

October 7th, 2015 2016 Budget

The Special Town Board meeting of the Town of Stony Creek was held on October 7th, 2015.

Supervisor Frank Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM with members present:

Councilman Nathan Thomas

Councilman Carl Thomas

Absent: Councilwoman Doreen Ryan

Councilman John Thomas

Attorney James Cooper was not required to attend.

Supervisor Thomas reported the purpose of the meeting tonight is for the Town Board to review the 2016 Tentative Town Budget.

Supervisor Thomas stated there is a 2% pay increase.

6:34 PM: The Town Board reviewed the Tentative 2016 budget.

Councilman Carl Thomas asked if the Court Clerk, Secretary/Bookkeeper and Dog Control Officer were hourly or salary. Supervisor Thomas stated the Court Clerk is hourly and Secretary/Bookkeeper and Dog Control Officer is salary.

Special Recreation Center A7180:

Supervisor Thomas reported the Special Recreation Center A7840 is a new budget item. This is for the Dean Trails. There is going to have to be maintenance of some sort. Checking trees, mowing and if there happens to be something wrong with the decks or bridges. He has put \$2000.00 in Personal Services A7180.1 and \$200.00 in Contractual A7180.4. Councilman Carl Thomas asked if it's not something you can use the highway crew for mowing. Supervisor Thomas stated they mow the fields but he is thinking along the edge of the trail. Councilman Carl Thomas stated weed whacking. Supervisor Thomas stated yes and mainly checking for trees and things like that after a storm.

Celebrations A7550:

Supervisor Thomas reported the Celebrations A7550 is a new budget item. This is for the 4th of July picnic. It's costing around \$1500.00 and thought it would be a good time to start putting money in there. He put \$500.00 in the Contractual A7550.4 and next year will probably add another \$500.00 to cover some of it.

Snow Removal Capital Outlay DA5142.2

Supervisor Thomas reported the Capital Outlay is a new budget item. The County has decided to offer up to \$8000.00, but in order to get the \$8000.00 they want the town to install salt control equipment on the trucks. They are willing to pay for the equipment and that's what the \$8000.00 is for. He put it in there and if we put equipment on we can get the \$8000.00 and if we don't do it we won't get the \$8000.00. They have flow controls and temperature sensors and things like that. Councilman Carl Thomas asked if this was for the kind of salt we use. Supervisor Thomas stated yes.

Salaries:

Lifeguard was increased from \$10.00 to \$11.00 Supervisor Thomas reported she will be back next year and he would like to give her \$11.00 an hour. She has been the lifeguard for three years and he feels she has matured and she did a nice job this year.

Youth Director was increased during the year to \$11.00, he propose it be increased to \$12.00 an hour.

Youth Planner, which is not on the Schedule of Salaries, is getting \$10.50 and he propose this be increased to \$12.00 an hour. She really doesn't change the town that many hours and does a pretty good job.

Union:

Supervisor Thomas stated the Union people he figured in 2%, that's what it was this year. The contract does expire at the end of this year so we will need to have negotiations here at some point.

The tax levy for the General and Highway Fund:

2015 is \$640,648.00. 2016 will be \$638,802.00, which is \$1846.00 less. However where it sets right now along with the taxable value for 2015 there will be an increase in the tax rate of \$2.45 for a tax rate of \$455.86, which is up from \$453.40. It's a .54% increase.

The value of the town went from \$1,413,263.00 in 2014 to \$1,401,327.00 in 2015 a decrease of \$11,936.00. It's about half of what it was last year. From 2013-2014 it dropped \$23,937.00.

2014 the levy was \$650,964.00, 2015 was \$648,000.00, \$10,000.00 less.

2016 it will be \$1846.00 less. At some point we are going to run out of revenue to take care of this.

Highway fund:

He had extra money to budget this year because he wasn't sure the Board of Supervisors was going to approve the 2015 budget, so he put in a little more than half of it and that allowed for some extra money this year plus you have the \$8000.00.

Snow & Ice Removal Contract:

The county did take out the money for bridges, \$710.00 for each bridge. They did increase the total rate for the plowing that made up for it. The town gets \$544.00 per mile for sweeping and also \$2800.00 per mile for mowing one time per year, one pass each side of road.

The total for the Snow and Ice Contract is \$192,209.49.

Supervisor Thomas stated for information we could have raised the levy by \$22,528.00 and still been under the tax cap.

Councilman Carl Thomas stated you didn't do anything towards working for better equality in the Assessor's Office? Any consideration in that.

Supervisor Thomas stated he thought about it but he didn't do it because he can't see awarding people that aren't doing anything basically. Councilman Carl Thomas stated he doesn't have any idea of what's going on there. He would like to see it improve but doesn't know how to improve it. That might be a step toward improving it. He knows in Thurman when he was doing all this research.

The most common conversation for the Chairman's position is about 32% of the wages, that's the most common. In Thurman he thinks they are around \$7150.00 for the Assessors and \$9,400.00-\$9,500.00 for the Chairman. The reason he brings this up is that over the years. Over the last 25 years, and it's been going on longer than that, it isn't anything the board has done recently but he thinks it should be addressed because it's kind of mismanagement. If this access payment would have saved the town about \$200,000.00 over that period of time. If you consider that now, he would not suggest taking money from the Chairman, because that's his money and you would have trouble with his wife if you tried to do that, but he thinks you could bring the other Assessors up and not the full amount, but he means make it more reasonable if it's not this year to do it, that's fine, but it's something you need to consider and like he said this overpayment that's been going on for years and years and years, it amounts to a lot of money when you think of it. You have over \$200,000.00 because somebody didn't think it though. We're over 300% and 31%, it's something to consider in some point of time. Supervisor Thomas stated he doesn't have any doubt that Brandon is doing some of the courses that he needs to do but he never sees him here. Councilman Carl Thomas stated he has no idea of what's going on. He wished Peter did have help in there. Supervisor Thomas stated the only time he sees Zack is when its payday. So for him to increase their salaries at this point he just can't do it. He increased it the 2% but to give them a big bump where there not doing anything. Councilman Carl Thomas stated you could have gone into a step thing which you could have done. Its' perfectly legal and would have saved you some money for a while and you can do that at any time, it's looking forward, it's something you need to consider to get into a working situation. You go up to Thurman, and he says Thurman because they are right next door to us, you go up there and you have three Assessors in the office, regular hours, three days a week. He doesn't know what their hours are but it works and it's a fine working program and it's unfortunate we don't have it here.

Supervisor Thomas stated you think the pay is the reason?

Councilman Carl Thomas stated he doesn't know that the pay is the full reason. People are the reason probably but he thinks it's more equality and they all work well together but that's personality too it's just not money but money is an incentive sometimes.

Supervisor Thomas stated let's wait until the next budget because he has a feeling one of them will probably be removed the first of the year anyway.

Councilman Carl Thomas stated he doesn't know that will happen because there are certain steps that have to be taken. Yes he (Zack) signed a consent order but if you don't fill that it has to go through a Judge and if somebody doesn't pursue it the judge might sit on it for years, so it really doesn't mean a whole lot. Supervisor Thomas stated he has seen it done a couple times.

Councilman Carl Thomas stated it's just an item that needs to be addressed in some point in time. Supt. Bradley can't get a foreman on the Highway no one wants the job, suppose you took and paid one of them 300 times there rate they would be glad to be a foreman.

Summary Page of the Tentative 2016 Town Budget:

	Appropriation and Provisions for Other uses:	Less Estimated Revenue	Less Unexpended Balance	Amount to be raised by tax
General Fund:	\$585,951.00	\$398,798.00	\$50,000.00	\$137,153.00
Highway Fund:	\$850,463.00	\$301,814.00	\$47,000.00	\$501,649.00
Fire Protection:	\$114,214.00	-0-	\$1000.00	\$113,214.00
Totals	\$1,550,628.00	\$700,612.00	\$98,000.00	\$752,016.00

103-15. A resolution was made by Councilman Nathan Thomas seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas to adopt the 2016 Preliminary Budget and hold a Public Hearing on November 4th, 2015 at 7:00 PM on the 2016 Town Budget along with the 2016 Contracts on the Stony Creek Historical Association, Stony Creek Free Library and the Stony Creek Fire Protection. Roll call vote, all in favor.

A motion was made by Councilman Carl Thomas seconded by Supervisor Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington
Town Clerk