

November 15, 2011 2012 Town Budget Public Hearing/ Regular Town Board meeting

The Public Hearing on the 2012 Town Budget was held on November 15, 2011.
Supervisor Thomas called the Hearing to order at 7:02 PM with members present:
Councilman Dale Aldrich
Councilman Stanley Ross
Councilman William Liebl
Councilman Harry Paul Gill
Attorney James Cooper

Supervisor Thomas stated the meeting tonight is on the 2012 Town Budget Public Hearing and 2012 Contracts for the following:

Stony Creek Free Library in the amount of \$20,500.00.
Stony Creek Fire Protection in the amount of \$88,000.00.
Stony Creek Historical Association in the amount of \$5000.00.

7:03 PM Supervisor Thomas opened the Public Hearing on the 2012 Town Budget.

7:03 PM Supervisor Thomas declared the Public Hearing on 2012 Stony Creek Library Contract in the amount of \$20,500.00 open. Being no comments the hearing was left open.

The Town Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice published in the Post Star and Adirondack Journal.

7:05 PM The Town Board reviewed the 2012 Town Budget.
Supervisor Thomas reported that all of the pay increases are 2%.

7:15 PM Supervisor Thomas closed the public hearing on the 2012 Stony Creek Library Contract.

7:15 PM Supervisor Thomas opened the Public Hearing on the 2012 Stony Creek Fire Protection Contract in the amount of \$88,000.00. Being no comments the hearing was left open.

7:16 PM The Town Board continued reviewing the 2012 Town Budget.

Virginian Lorrain asked what the expense on the senior thing the Board was talking about.
Supervisor Thomas stated the senior van they go twice a month.
Virginia Lorrain stated the one that goes shopping?
Supervisor Thomas stated or the doctors wherever they want to go. Part of that is reimbursable to the county from the Federal Government up to \$1600.00.

Supervisor Thomas stated the 2012 tax rate is \$432.40 per 1000. 2011 tax rate was \$433.28 per 1000 so it's a decrease of 88.4¢. Which is 0.24% decrease.

7:31 PM being no other comments Supervisor Thomas closed the Public Hearing the 2012 Stony Creek Fire Protection Contract.

7:31 PM Supervisor Thomas opened the Public Hearing on the 2012 Stony Creek Historical Association Contract in the amount of \$5000.00. Being no comments at this time, the hearing was left open.

Supervisor Thomas stated there will be a slight increase in the fire protection tax bill in the tax rate because the value of the town was decreased. John Thomas asked if this had to do with the State Land. Supervisor Thomas stated yes.

7:34 PM being no other comments on the 2012 Town Budget and the 2012 Stony Creek Historical Association Contract the Public Hearing's were closed.

113-08. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross to adopt the 2012 Final Budget as follows:

	<u>Appropriations and Provisions for other uses</u>	<u>Less Estimated Revenues</u>	<u>Less Unexpended Balance</u>	<u>Amount to be raised by taxes</u>
General	\$577,627.00	\$358,900.00	\$60,000.00	\$158,727.00
Highway				
Townwide	\$759,647.00	\$225,081.00	\$45,000.00	\$489,566.00
Fire				
Protection	<u>\$114,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,000.00</u>	<u>\$108,000.00</u>
Totals	\$1,451,274.00	\$583,981.00	\$111,000.00	\$756,293.00

Roll call vote, all in favor.

November 15th, 2011 Regular Town Board meeting resumed

7:36 PM Supervisor Thomas called the November 15th, 2011 meeting to order:

October 18, 2011 minutes:

Page 110 change one of the Stony Creek Historical Associations to Stony Creek Free Library. A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill to accept the minutes with this correction. All in favor, motion carried.

114-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill to pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$11,140.09. Roll call vote, all in favor

115-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Liebl seconded by Councilman Gill to pay the Highway Fund bills in the amount of \$21,574.15. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Town Clerk report:

Conservation licenses	\$ 25.97
2 Certified Death Certificate	20.00
Fax	<u>2.00</u>
Total Town Clerk fees	\$ 47.97
Dog Licenses	<u>70.00</u>
Total Town Revenues to Supervisor	\$117.97
NYS Ag & markets	14.00
NYS Environmental Conservation	<u>445.03</u>
Total Disbursed	\$577.00

Correspondence:

Stony Creek Free Library-requesting Bed Tax funds in the amount of \$2200.00 for four concerts to be held at the Stony Creek Town Hall and also advertising costs.

Renee Hall-permission to use the town hall on November 26 from 12PM-3PM for a Birthday Party.

Tony Lomenzo-permission to use the town hall December 23, from 7:00PM-8:30PM for a Christmas Service.

Supervisor Thomas stated regarding Mr. Lomenzo request to use the town hall for a Christmas Service. We had this discussion in the past and don't believe it's proper to let somebody use the town hall as a church basically.

Attorney Cooper stated he thinks Supervisor Thomas is absolutely right; it's not being used for a non-religious purpose. The Supreme Court of the United States decided a case called Lemon and since then it has been called the Lemon Test. Whether the activity advances the cause of religion or hinders it either one is prohibited. This would seem to be when you have worship services in the town hall it seems to be enhancing the cause of religion and he doesn't think we can do it Constitutionally. Effectively you're using everybody in town's money whether they're a Baptist or Catholic to support this one church and it's outreach to the community in a religious way and it's just not proper. Supervisor Thomas stated he appreciates his effort but maybe he can find someplace else he can have it.

A motion was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Gill authorizing Renee Hall to use the town hall for a Birthday Party on November 26th, 2011. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

Cemeteries:

Supervisor Thomas stated the letter from Attorney Cooper was given to the town board. This is in regards to the town cemeteries and Attorney Cooper said he would put together a proposal and he has. He has several things the Board may want to consider doing to maybe get a better handle on the town cemeteries on who is being buried in them and when they are being buried.

He has eight items of concern and recommends soliciting volunteers and have the Town Historian and the Assessor and to implement the eight items by marking, fencing, closing and promulgating rules and regulations for burial in the town cemeteries.

Councilman Liebl would like to see cremations registered as to where they were placed or scattered. He would like to see some sort of record kept to let the people know what has happened to the cremations.

Attorney Cooper stated he doesn't know how you could do that without the control of dealing with the interment because once the cremations has been accomplished the cremations are turned over to the family and they could go to Long Island and drop them and who would know. He doesn't see how you could get a handle on it. The people on this committee could come up with an idea of how to do it. You may even have a volunteer register here in town that the Town Clerk may keep for historical purposes and then if the family wanted to make a notation in that register for historical purposes or genealogy purposes two or three generations in the future then it would be there. To get a handle of people doing that he doesn't know how to do that. Councilman Liebl stated if these cemeteries are fenced and they are private cemeteries, we have the responsibility of taking care of them. Attorney Cooper stated no it has to be a public cemetery for 14 years before we have responsibility. If the same family has been using it and it hasn't been available to the public then it's still by definition a private cemetery.

Attorney Cooper stated you might want to come up with a permit with no fee or for a fee for the extra work. Attorney Cooper stated you may want to put together a committee and this would also be good for an Eagle Scout project. For some person who could make an inventory like a census of the cemetery once we identify it, it could be incorporated in a computer file that people interested in genealogy could access it to who is buried in which cemetery. If he is willing to do it, it seems a hard enough project to qualify for an Eagle Scout project yet not so difficult that it would overwhelm a person. It's something to think about.

The Board agreed to proceed with Attorney Coopers recommendations.

LaBerge Engineering-Hamlet Plan:

Supervisor Thomas stated a brief meeting was held before the meeting last month with Stephanie L. Sicilaino Senior Planner and Benjamin Syden with LaBerge Group.

A Focus Group meeting will be held on Wednesday December 7, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Town Hall for the Stony Creek Hamlet Revitalization Plan and this is to tell everyone your opinion and how to transform the obstacles with opportunities with the focus on economic development here in the hamlet. Tourism, building conditions, housing, possible infrastructure, try to focus on identifying action steps for encouraging business growth, capitalizing on the local and regional assets and improving the overall appearance of the towns hamlet to improve it and make it a more desirable place to be and maybe invest your money.

Jamie White from Warren County Planning will also be attending. She does the micro enterprise loan program and helps small businesses get started with resources, loan funds and assistance. She will explain what that is about. They hope to have all the business people within the hamlet attend but it is also open to anyone else.

Supervisor Thomas stated at the last meeting he handed out a questionnaire. Ms. Siciliano asked if the Board filled this out she also prepared a survey and thought the town should send this out town wide. She has a revitalization questionnaire, which is different from the other questionnaire.

Supervisor Thomas stated if the Town Board approves it he would mail out the surveys on November 26th-27th, 2011 to all taxpayers in town.

Supervisor Thomas stated his intent is to improve the atmosphere and looks of it and hopefully somebody will invest, take a chance and start a business.

Recyclables/Garbage:

Supervisor Thomas stated last month he reported on the bids the county put out for recyclables and garbage, since then he has gotten notified that there is two different hauling fees, one for garbage and one for recyclables. Recycling hauling fee is \$132.05 a trip, garbage hauling is \$125.10 also Waste Management won bid to pay for recyclables. They have a guaranteed price paid to the county but it would be to the town: Newspapers \$85.00 a ton, magazines \$90.00 a ton, corrugated cardboard \$95.00 a ton, metal cans \$200.00 a ton, plastics \$200.00 a ton. The glass would be no charge only the hauling fee taken to Warrensburg and smashed.

Attorney Cooper asked if this hauling contract would terminate the Town of Warrensburg.

Supervisor Thomas stated yes, this is about \$25.00 cheaper. He thinks Warrensburg is going with Waste Management also.

Supervisor Thomas also reported last month the tipping fee for the burn plant is \$58.00 down from \$69.00. He wanted the Board to know he didn't know they were going to pay for recyclables. He thinks this will be a good thing.

Attorney Cooper stated that's not a budgeted revenue for next year so that's all gravy as far as the town is concerned.

FEMA:

Councilman Liebl asked if we heard anything more on FEMA. Supervisor Thomas stated Supt. Bradley and himself met with Trevor Carl from FEMA and Judith Stone from NYS Office of Emergency Management this morning for a Kick-Off Meeting. Basically Mr. Carl went over how it goes and what has to be documented and how it's documented what is and isn't a project. what's a small and large project. The next step is a Specialist will be come to visit and draw up project worksheets. If it's under \$63,900.00 and has been completed it eligible for immediate reimbursement and if it's over that amount it is considered a larger project and a longer process is involved. Councilman Aldrich asked how many small projects could you have. Supervisor Thomas stated quite a few. Councilman Aldrich stated there is opportunity there to reimburse the town for what has been expended.

Supervisor Thomas stated right and it will probably take a few months to get the money because once a project has been put in place and it's completed, it's submitted to FEMA and then FEMA and the State reviews it and probably some other people review it then the money is paid from the Federal Government back to the State and then the State pays it to the town. It goes directly to the town from the State.

Councilman Aldrich asked what the Specialist would do that's coming here, what is his function?

Supervisor Thomas stated he is the guy that is going to go out and tour the roads and write up the project worksheets. He will do an estimate. They will only pay what's documented.

The State has also appealed the May 28th storm because they denied it the first time and tried to get it extended a couple times in the time frame and that was denied, they were short on their threshold on how much estimated damage and they went back and got more figures and they went over the threshold so they are appealing again trying to get the May 28th storm declared as an emergency and if that happens they will be back and start all over again to get reimbursed for those days.

Committee Reports:

Landfill:

Supervisor Thomas stated Mr. Fisher Landfill Attendant, rearranged the containers and moved the plastic container at the end of the containers. Supervisor Thomas stated he had Harold Hastings build a catwalk along the lower side of the container so people would be able to walk up and dispose of their plastic containers without getting hurt.

Councilman Aldrich stated there are still quite a few tires down there. Supervisor Thomas stated they are from Mr. Schultz. Councilman Aldrich stated we were trying to make a deal with the Town of Warrensburg but never got. Thurman was going to do something but it never materialized, they can get rid of tires on a call in. Councilman Gill stated at the burn plant they could set up something for us. They take them on certain days. You could call them and see what they charge.

New Business:

Occupancy Tax funds:

Stony Creek Free Library;

116-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill authorizing the expenditure of Occupancy Bed Tax funds to the Stony Creek Free Library in the amount of \$2200.00 to be used toward four concerts to be held on Fridays at the Stony Creek Town Hall during the Months of January to April and for advertising cost. Roll call vote, all in favor.

LaBerge Group:

Supervisor Thomas reported he received paperwork in regard to NYS GIS Data Sharing Cooperative from LaBerge Group.

NYS runs a geographic information system with data with multiple layers of information for the whole State and they have an agreement for cooperative where the town can join in with this cooperative.

He doesn't think it cost the town any money he thinks we agree to share any data we might produce and basically what they told him is LaBerge can not access this web cooperative it has to be a municipality but they can access our belonging to it to use for our project. This is a lot of legalities here and if the Board wants to move forward with this he would make it contingent upon Attorney Coopers review. He thinks it would be a good thing for us if we had a plotter and al that kind of stuff. It gives us access to multiple layers of information if we layered on a map of the town. The county has a GIS system also but this particular one has more information.

117-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Supervisor Thomas to enter into the agreement with LaBerge Group in regards to the NYS GIS Data Sharing Cooperative for geographic information contingent to Attorney Coopers review and approval. Roll call vote, all in favor.

118-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Liebl authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit Highway Appropriation Fund Balance in the amount of \$21574.15.

Credit DA5112.2 Capital Improvements in the amount of \$8605.41

Credit DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual in the amount of \$3558.78

Credit DA 5110.4 General Repairs in the amount of \$9409.96.

Discussion: Supervisor Thomas stated this leaves a balance in the Highway Fund Balance of \$3884.00 Councilman Liebl asked if any of these appropriations comes under the FEMA? Supervisor Thomas stated yes, not all the bills but like Palette. It depends on what it was. Councilman Liebl stated General Repairs would. So it's a possibility to get money back if FEMA comes through before the first of the year. Supervisor Thomas stated he doesn't think that will happen this year hopefully next year. Councilman Liebl stated it would help us next year. Supervisor Thomas stated yes. Roll call vote, all in favor.

119-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit A1990.4 Contingent in the amount of \$2163.00

Credit A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual in the amount of \$1000.00

Credit A8020.4 Planning in the amount of \$1100.00

Credit A7270.4 Concerts in the amount of \$63.00.

Discussion: Councilman Liebl asked if this uses up all the General Fund Contingent. Supervisor Thomas stated no there is still some left about \$450-\$500.00.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

From the floor:

Virginian Lorrain asked how come before Election time no body had any advertisement in the paper for the positions. Supervisor Thomas stated it is expensive. Mrs. Lorrain stated it's not that expensive. You had quite a few seats that could probably be filled with somebody new if they were advertised. Councilman Liebl stated that would be up to the Republican and Democratic Committees. Supervisor Thomas stated this is up to the candidates. Mrs. Lorrain stated the lady in Thurman and Warrensburg puts it in the paper.

Councilman Liebl stated there is nothing that says you have to put it in the paper. Mrs. Lorrain stated no but it's letting the people know that the seats are going to be up for election. Councilman Liebl stated it's not up to the Town Board.

Virginia Lorrain asked if you ever see how many ride the senior bus. Supervisor Thomas stated yes. Mrs. Lorrain stated it is never a full bus. Councilman Aldrich stated we are given a list every month of who rode and the cost.

Mrs. Lorrain stated why don't you take the senior busing trips and combined it and make it one trip a month. If your only going to have eight people for one trip why don't you combined it and make it one trip and have them all go on that one trip instead of making two trips. Councilman Aldrich stated there is eight to ten on each trip. Councilman Liebl stated they would have to re-schedule their dentist or doctor's appointment. Mrs. Lorrain stated that isn't a problem a lot of them have to make an appointment for six months ahead of time for the doctors and dentist.

Supervisor Thomas reported that HEAP will be at the town hall Friday from 12:00-12:30 PM

A motion was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross to adjourn the meeting at 8:58PM, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington
Town Clerk