

## SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

## 2019 TENTATIVE BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandville was held at the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building, 3577 Terrace Road, Cortland, New York, with Supervisor Tupper presiding.

## Members present:

Supervisor, Richard C. Tupper  
Councilman, Theodore V. Testa  
Councilman, John C. Proud  
Councilman, John P. Reynolds  
Councilman, Douglas E. Withey  
Deputy Town Clerk, Patricia A. Romer

## Absent:

Town Clerk, Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella

Others present were: Town Bookkeeper, Marcia Hicks.

Supervisor Tupper called the Special Meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the 2019 Tentative Budget.

Discussions continued from previous 2019 Budget Workshops. Supervisor Tupper began by stating that the approximate tax rate for the Town is \$3.50, an increase of \$0.31 from the 2018 Budget, while the Village tax rate remained the same as before at \$2.50. If \$220,000.00 were to be used from the Highway Reserves, the increase would be 9.7%. Bookkeeper Hicks said in doing that, the Highway Reserves would have \$168,237.00 left, but with the anticipated transfer of \$50,000.00 into the Highway Reserve fund as indicated in the 2018 Budget, the Reserve account would be approximately \$218,000.00.

Bookkeeper Hicks did an estimate of fund balance per Supervisor Tupper's request. She stated it is \$1,086,541.00 between the A, B & D funds. The A fund is at \$519,493.00; the B fund is approximately \$50,000.00; and the Highway fund is presently at \$517,048.00 but the projection could be \$879,570.00 depending on the money generated from sales tax. Bookkeeper Hicks said she asked Town Assessor David Briggs to calculate the Town and Village tax as if the Town had no fund balance. The Town tax rate would be \$6.24 and the Village of McGraw rate would be \$3.40. Her point in asking Assessor Briggs to do that calculation was to stress the impact of the Town using fund balance in order to keep lowering taxes. The balance would eventually be gone and it would change the entire calculation of the budget. Taxpayers would be happy, but the future impact would not be good.

The Board discussed the sensitive matter of the Town's contract with the Lamont Memorial Free Library, which was \$27,002.00 in the 2018 Budget. Supervisor Tupper explained that according to the McGraw Treasurer, the amount collected by the Library tax was \$27,500.00 and has since doubled to \$54,500.00. There would be no loss and the Library will break even. Councilman Reynolds said he did not want to see the Library be at a disadvantage in any manner. After a lengthy discussion the Board decided to budget \$1,000.00 for the Lamont Memorial Free Library for 2019.

Highway Sup't. Glenn Bassett's salary was examined in reference to his role with the Gutches Lumber Sports Complex and appropriate compensation. Councilman Testa praised Sup't. Bassett for his performance and work ethic; Board members concurred. Councilman Reynolds and Councilman Withey indicated the proper time for consideration would be after Gutches Lumber Sports Complex was open and being utilized. Councilman Withey pointed out that the Board needed to stay within the constraints of the budget at this time. The Board agreed to revisit the matter after the Town's salary study was done. They would place particular attention on Sup't. Bassett's job description. In relation to such matters, Supervisor Tupper voiced that it has been the wish of the Board for several years to have a study conducted on employee salaries. Councilman Proud remarked that benefit packages would be weighed-in with respect to appropriate wages.

Discussion moved toward the budget and finances for the Gutches Lumber Sports Complex. The probability of the Park "running in the red" for a few years was strongly contemplated. Supervisor Tupper indicated that he would be meeting with Cortland City Youth Bureau Director, Jack McNerney tomorrow.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Supervisor Tupper stated he would have a revenue projection for the October 26, 2018 Budget Workshop. On its agenda is to complete the SEQRA for the proposed Local Law for Solar Energy and to move the Preliminary Budget to the Tentative Budget. If they are unable to do so, the Board would not adjourn the meeting. They would recess the meeting until Monday or Tuesday of the following week.

No further comments or discussion were heard.

Councilman Testa made a motion, seconded by Councilman Proud, to adjourn the Special Meeting. All voting aye, the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella*

Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella, RMC  
Town Clerk  
Town of Cortlandville

\*Note:

The draft version of this meeting was submitted to the Town Board for their review on December 5, 2018.  
The final version of this meeting was approved as written at the Town Board meeting of January 2, 2019.