

NOVEMBER 05, 2014

PUBLIC HEARING - 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET.

The Town Board of the Town of Middletown, Delaware County, New York, held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 05, 2014 at the Town Hall, located on #42339 State Route 28, Margaretville, NY.

The following Board Members were present:

Supervisor.....Marjorie Miller

Council Members..... Jake Rosa and Brian Sweeney

Councilmen John Roucek and Mike Finberg were not in attendance.

Also present were: Hwy Supt John Biruk, Code Enforcement Officer Carl P. Davis, Tom Coddington - Reporter, Janet Steiglehner, Ernie Steiglehner, Kurt Holcherr, Charles Kowalski, Richard Rossi, Susanna Finch and Jon Adams.

ATTACHED Agenda prepared by Supervisor Miller.

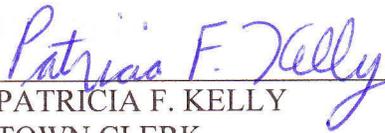
Supervisor Miller opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. The Town Clerk read the ATTACHED legal notice advertising the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Miller summarized the statement she gave last month to the Town Board. Councilman Jake Rosa felt the Board should receive a copy of what the unexpended accounts are. Supervisor Miller stated "that information is privileged to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Town and it is her job to protect that information and to be responsible how those funds are utilized". Councilman Brian Sweeney felt as voting members of the Board they should be able to see that information.

Supervisor Miller opened the floor to the public. Ernie Steiglehner stated he was quite shocked at a couple of the increases starting from 28% to 0%. If everyone got a 3% increase, there would be a savings of \$39,500. Janet Steiglehner felt that the Town Board should have access to all documents as voting members of the Board so they can vote accordingly to protect the public. Kurt Holcherr asked do the salaries include health insurance. Charles Kowalski felt there should be justification to these high wage increases as everyone still has the same responsibilities. There has been no increase in population or building. Susanna Finch expressed her dissatisfaction with the increases. At one point, it was a 40% increase for the Supervisor and now it has been reduced to 28%. The Town Board needs to learn to say no. She should stick to a 3% for everyone and why is the Town Clerk only getting 1%. Jon Adams stated he concurred with Susanna Finch exactly. Code Enforcement Carl P. Davis stated he asked for a 3% increase for himself and his assistant. He received 2% when he works five days a week and his assistant received 5.25% and only works three days a week. How did his assistant outperform him by 2.25%? This is not fair or justifiable. He just received verification of the preliminary scores through the community rating system (CRS). The Village of Margaretville received a 9, the Village of Fleischmanns received an 8 and the Town of Middletown received a 7 which is the second highest in the state. He has worked on this for six years. This results in flood insurance reduction and puts money back in the hands of taxpayers. He said he hopes at the next meeting the Town Board corrects the budget and fix it so everyone has a fair pay increase across the board with no exception. Susanna Finch stated that the Supervisor received a 20% last year and no else got that. She asked is this time you really need to spend here or do you have support people who can do those services and then you wouldn't have to put that much time in. Supervisor Miller said the Town Board acknowledged that it was a full time position. Charles Kowalski asked what the book value of the property is in the Town of Middletown. Jon Adams felt it was outrageous for the Supervisor to ask for that type of raise when she knew what the pay was three years ago. No one else wished to address the Board.

There were no other questions or comments from the public, and the Supervisor Miller closed the Hearing at 6:26 p.m.

DATED: November 14, 2014



PATRICIA F. KELLY
TOWN CLERK