RESOLUTION NO. 209

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the minutes of Town Board meeting of September 21, 2011 as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 210

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board appoints Raymond Keller as part time Senior Van Chauffer for the Town of Halfmoon at Grade 3, Base pay, effective October 06, 2011.

Supervisor Wormuth stated that this is a position that we have had vacant. He will also work at our Highway Garage and our Transfer Station. Again, it is a position that has been vacant for over 6 months. We have been able to utilize highway workers during an off season to try to cover the position, however at this point, we feel that the service that we provide to our Seniors as well as the necessity to run the Transfer Station, make it necessary to fill this position at this point. It is a budgeted position and will not have a budget impact on anything that we did from last year.

RESOLUTION NO. 211

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the renewal of Mobile Home Park license for Turf Mobile Home Park for the 2011-2012 licensing year, per inspection and approval of the Code Enforcement Office

Supervisor Wormuth stated that Code Enforcement Office spends a lot of time every year inspecting Mobile Home Parks in our community, as well as regular homes in other areas. This is certainly a large task that they take on. We are happy to say that we have worked our way through the licensing process in a very efficient manor, due to the effectiveness of our Code Enforcement Office.

RESOLUTION NO. 212

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute Water District Extension agreement for Arlington Heights Planned Development District Phase II permitting the expansion of the Halfmoon Consolidated Water District and to execute any other documentation that may be necessary to expand district and to insure that the mandatory fees and infrastructure costs be paid, subject to the review and approval of the town Attorney.

Supervisor Wormuth stated that this is a project that has already been before the Town Board, and the Planning Board. This is an extension to authorize water to be associated with this project that has already been approved by those two boards.

WHEREAS, the Town of Halfmoon recognizes the importance of providing municipal water to the citizens of the Town of Halfmoon; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington Heights planned development district is requesting permission to extend the existing water district to provide service to Phase II consisting of twenty five units requiring potable water from the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Legacy Builders, LLC, has executed a contract to provide for the extension of the existing water district which details the payment of funds to the Town of Halfmoon for the receipt of potable water; and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has reviewed and approved the terms and conditions set forth in the Water District Extension Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Water Regulations set forth the water rates charged on behalf of the Town; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor for the Town of Halfmoon to execute the Water District Extension Agreement for Phase II of the Arlington Heights planned development district upon receipt of the associated fees as detailed in the Water District Extension Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 213

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to apply for a Historic property Preservation Program grant in the amount of \$150,000 to preserve the historic structures of the Champlain Canal including the stone arched culvert and waste water weir at McDonald Creek at Old Lock 7.

Supervisor Wormuth stated that the Town has already received one grant in order to look at the preservation of this structure. It was a matching grant that required us to come up with additional funds. When we did the initial engineering and then started to do the structural engineering, we were well over the costs of the project. These funds will allow us to be very close to the amount necessary to do the work that was designed to preserve this structure.

We have already met our matched amount of this grant. While it may take a small amount of money to include everything we want to do, we are comfortable that if we apply for this grant and it gets us to that point, we will be so much closer to being able to complete this project. This has been on the Town's books for over 6 years. We are excited about this and it does not authorize the spending of any money, it is only to apply for the grant.

WHEREAS, the New York State Canal Corporation administers the **2011-2012 Canalway Matching Grant Program**, and

WHEREAS, grant funding is available for fiscal year 2011-2012 for preservation and conservation work on nationally significant historic properties, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Halfmoon seeks to preserve the historic structures of the Champlain Canal, including the stone arched culvert and wastewater weir at McDonald Creek and Old Lock 7,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Board authorizes the Supervisor to apply for a Historic Property Preservation Program grant in the amount of \$150,000 to preserve the historic structures of the Champlain Canal including the stone arched culvert and waste water weir at McDonald Creek and Old Lock 7.

RESOLUTION NO. 214

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a Platinum Plus Partner Program Contract with Northeast Information Systems for maintenance on the phone system at the New Town Park in the amount of \$1,080 for a 24 month period beginning November 1, 2011 and ending October 31, 2013 per the review and approval of the Town Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 215

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, that the Town Board appoints Lisa Ackley as Senior Assessment Clerk for the Town of Halfmoon at Grade 2, Base pay, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment testing.

Supervisor Wormuth stated that this is a position that existed in the Town previously. We have upgraded the position from Assessment Clerk to Senior Assessment Clerk. There is not a budget impact as this was budgeted for last year. The vacancy has been there for over 7 months and we have saved a lot of money. She apologized for not knowing if Lisa was with us this evening. Supervisor Wormuth introduced Lisa and stated that Mrs. Parker and the Assessor JoAnn Smith did the interviews and not the Supervisor. She Congratulated Lisa and welcomed her to the Town.

RESOLUTION NO. 216

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Hotaling, Parker

RESOLVED, to authorize the Supervisor to make the Transfer between Appropriations and Creation of Appropriations.

A resolution is needed to create the following budget amendment of appropriations and revenues in the Special Revenue Fund for engineering fees for on site quality inspections. These funds are developer's monies held in escrow by the Town in a regular checking account and used for the payment of costs for that particular project. This resolution is necessary to comply with proper accounting procedures as set forth by NYS Department of Audit and Control.

Debit:	Estimated Revenues	25-510	\$7,724.85
	Subsidiary:	25-4-2189 Home & Community Services	\$7,724.85
Credit:	Appropriations	25-960	\$7,724.85
	Subsidiary:	25-5-1440.40 Engineering Contractors Inspections	\$7,724.85

Information Only: The above was derived from the following breakdown of charges to be paid on the October Abstract for engineering and related fees:

NAME	AMOUNT
Stewarts	\$828.00
Glen Meadows PDD	1,443.00
Fairway Meadows Insp	1,461.35
Fairway Meadows Ph III	2,967.50
Falcon Trace	138.00
Halfmoon Heritage Apts	887.00
Total	\$7,724.85

Transfers between Appropriations:

From Account	To Account	Amount	Reason
10-5-3989.40 Public Safety Contractual	10-5-3610.40 Code Enforcement Contractual	\$254.69	Transfer of appropriations to cover purchase of materials and required training.

10-5-5132.40 Contingency	10-5-1680.40 Central Data Processing	\$2,211.22	Transfer of appropriations to cover purchase of necessary software updates.
30-5-8320.41 Source of Supply Power & Pumping- Contractual-Electric	30-5-8310.42 Water - Legal Fees Contractual	\$4,485.43	Transfer of appropriations to cover legal fees for water agreement with EPA & GE.

Supervisor Wormuth said that she would move into our Town Budget. I have some highlights that I have written for everybody and they are available at the front. I will read through them and if anybody has any questions or comments, you are more than welcome to ask them.

**TOWN OF HALFMOON
2012 TENTATIVE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

NO TOWN PROPERTY TAX AND NO TOWN HIGHWAY TAX: This budget marks the 33rd consecutive year there has been no Town tax. This is also the 27th consecutive year with no Highway tax. I am pleased to continue this tradition by presenting my fifth, consecutive budget to the Town Board that does not require a Town Property Tax, nor a Town Highway Tax.

This is an outstanding achievement that needs to be put in perspective. In 2010, the most recent year that information is available, the NYS Comptroller's Office determined that only 36 towns in New York State did not collect a town property tax! Halfmoon is one of only 36 towns out of 932 townships that did not collect a town property tax in 2010!

PROVIDING NEEDED SERVICES IN THE FACE OF A NATIONAL RECESSION: Our residents continue to use needed services provided by the Town. For example, over 750 seniors actively participate in the Senior Center educational, recreational and other programs and services. Meals on Wheels is a well known program and a vital service provided by the Senior Center to the most in need seniors in our Town.

On the other end of the age spectrum, the Town's Summer Recreation Program enrolled approximately 700 children this past summer. The Character Counts program is integrated into the programming for all summer recreation participants whose ages range from pre-school to 15 years old.

The Town partners with other non-profit organizations to provide supports to Halfmoon youth and families in need. These partnerships include: CAPTAIN, Center for the Family, Care-Links, and the YMCA Reach Out for Youth program. The Town also provides approximately \$1.1 million in funding for the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Ambulance Corp. for emergency services for our community members

The Town Board and my commitment to provide these and other services in a cost effective manner is demonstrated by this budget which does not include a Town property tax.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECESSION EFFECTS LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES: The current poor national economic condition presents challenges to the Town, the same as everybody else. As nearly everyone is aware, the national economic downturn has reduced consumer spending and slowed economic activity in the housing industry. This in turn impacts the revenues collected by virtually every town, including Halfmoon. Sales tax and mortgage tax revenues in particular are down, and these are significant revenue sources for Halfmoon. Town revenues in 2010 (the most recently completed fiscal year) were only slightly greater than in 2005 and over \$720,000 less than peak revenues in 2007.

In the face of these reduced revenues, certain mandated expenses for the Town continue to increase, for example retirement, health insurance, and other benefits have increased by \$85,110 from 2011. I offer the following budget strategies to deal with the challenges presented by these

circumstances. The 2012 general fund budget is a zero growth budget, and the highway budget contains an increase of only \$119,026. Thus, exerting strong controls on appropriations is a major budgetary strategy used in the 2012 budget.

The Town has reassigned duties to other positions upon the retirements of two department heads. These actions have not lead to any reduction of service. These actions illustrate some of the ways this budget exerts strong controls on appropriations.

On the revenue side of the budget, I propose using funds from reserve accounts as an income source. These revenues are derived from reserve funds where the projects are now completed. With the completion of these projects, the Town can use these reserve funds to make debt payments. Thus, the prudent use of reserve funds from completed projects to pay down municipal bond debt is another major strategy used the 2012 budget.

These significant strategies and several other budget decisions at the line item level result in a 2012 budget that carries no Town property tax and no highway tax.

2011 BUDGET FREEZE: As of today, I am instituting a budget freeze for 2011 spending. This means only expenditures for the health, safety and welfare of our community can be incurred without my express, prior approval. This action limiting current spending in conjunction with tight appropriations control for 2012 demonstrate our commitment to keeping Halfmoon fiscally sound.

BONDED DEBT: The Town of Halfmoon, along with nearly every other municipality in NYS, carries a debt load. In the case of the Town of Halfmoon, the debt was incurred through the sale of municipal bonds. These bonds were sold for capital projects including the construction of the new Town Hall, the Town Family Park, the Water Treatment Facility, and reconstruction of Brookwood Road. This bonded debt is approximately \$40 million, which is significantly less than the Town's constitutional debt limit of approximately \$330 million.

Typically municipalities do not pay cash for large capital projects such as these. To have the necessary cash on hand to finance these types of capital projects would mean the Town would have to generate revenues significantly greater than expenses over the course of several years. The Town has wisely decided not to pursue this strategy, which means money remains in the pockets of our residents and not in Town accounts.

GRANT FUNDING: Since first being appointed Town Supervisor in 2007, we have aggressively pursued federal, state and other grants. As a result of our efforts, over the last four years the Town has obtained twenty-seven grants totaling \$5.8M. These grants have funded road, sewer, water, energy efficiency improvements, sidewalk, park, trail, recreational, and court projects. These are projects that would have otherwise been funded exclusively by the Town or would have been deferred due to the lack of funds.

AUDITOR AND BOND RATING AGENCY EVALUATIONS OF TOWN FINANCES: Annually the Town's finances are examined by an independent auditing firm. For the most recently completed

fiscal year 2010, the CPA Firm, Bollam, Sheedy, Torani & Company issued the following opinion regarding the Town's financial statements and internal controls:

"In our opinion, the financial statements ...present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Town of Halfmoon, New York, as of December 31, 2010, and the respective changes in its fund balance for the year then ended ..."

"We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses,..."

The Town of Halfmoon has a very strong credit rating as reflected by Moody's rating of "Aaa" and, Standard and Poor's (S&P) "AA" rating. Halfmoon's "AA" rating reflects its "very strong capacity to meet financial commitments".

These positive statements and evaluations from independent, outside firms confirm the Town has a stable, sound financial base. This strong financial condition of the Town is the result of the combined efforts of the Town Board, the Town Supervisor and all of our Town staff.

Mindy A. Wormuth
Budget Officer
Chief Fiscal Officer

Supervisor Wormuth touched on some of the highlights of the budget. She stated that the Town continues to have no Property tax and no Highway tax. It is the 33rd year with no Town tax and the 27th year with no Highway tax. So I am pleased to continue that tradition as a Town Supervisor and I could not do it without the support of this Town Board and without the fiscal conservatism of this Board. I think that this is an achievement we need to look at and put into perspective.

If you look at most of the towns in the State of New York, there are only 36 towns that do not collect a town or a property tax. We are one of 36 out of 932 townships that do not collect a town tax or highway tax. I think that this is something that this Board and our predecessors should be proud of and something we look at and continue the tradition of. Certainly, if we see an increased need for our residents who are requesting services, such as we have over 750 people who participate in our senior program. They look for Meals on Wheels, and our Senior Van drivers to take them to Dr. offices. We have a Summer Recreation program with over 700 children who participate, and that we subsidize that program, and are proud to do it. The

children range from pre-school to age 15 and we routinely provide programs for them.

This year we are proud to be able to have a winter program available during winter recess for a 1 week program, with out an increase to the budget. We partner with a lot of Not For Profit organizations such as Care Links, Captain, Center for the Family, and the YMCA, which does our Reach Out for Youth program. We provide over 1 million dollars to our Ambulance Corps for emergency services to our residents. It is not done on a tax basis like it is in other communities.

We are committed to continue to provide these and any additional services our resident's need. The poor economic conditions certainly do present a challenge to us, just as they do to everybody else. I am sure everybody is trying to balance their checkbook and is trying to look at what's going on. We have done a good job in handling things. We have done a lot of investment in the infrastructure and in things that people have asked for.

We have had Public Hearings through our Master Plan, through our Comprehensive Plan, through our Trails Committee, through our Recreational Surveys that have asked for increased services. Yes, we've built a New Town Hall, yes, we've built a New Town Park, yes, and we have increases in sewer and water. But, all of those things have been put up to Public Referendum. The public had Public Notices and had 45 days to come and vote on those things as well as an opportunity to share with the Elected Officials what they wanted.

It is kind of like when you go to buy a house, I don't expect that most of us write a check for \$250,000, you get a mortgage. So yes, the Town does have some debt. It is debt that is based on an investment. It is an investment that we feel comfortable with that residents in our community have asked us for. So as we move forward and look at things, our budget reflects a way to pay for that debt. We have been able to do that and have been able to maintain that without Town tax or without a Highway tax and we intend on continuing that trend.

We have an amount of money in a reserve fund that we continue to maintain, that we continue to balance and save for a rainy day. There comes a time when we kind of balance out; you spend a little bit and you save a little bit. We have a triple A Bond Rating. We have had Auditors in here for the past 5 years who have done full audits on the Town's finance, the Town's spending, on the Town's debt, and every year they come back with minor management letters and recommendations of things that we can improve internally. But it does not affect our Bond rating; it does not affect anything of the things that we do. They feel that we have a fiscally responsible Town Board.

We also had the State in doing an audit. The Comptroller's department came back with no significant findings. I am again proud of the things that we do, proud of the things that this Board does. We intend on continuing them. We put a budget freeze on our 2011 budget for spending. This is something that we typically do this time of year when we get to end of the budget, to ensure that anything that we can save, we do, unless it has to do with health, safety or welfare. We will not continue to spend it. That is a practice we've had in place for the past 4 years which we find helps keep us fiscally sound, At the end of the year, some people think that well it's in my budget, I can spend it. That is not a practice that we want to carry on, if it is not necessary, we won't do it.

Again, the Town has a very strong credit rating, which is reflected by Moody's, which is reflected by the Standard & Poor ratings. We are happy to provide copies of all of those things. Our general Town budget has increased from this year to next year by 0%. Our Highway budget has increased by 4%. Which again, is no Town tax and no Highway tax to our residents.

We are very proud to be able to present this. And this is a tentative budget. The Town Board has received the budget. It was on file at the Clerk's office last week. This is the first opportunity that they've really had to be able to be given copies of it. It certainly is subject to input from our residents to make adjustments and changes from them.

This is my projection of what I think will be a sound fiscally responsible plan for our community as we move forward. Certainly, all of the people who sit up here with me, and any of you who are in the audience, or those who choose to call at a later date can have an input. The budget won't be adopted until November. There is plenty of opportunity for discussions.

The Supervisor opened public privilege for discussion of non-agenda items.

Deanna Stephenson said that for a layman when I open this, I find it a little confusing (holding up the budget). I tried to segregate each piece out. Will you be doing a line-by-line budget; straight across, that pro rates all of this? That means the subject matter and then drops down. Will that be available?

Supervisor Wormuth said; sure, we can make that available.

Deanna Stephenson said that my other question is; what do you do with a General Fund that's at a negative \$400,000.00 at the end of 2010?

Supervisor Wormuth said that our General Fund balance right now in our reserve account is..

Deanna Stephenson added: unappropriated

Supervisor Wormuth finished by saying over \$4 million dollars.

Deanna Stephenson added: general fund

Supervisor Wormuth said: right

Deanna Stephenson asked: so what happened between 2010 and now it's a negative \$400,000.00?

Supervisor Wormuth said that it is a cash flow issue. It is just a matter of when money comes in and when money comes out. We had over \$500,000.00 from EPA that was not submitted to the Town that was promised to the Town to provide safe drinking water for our residents, which again, we had opened to the public and had open discussions, and had plenty of time. We have since signed that contract. Again, if you look at our overall financial picture, there is over \$8 million that we have access to, should we choose to transfer it. Typically, at the end of a financial year, we will move money from one account to another as needed. I don't think anyone could have predicted, and I think that we have been very conservative in our estimates for next year, on what our revenues were going to be.

Deanna Stephenson said so the State Comptroller has a General Fund sitting there with over \$4 million or whatever you stated. That's what they have sitting in there right now?

Supervisor Wormuth said; Absolutely. She then spoke to Nelson Ronsvalle the Director of Finance and let him speak more specifically about it.

Nelson Ronsvalle said; this is not me, nor Mindy Wormuth giving you these numbers, the numbers are taken from the independent auditor's report at the end of 2010.

Deanna Stephenson said That is the one that I am referencing, where is says a negative \$400,000.00.

Nelson Ronsvalle said the un-appropriated amount you are referencing is one line item. You have to take all of them into consideration to determine the total general fund...

Deanna Stephenson said; Unappropriated

Nelson Ronsvalle continued; the total fund balance available in the General Fund is \$5,248,000.00

Deanna Stephenson said; Unappropriated

Nelson Ronsvalle said; I see you are looking at one of the line items...

Deanna Stephenson said; I am looking at unappropriated

Nelson Ronsvalle said; fine, if you are talking about unappropriated, are you talking about cash? There are over a dozen line items that constitute the general fund balance.

Supervisor Wormuth said that is what you were asking for, a breakdown line-by-line, so we will give you all of them...

Deanna Stephenson said; I have all that, I just wanted to ask about the \$400,000, that's fine, thank you. You said that you would be giving me a line-by-line, or the public a line-by-line.

Supervisor Wormuth said that it is available in our Clerk's office.

Deanna Stephenson continued by saying; this is a little overwhelming for someone who does not know finances or anything else look at that, just my comment."

Supervisor Wormuth thanked her

There being no further business to discuss or resolve, on motion by Councilwoman Parker and seconded by Councilman Polak the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lynda A. Bryan,
Town Clerk**

