

**October 30, 2008
2009 Budget Hearing
6:00 P.M.**

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Council Members: Lynn Parnell, Norman Gates,
David Deuel and Frank Rose Jr.

Absent: None

Others: Floyd Anderson and Vince Burroughs

Supervisor Deming opened the 2009 Budget Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

PURPOSE

Supervisor Deming stated the purpose of said hearing is to present the 2009 Preliminary Budget and to receive public comment and questions on it.

Mr. Deming summarized each of the districts and how they will be affected in the upcoming year.

In the Highway fund \$34,000.00 was allocated for a new backhoe and trailer. The equipment will actually be shared between the Highway Department and the Water/Sewer Department. Mr. Deming stated that the Board has budgeted \$30,000 for a new truck for the Water Department and \$10,000.00 for future engineering.

Mr. Deming indicated that the budget will reflect a 2% increase in salaries for 2009. In the General Fund as we have prepared the past two years \$10,000.00 has been allocated for cemetery restoration. The medical insurance line item has increased 18% and the fuel costs 45%.

Supervisor Deming reported that the Townwide fund will be increased from \$4.13 to \$4.18 per thousand, which is less than 1% and the total assessed value has increased approximately \$1,000,000. The Town's portion of the YCS Resource Officer position has been increased from \$12,700.00 to \$13,300.00 for 2009. The Resource Officer's salary is paid by the Town of Leicester, Town of York, Livingston County and York Central School. Mr. Deming added that each entity is now requesting quarterly reports of activity from the SRO.

Supervisor Deming stated that the fund balances are healthy and feel positive about what is in the budget for 2009. The balances are as follows: Highway Fund - \$114,000.00, General Fund - \$97,000.00, Consolidated Water - \$ 83,000.00, Sewer District #1 - \$ 87,000.00, and Retsof Sewer District - \$ 21,000.00. Mr Deming added the interest income collected for all funds this year is slightly over \$18,000.00.

The Board discussed in detail the contract with the York Fire Department for fire and ambulance service. At this time the ambulance calls are not being met during the day, and the fire department discussed the probability of hiring a medic for roughly \$45,000.00 per year to cover the day shift from 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. Mr. Deming stated if this method was to be implemented the fire tax rate would increase 16%.

Mr. Deming added if this option is approved, York will be moving forward with a paid service, effective January 1st, 2009.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

1.) Floyd Anderson: "I remember seeing in the paper a few months ago something about shared services for equipment, what is that about?"

*Response: Supervisor Deming explained that the Towns of Avon, Caledonia, York, Leicester and Mt. Morris prepared and received a grant in the amount of \$300,000.00, for a new roller and road widener to be shared between the townships. We are very fortunate that the Highway Superintendents have really taken the lead on sharing equipment with the surrounding towns, which shows fiscal responsibility.

2.) Floyd Anderson: "I see under the Independent Audit line item a reduction from \$5,000.00 to \$3,000.00, do we not have any Federal projects going this year?"

*Response: Supervisor Deming stated that the budget was reduced because we did not have any Federal projects requiring an audit, but did retain funds for a small audit ourselves.

3.) Floyd Anderson: "What is the status on water to Linwood?"

*Response: Mr. Deming stated we are certainly trying but the process has halted a bit after the income surveys were tabulated. Very few surveys were returned from the Linwood area residents and the surveys that did come in, indicated that the Linwood residents made too much money to qualify for grant funding. Mr. Deming added, on a more positive note he was notified that Monroe County Water Authority will be erecting a water tower on Walker Road in Pavilion and asked if we are still interested in tying in. At this time many questions still need to be answered and verifications met before we can think about tying into their system.

4.) Floyd Anderson: "What does Insurance rates look like for the upcoming year?"

*Response: Supervisor Deming stated the Board was quite pleased to know that the Insurance costs have actually decreased roughly \$2,000.00 per year, primarily due to the fact that we don't have many claims each year.

COMMENTS

Vince Burroughs:

- "In the absence of a Fire District, did you know the Town Board is the Fire Commissioners. The Board is the accountability agent."
- "The Fire Department's performance has decreased but their funds have increased, not just in the ambulance portion, throughout the department."
- "The Fire Department has acquired or purchased too much equipment, where does it end. The department does not need the surplus of equipment, especially when they do not work together."
- "The purpose of consolidation was to save money but it hasn't happened."
- "If the ambulance service decides to proceed with the paid services, who does that person answer to, Fire Department or Town Board."
- "Do we really think it is a wise use of money to pay a person \$45,000.00 to sit at the Fire Hall all day, perhaps several days without a call, it would be a waste of money."
- "If we have to go to a paid service, why not ask other agencies to assist and give them the money, they are already established."
- "The department spends so much money on equipment, which is not needed and in some cases not helpful because they do not know how to use it. The Town Board needs to make the Fire Department accountable."
- "With the yearly contract they receive the Board should want to see an "investment" on the funds appropriated. With all of the missed calls, the investment is not paying off."
- "Right now the Town is paying too much for the service we are receiving."
- "The Fire Department should bring in a representative to evaluate the situation, give advisement and assist in a solution."

Supervisor Deming reported that the New York State Health Department allows up to 20 minutes per call out, York has been averaging 22 minutes.

Councilman Rose – “It is very difficult when you have volunteers. The state training requirements have become so lengthy to follow, people do not want to give up their free time to be trained and to answer calls, they are losing more and more volunteers.”

Vince Burroughs: “I understand the concept of losing members, but if they go to a paid service person, they should be expected to meet or exceed the 20 minute call out requirement.”

Supervisor Deming: “We will do whatever we can to try and keep fire and ambulance service in our Town. We are fortunate to have very dedicated people, unfortunately it is difficult to have a crew all the time because the numbers are decreasing ultimately allowing the service to suffer as well.”

Vince Burroughs: “You are wasting money on the Fire Department, they are inefficient with the funds. The Town Board needs to control the money supply to get the results we need.”

Councilman Deuel: “Vince, you stated that the Fire Department doesn’t listen to you, we are listening and trying to find a resolve that all parties can be comfortable with.”

Floyd Anderson: “The Town Board should be commended on hiring Assessor, Anne Sapienza. She has done a wonderful job educating the residents. She has been helpful and very easy to talk to, excellent job.”

After no further comment or questions from the public...

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Rose to close the Budget Hearing at 6:50 p.m. Voted on and approved, Yes - 5, No – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Harris, Clerk

