

**LUMBERLAND TOWN BOARD**  
**2017 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**

The Town Board of the Town of Lumberland held a 2017 Budget Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., at the Municipal Building in Glen Spey, N.Y. for the purpose of reviewing the Tentative 2017 proposed Budget. Supervisor Mellan opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call was administered to those members present:

Supervisor Jenny Mellan  
Councilman/Deputy Supervisor Leigh Sherman  
Councilman Joseph Carr  
Councilman James Akt  
Councilwoman Zoriana Gingold

Also present were Town Clerk Virginia Horn, Assessor Judi Flieger, Historian/Museum Director/Cultural Series Director/Grant Writer Frank Schwarz and Caroline Akt.

The Board members met with Assessor Judi Flieger. Flieger submitted comparisons as to what other Assessors' salaries from other towns were, noting only 2 other towns have a full time Assessor who have benefits. Flieger reported she compared the salaries with the other towns, noting Highland makes a little less but has no benefits but has 2 part time clerks. Flieger noted that there was a consolidation of services because the position of Data Collector was eliminated. Flieger reported the clerk was suppose to do the Data Collecting but the clerk's position was also eliminated. Flieger stated she was doing all three positions, however, she now has a part time clerk who also works for the Code Enforcement Office. Flieger noted there was \$2,000 listed in the budget for a photographer for a project that wasn't used. Flieger requested the Board consider giving her a \$4,000 raise due to the fact that she is also doing the Data Collecting. Flieger suggested taking the \$2,000 from the line for photographer line since that is not needed and another \$2,000 from her contractual for her requested raise. Councilman Akt stated that the Deputy Town Clerk went out a couple of times to take pictures of properties for the Assessor but did not go out again. Councilman Akt stated that the bottom line was the Assessor was asking for a \$4,000 raise. Supervisor Mellan reported she compared the contractual expenses the last couple of years and the entire budget was not used each year. Councilman Sherman questioned if the Assessor would be comfortable with only \$4,000 left in her contractual for expenses once you took \$2,000 out to put in the salary line? Supervisor Mellan noted that the contractual was increased when there was a large court case for assessment, however, we have not had one recently. Councilman Akt stated that he did not care what other towns are doing, noting if she is doing the job then he would rather see the monies be taken out the contractual line than eliminating the Data Collector line. Councilman Sherman stated they could make Flieger the Assessor/Data Collector. Councilman Carr stated they should take the \$2,000 out of the contractual and leave the Data Collector line. Councilwoman Gingold agreed with

(2) September 21, 2016

combining the Assessor/Data Collector and pay her for both. Supervisor Mellan reported they eliminated the position of the Data Collector from the salary page. Flieger noted that the \$2,000 was added to the salary page for someone to take pictures, not for data collecting. Councilman Akt agreed to take the \$2,000 out of the contractual and leave the Data Collector line in. Flieger noted that if you leave that line in when payroll is certified by the County it will show nobody is getting paid for that position because it is not being used. Councilman Sherman questioned if they were going to give the \$2,000 raise with another 2% on top of that? Councilman Akt stated they have been asked to give the clerks more money and the \$2,000 should be all that is given. Councilman Akt stated that at the final budget meeting people will be there to discuss the budget because everyone keeps wanting and wanting more. Councilman Akt stated the Board needs to listen up to the people. Councilman Sherman and Councilman Carr thanked Flieger for doing a good job.

Grant Writer Frank Schwarz presented grant paperwork that needed to be signed for the purchase of a highway truck. Councilman Akt stated that the grant is for \$50,000 which is not enough to buy a truck. Schwarz stated the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor need to sign the paper for the grant. Councilman Akt stated he is worried about using taxpayers money for the purchase. Supervisor Mellan reported there is a Capital Reserve fund for highway equipment. Councilman Akt stated he doesn't want to see the money being spent in case there is an emergency. Schwarz reported he was not sure if the truck purchase will be done this year or next. Supervisor Mellan noted that if the monies for the purchase are not received by the end of the year the amount will have to be included in the 2017 budget to offset the revenue from the grant. Supervisor Mellan stated there is a \$200,000 amount in the revenue line for grants and there is \$200,000 is in the budget line for grants. Supervisor Mellan noted there is \$30,000 listed as expenditures for grants. Schwarz reported there is a lot more than \$30,000 coming in for grants. Supervisor Mellan stated she did some research on grants and how they work and how they can be carried over. Supervisor Mellan noted that when revenue is received it is put back into the budget for any expenditures that have been made. Schwarz questioned the amount for a UDC grant listed in the budget that he is not aware of. Supervisor Mellan stated that the line is where the expenditure of a UDC grant comes out of. Schwarz reported they will not know if they will get a TAG Grant from the UDC until October 6<sup>th</sup>, noting he is hoping to know before the deadline for the budget. Supervisor Mellan noted that she is trying to get things done as soon as possible. The Town Clerk verified that you only have to do a resolution for donations that come in, noting you do not have to amend anything if you get more revenue than budgeted.

Supervisor Mellan reported she increased the Celebrations budget by \$100, noting the expenses for the Cultural Series and the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade mainly use this line. Frank Schwarz reported he uses this budget line at Peck's for the Cultural Series Concerts and always asks for a discount which he does get. Councilman Carr reported he would like to purchase new parade signs this year that will be reusable. Schwarz reported the town

(3) September 21, 2016

will need to purchase new celebration bunting for the front of the Municipal Building. Councilman Sherman reported they now have got talent in the offices that can make up posters and flyers and print them out of the offices instead of paying for them to be done elsewhere. Schwarz reported that Christine Smetanuik does an excellent job and he needs the promo work to bring people in for the concerts.

Frank Schwarz reported he has no problem with the proposed salary lines of the budget. Councilman Akt stated that the Supervisor needs the code and a key to the Museum. Supervisor Mellan noted she does not have a key to the Constables Office. The Town Clerk noted nobody has one for the Court Office other than their personnel.

Supervisor Mellan stated they should review the Constables proposed budget, noting they did put \$6,000 in their equipment line. Supervisor Mellan noted she cut the equipment line and put in a 2% raise for each of the Constabulary. The Town Clerk reported the Chief Constable verified with her that he is fine with the proposed budget. The Board members agreed to the 2% increase in the Constables salaries.

The Board reviewed the remaining budget. The Town Clerk verified that Traffic Control line was for the purchase of road signs. Councilman Sherman stated that he felt the budget for the Dog Control Officer was too high. The Town Clerk noted that our DCO is also the ACO in the Town of Highland but whenever someone needs a ACO our DCO does respond. The Town Clerk noted that the impoundment fees have lessened since our DCO will return the dog instead of taking it to the shelter because she is given a listing of all dog licenses each month so knows if the dog has a tag who it belongs to.

Supervisor Mellan questioned the Health Officer line? The Town Clerk verified that up until a couple of years ago the town had a Health Officer who any employee could go to if they had a work related issue. The Town Clerk noted we do not have a local doctor for the position. Supervisor Mellan questioned if they could use Dr. Daboul?

The Board reviewed the Highway Garage contractual. The Town Clerk noted that expenses for the Highway Garage and the Salt Shed are coded to this line. Councilman Akt questioned the raise in the salary line? Supervisor Mellan reported it reflects the 2% increase for the Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Mellan reported that they looked into what was being spent on street lighting which is what was basically being budgeted for. Councilman Carr noted that O&R is looking to increase their rates.

The Town Clerk verified that the Veterans budget monies goes to the local VFW who supplies us with new flags when needed. Councilman Carr reported the Seniors money is there for emergencies.

(4) September 21, 2016

Supervisor Mellan reported that the ZBA requested a slight increase in their contractual line and broke down their expenditures. Councilman Akt stated we should put a cap on the amount to be spent on attorney fees, noting that we are paying for an attorney to attend the zoning rewrite committee meetings along with the regular meetings each month. Councilman Akt noted we paid about \$10,000 for the rewrite committee consultant whereas all the members of the committee donated their time. Supervisor Mellan reported she received an email regarding the fact that the review committee has already gone over most of the information with the rewrite. Caroline Akt reported they are not addressing everything again, noting they are looking at the campgrounds issue, noting the attorney was not present at last night's meeting of the committee. Caroline Akt also noted they had been asked to remove the conservation subdivision requirements and address the noise ordinance. Councilman Sherman noted that the Sheriff's and State Police cannot enforce a town law. Supervisor Mellan stated the Code Enforcement Officer can enforce a town law. Caroline Akt reported that the Code Enforcement Officer addressed at last night's meeting the issue of house trailers, noting that new mandate is it has to meet the minimum requirements. Supervisor Mellan stated they would still have to follow our zoning requirements. Councilman Sherman stated there does not have to be an inspection on a trailer with a HUD sticker on it. Supervisor Mellan reported that the zoning rewrite committee was previously asked to hold off on any further review until the Comp Plan was updated. Caroline Akt noted that one of the issues not discussed was the recreational vehicles parked on private property. Councilman Akt stated the Mohican Lake issue with rvs on private property has been beaten to death. Councilman Sherman stated that once the zoning review committee is done they need to send their findings to the Town Board for review. Caroline Akt stated the committee is fine without any attorney present.

Supervisor Mellan stated they need to review the Planning Board's request in the 2017 proposed budget. Supervisor Mellan reported the Planning Board is requesting a 70 inch tv to do presentations on. Supervisor Mellan reported the town recently purchased a projection screen and questioned if we had a projector? Supervisor Mellan stated she would rather spend the money on a projector than a tv. Caroline Akt verified that they could use a laptop for presentations. Councilman Sherman noted that if there is a fancy presentation given that person usually brings their own equipment. The Board members agreed to eliminate the request for the tv. Supervisor Mellan noted she put an additional \$100 in the street lights line, and the Board agreed to make that line \$7,300.

Supervisor Mellan reported the UDC line stayed the same as this year. Councilman Akt stated that there has not been an EMC in recent years. The Board members agreed that line could be eliminated and it can be put back, if needed.

Councilman Sherman questioned if the Planning and ZBA got the 2% raise? Caroline Akt noted they are not looking for raises so it was kept at the \$20 per meeting. Supervisor Mellan noted they are compensated for their training.

(5) September 21, 2016

The Board reviewed the Refuse & Garbage budget line. The Town Clerk reported the cost for the Spring Cleanup and the buildings garbage pickup comes out of this line. Supervisor Mellan reported she got another quote from another garbage company which is \$40 less than what we are paying now for garbage pickup. Supervisor Mellan reported she is having the bookkeeper call our existing company to see if they could do a comparable with the lower amount. Supervisor Mellan reported the DEC will be monitoring the old landfill for 30 years, noting that the former lab company who was doing the testing was not filing the report with the DEC so we have had our time to keep monitoring extended. Councilman Carr noted now we have to add the 4-6 years that the reports were not filed to the time we have to keep monitoring. Councilman Sherman noted our Town Engineer cannot do the monitoring and that Barton & Loguidice has been doing the monitoring and filing the annual reports.

Supervisor Mellan questioned the \$1,500 given to the Scenic Byways? Councilman Akt reported that all the towns along the scenic byways donates this money to them. Supervisor Mellan reported the Cemetery Committee is requesting the Clerk be paid \$30 a month which comes out their contractual line.

Supervisor Mellan reported the employee benefits were calculated at a percentage of the payroll, noting retirement went down. Councilman Carr questioned if the retirees are paying for their portion of the medical benefits? The Town Clerk verified that the Town reimburses the retirees for the amount taken out of Social Security for Medicare and the town pays for the AARP supplements.

Supervisor Mellan reported the last payment on the existing bond for the Highway Garage and the Hollow Road project will be in 2018.

Councilman Akt questioned what they were doing with the Fire Dept.? Supervisor Mellan stated they discussed it the other night. Councilman Akt stated that along with the \$190,000 the Fire Dept. has gotten they are requesting a total of \$210,000, noting that the Supervisor and Councilwoman Gingold met with the Fire Dept. without the rest of the Town Board present. Supervisor Mellan reported that they were negotiating the Fire Dept. contract the same way the Highway Dept. contract was negotiated with representatives from both sides present, not the full Town Board. Councilman Akt stated that the Fire Dept. got 2 newer ambulances and 3 chief cars, noting they do a good job but there have been no receipts to know what was spent. Councilman Akt questioned if the rest of the Town Board would agree to giving the Fire Dept. the \$210,000? The Supervisor and other three Town Board members were in agreement to pay the Fire Dept. \$210,000 for their services with their new contract. Supervisor Mellan stated that they will include in the new contract that a monthly report is needed. Councilman Akt stated the Fire Dept. now has a LOSAP program which the town pays and now they want another \$20,000. Councilman Akt stated that we voted to give the highway department a shared services agreement and questioned why we couldn't do that for the Fire Dept. as well? Councilman Carr reported costs have gone up and he

(6) September 21, 2016

will ask at their next meeting why they need the extra money. Councilman Akt stated we shouldn't give them the extra money without making it law that they have to give the town a monthly report. Caroline Akt stated that if you put it in their contract you would not have to ask for it. Councilman Sherman stated that the Town Board has done a good job for the last 4 years keeping the Fire Dept. budget down to \$190,000. Councilman Akt reported that the Town Board has argued with the Fire Dept. because they have been told they have to ask for a report. Caroline Akt questioned if the Fire Dept. couldn't address fires without the extra monies? Councilman Akt stated they have been trying to cut the budget to give the clerks more monies, noting that they have been asking for a report from the Fire Dept. for years. Councilman Carr stated that if they don't agree with giving a report the Town does not have to sign the contract. Councilman Akt stated that if they need the extra money just show us why. Councilman Carr stated that if you vote against the contract then we may now have the coverage we need. Supervisor Mellan reported that the Yulan Fire Dept. gives the Town of Highland a monthly report on what they are doing not what they spend. Councilman Akt stated we have mutual aid from other towns we can use. Caroline Akt stated that people want to see what is being spent and what the Fire Dept. is getting from the LOSAP program? Supervisor Mellan noted her husband gets \$70 a month for his service to his Fire Dept. which he has been a member of since he was 16 years old. Caroline Akt stated that the costs are exorbitant. Supervisor Mellan reported that each fireman has to go through a physical exam and training which they pay for themselves. Councilman Sherman stated that Councilman Akt wants the Fire Dept. to run like a business and Councilman Sherman noted they are doing a good job and running the department like a business.

The Board members reviewed the new figures for the proposed 2017 Preliminary Budget. Supervisor Mellan reported that, with the changes made tonight, the increase went from a 2.39% to a 2.08% which would be an average of \$3 per \$100,000. Supervisor Mellan noted they can do nothing about the County budget. Councilman Akt stated they should cut the Fire Dept. to \$205,000 and give the extra monies to the girls in the offices. Councilman Sherman stated the Fire Dept. has not gotten a raise in the last 4 years. Councilman Akt stated they obviously didn't need the money because they managed to work with the same amount for those 4 years. Supervisor Mellan stated that they had a 1 year contract which was renewable for 4 years. Supervisor Mellan reported originally the Fire Dept. asked for \$240,000 but she told them it was not possible.

Supervisor Mellan reported she received a phone call asking about permission to put up a big sign on the corner of Ct. Rt. 31 & Rt. 97 for the Barryville Pumpkin Fest. Councilman Akt questioned if a permit was needed for the sign? Supervisor Mellan stated they will have to check with the Code Enforcement Officer, noting it is for the weekend of October 8<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Carr reported they will need to take the sign down immediately after the event. The Board agreed to grant permission as long as it is approved by Code Enforcement.

(7) September 21, 2016

Councilman Akt questioned what was being done about the signs the Parks Committee wants to redo? Councilman Carr reported the Parks Committee would like to pay for half the cost to replace the Welcome to the Town of Lumberland entrance sign on the corner of Ct. Rt. 31 & Rt 97. Councilman Carr reported that Sullivan First turned over all the remaining funds to the Parks Committee.

Supervisor Mellan reported they are putting together the new Fire Dept. contract. Supervisor Mellan noted that with the changes to the Tentative Budget it now becomes the Preliminary Budget. The Board members agreed to hold a Special Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm to schedule the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget.

Councilman Carr made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Gingold, all in favor, so carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia V. Horn, Town Clerk