

**The November 09, 2011 Public Hearing for the 2012 Town of Halfmoon Budget, 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  
Paul L. Hotaling, Councilman  
Craig A. Hayner, Councilman  
Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk  
Lyn A. Murphy, Town Attorney

Regina C. Parker, Councilwoman -Excused  
Matthew J. Chauvin, Deputy Attorney – Excused

**Supervisor Wormuth led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Supervisor Wormuth** opened the Public Hearing for the 2012 Preliminary Town Budget at 7:01 PM. Supervisor Wormuth said that we talked about 2% pay raise for employees and the Board Members asked for the differences in those numbers and they have been provided.

We also talked about the cuts that we did to the different Social Services programs that we support through the community. We have asked several of the services to take a cut including the Ambulance Corps. We have received correspondence from the Ambulance today that Councilman Hotaling has provided us with that shows the ranges of what they pay salaried employees. Again, while I have a great appreciation for not only the services that they provide and the things they do, I feel that we are asking our department managers to do more with less. The sales tax revenues are just not what they used to be, our fund balance is not what it used to be. I did not make the change in this budget to give them the 3% increase that they asked for. Certainly it is the Boards option to make that recommendation and it would be voted on at the Budget Hearing on November 16, 2011 should there be enough votes to support that.

**Supervisor Wormuth** asked if anyone had any questions that either the Director of Finance or herself could answer.

**Councilman Hayner** thanked Nelson Ronsvalle for all of his hard work, cutting the Budget apart and answering our questions. I feel that we have a favorable budget in this very tough economic time. I support everything that we have going on here.

**Councilman Polak** stated that as a matter of record, this did not happen with just a few budget meetings and these things got resolved. There were months of speaking with department heads and to some of our employees. Mindy, you were very diligent in going to people and asking to cut where you can. We were very cost aware because of the sales tax not being what it used to be, our people were well aware of that. When times were great, we were pretty good to all of our outside agencies that we support. They are very knowledgeable and realize that times are not that plentiful any more. If we do not request that they do some cuts and still provide the services, they are not going to do it. You cautioned them and explained to them where we are at and where we need to be. You, as our Officer, Nelson our Director, and this Board have been very frugal in what we are spending this year. I just wanted to make the comment that this took a lot of planning and did not just happen.

**Supervisor Wormuth** thanked him and stated that there were a lot of meetings and it did take a lot of hard work looking at to see where we could adjust things. Just to keep everything perfectly clear, the Ambulance Corp. has requested that I attend

their November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. I have asked my Secretary to call and let them know that I am unable to attend. They do have a liaison, and they were invited to our last meeting, and asked to set up a time to meet when it works into my schedule if there was something that they wanted to discuss. I think that we are at the point where we are at the bottom line. If things improve and there is more that we can do then we can amend the budget as we go through the year. For me to feel comfortable in presenting something that is going to propose no town or highway tax for our residents, without expending any more of the funds balance than we already are expending, then I think that we are where we should be.

**Councilman Hotaling** wanted to thank the Supervisor and all of her hard work and also all of the department heads. I know that things are tough and trying to plan for the future with the things that you have to upgrade and maintain. I hope Nelson is not going to run whenever he sees me with all of my questions I have asked in the past two weeks.

**Bruce Tanski** from Meyer Road, Clifton Park stated that I am currently in negotiations with CAPTAIN to secure a space and asked if this budget something that you think will continue in the years to come as I am trying to decide if I am going to make this situation occur. I will also have the same question for Mr. Barrett in Clifton Park.

**Supervisor Wormuth** said that CAPTAIN is a program that has a long involvement with the town. We certainly have a very needy population, and we feel the services and benefits that they provide, outweigh the costs that we pay. As far as the homework and the other Social Services programs that would be entitled. Without knowing what specific programs you are providing, I would say unless things change drastically, the Town would not look to cut programs like CAPTAIN, Care Links or any of the other Social programs unless absolutely necessary. We understand, as economic times become harder, the need for those resources become greater, but we would look to continue to support those.

**Supervisor Wormuth** closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM

**Attorney Murphy** asked that the Board take into consideration a resolution to authorize the closing the following roads on Sunday November 13 at 2:00 PM for the Holiday Parade, Independence Blvd., Lape Road, Guideboard Road, Harris Road, and Route 236.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 235**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorizes the closing of Independence Blvd., Lape Road, Guideboard Road, Harris Road, and Route 236, for the Holiday Parade on November 13, 2011 at 2:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Polak and seconded by Councilman Hayner. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.