

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The Special Town Board meeting of the Town of Stony Creek was held on October 5, 2010.

Supervisor Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with members present:

Councilman Dale Aldrich

Councilman William Liebl

Councilman Harry Paul Gill

Absent: Councilman Stanley Ross

Attorney James Cooper who was not required to attend.

Supervisor Thomas reported the purpose of the meeting is to review the proposed 2011 Town Budget. The end result is a little less than 1% increase in taxes. The levy amount to be raised in taxes is down \$1805.00 from 2010.

6:33 Town Board reviewed the 2011 Town Budget.

**GENERAL FUND:**

A1010.4 Town Board Contractual:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced \$700.00, from \$3000.00 to \$2300.00.

A1110.4 Town Justice Contractual:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced \$200.00, from \$2500.00 to \$2300.00.

A1220.11 Supervisor Sec./Bookkeeper personal services:

Supervisor Thomas reported the Supervisor's Bookkeeper/Secretary he did increase this by 2½ to \$21,960.00 up from \$21,425.00.

A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced from \$4000.00 to \$3800.00

A1330.4 Tax Collector Contractual:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced by \$100.00, from \$2000.00 to \$1900.00.

A1355.4 Assessors Contractual:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced by \$400.00, from \$4000.00 to \$3600.00.

A1420.4 Town Attorney Contractual:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced by \$500.00, from \$2000.00 to \$1500.00.

A1620.4 Buildings Contractual:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced by \$1000.00, from \$29,800.00 to \$28,800.00.

Councilman Liebl asked if the lights were straightened out at the town garage. Supervisor Thomas stated they have them all in but there is still one bay that isn't working and they have to come back and fix. They won't get paid until they do.

A1910.1 Unallocated Insurance Contractual: (Property and Casualty insurance)  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced by \$500.00, from \$23,000.00 to \$22,500.00.

A1920.2 Municipal Association Dues Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he put an additional \$200.00, from \$1250.00 to \$1500.00. This was a requested from the Local Government Review Board, the town board has a copy of the letter, this is because the State use to help fund the Local Government Review Board and they cut out the funding for it.

6:40 PM Councilman Ross attended the meeting.

A3310.4 Traffic Control Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$200.00, from \$800.00 to \$600.00.

A5132.4 Town Garage Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$1000.00, from \$24,000.00 to \$23,000.00.

A5182.4 Street Lights Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$400.00, from \$6,400.00 to \$6,000.00.

A7110.2 Parks Equipment:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$200.00, from \$2000.00 to \$1800.00.

A7110.4 Parks Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$500.00, from \$7000.00 to \$6500.00.

A7310.1 Youth Program Personal Services:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$500.00, from \$9000.00 to \$8500.00.

A7310.4 Youth Program Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$200.00, from \$5000.00 to \$4800.00.

A8160.1 Landfill:  
Councilman Liebl asked if the situation with Rick Gilbert was taken care of. Supervisor Thomas stated he is working 1½ hours Wednesday-Friday at the town garage. Tom Fisher will be out until the 20<sup>th</sup> then goes back to the doctors to see when he can return to work.

A8510.4 Community Beautification Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$100.00, from \$700.00 to \$600.00.

A8810.4 Cemeteries Contractual:  
Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$300.00, from \$5800.00 to \$5500.00.

Employee benefits:

A9010.8 Retirement:

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased this by \$3000.00, from \$27,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

A9040.8 Workmen's Comp:

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased this by \$500.00. from \$16048.00 to \$16548.00.

Debt Service: Interest

A9710.7 Serial Bonds:

Supervisor Thomas reported he decreased this by \$1858.00, from \$17,171.00 to \$15,313.00.

General Fund Estimated Revenues:

A1120 Sales tax from County:

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased this by \$2500.00, from \$275,000.00 to \$277,500.00.

A3001 State Revenue Sharing:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$200.00 from \$3900.00 to \$3700.00.

A3820 Youth Aid:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$300.00 from \$1600.00 to \$1300.00.

**HIGHWAY FUND:**

DA5112.2 Permanent Improvements:

DA5112.2 Capital Outlay

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$4000.00, from \$100,000.00 to \$96,000.00.

Employee benefits:

DA9010.8 Retirement:

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased this by \$5000.00, from \$48,000.00 to \$53,000.00

DA9030.8 Social Security:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$1000.00, from \$22,000.00 to \$21,000.00.

Highway Fund Estimated Revenues:

DA2300 Services from Other Government:

Supervisor Thomas reported he reduced this by \$6768.00, from \$141,849.00 to \$135,081.00

**FIRE PROTECTION:**

SF3410.4 Fire Protection

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased this by \$4000.00, from \$82,000.00 to \$86,000.00

SF3410.8 Fire Protection Benefits:

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased this by \$2562.00, from \$25,438.00 to \$28,000.00

Fire protection estimated revenues:

SF10021 Real Property Taxes:

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased this by \$2000.00, from \$106,000.00 to \$108,000.00

At this time the Town Board made adjustments to the 2011 Town Budget:

Councilman Aldrich stated when we had the discussion on the trucks and stuff, Supt. Bradley said on the contractual expenses on the machinery that they would relinquish \$7000.00 to take care of the tax, take care of the bonding of a new vehicle. Is that something we can cut out of there? Supervisor Thomas stated yeah we probably could cut it but we might need it though. If you buy a truck you are probably going to need it.

Councilman Aldrich stated he understands that but all of a sudden he didn't want to have, he didn't like the way it was presented to the board. That's his opinion.

Councilman Liebl stated he doesn't understand where he is coming from. Councilman Aldrich stated there was a bonding issue on the new truck and can't remember the exact figure for the bond and there was \$2500.00 or \$1500.00 in interest on the bond, and then Supt. Bradley spoke up and said well we have this money in the machinery contractual expense of this \$7000.00 and we would throw that in the kitty to take care of the interest on the bond. Councilman Liebl and Supervisor Thomas agreed. Supervisor Thomas stated he did say that. Councilman Aldrich stated it didn't set well with him because, not the way he said it or anything but when your taking money out of one pocket and putting it in the other, to do something like that it just didn't seem right. Councilman Liebl asked what he would suggest that we do instead. Councilman Aldrich stated if there is \$7000.00 there to do something like this he says take it out of the budget or cut it. He isn't saying don't buy the truck, he isn't saying that he is speaking from the business standpoint of it, from his perspective of it. Councilman Liebl stated he can see where he is coming from now on it. So what your suggesting is to take that \$7000.00. Councilman Liebl stated or a portion of it out of the budget. Councilman Liebl asked what the increase of the budget was last year. Supervisor Thomas stated it didn't it went down half a percent.

Councilman Liebl stated now we are increasing about not quite 1%. Supervisor Thomas stated he thinks from his own opinion he thinks the highway fund has plenty of money. He doesn't think it's hurting for money. That's his opinion. Councilman Aldrich stated a portion of it. How much money does it make to equal 1%? Supervisor Thomas stated it is a moving number, every time you move something it changes. Right now it is saying \$1800.00 to raise it or lower it. Once you change it that number is going to change. Councilman Ross asked if what he was taking it out of. Supervisor Thomas asked Councilman Aldrich if it was Machinery. Councilman Aldrich stated he remembers the \$67,000.00, the \$7000.00 seemed like an odd number. Supervisor Thomas stated we talked about borrowing \$50,000.00, but he thinks the predicament we are going to end up in is we are not going to be able to pay the bond the first year. Because we are going to have to use the \$25,000.00 that is in 2010 budget and then we are going to have to use the \$25,000.00 that is in 2011 budget in order to buy the truck. Then borrow for two years and that it going to leave us with no money to pay the bond unless we don't bond it until next year, until 2011 so we can go probably another year before we have to pay it. Councilman Aldrich stated it would be the end of 2011 before you could start the ball rolling.

Supervisor Thomas stated otherwise you are going to end up paying it, if you do it this year you are going to have to pay and that means you are going to have to borrow an extra \$25,000.00 to make the first payment. You need the \$25,000.00 in next years budget in order to buy it. Councilman Aldrich stated we are better off to do that after the first of the year. Supervisor Thomas and Councilman Liebl agreed. Supervisor Thomas stated then you can put the payment off until the following year. Councilman Aldrich stated lets not get into the truck let's get into this \$7000.00 straighten it out. He voiced his opinion, that's how he feels that it all should be cut out of the budget or a 50% of the \$7000.00. Supervisor Thomas stated \$3500.00. Councilman Aldrich stated out of the machinery contractual expense. Councilman Ross stated apparently Supt. Bradley said he would give up \$7000,00 of that to go toward the interest of the bond. Supervisor Thomas stated he doesn't have a problem with it if that is what you want to do. Councilman Liebl stated he can see Councilman Aldrich 's point your robbing Peter to pay Paul. Councilman Aldrich stated he is looking at it in the business light of it. That's why he is saying this. Because this is where, he said we can take it out of here to pay the interest on the bond, it's like taking money out of one cookie jar to pay the, Councilman Liebl stated you are suggesting taking half of it \$3500.00. Supervisor Thomas stated right. Councilman Aldrich stated take it all or half and he is presenting it to the Budget Officer that this is his idea. Councilman Ross suggested taking half, in case you just figured on biting the bullet with something. Supervisor Thomas stated he can go with half. Supervisor Thomas stated he presented his budget, that's what's here, now it is everybody's, if you want to cut it he doesn't have a problem with it. Councilman Ross asked if we are adopting the budget tonight. Supervisor Thomas stated adopting the preliminary budget so we can set a public hearing. Supervisor Thomas asked if that is what the Board wants to do. Councilman Ross stated sure. Councilman Liebl stated like Councilman Ross said we may have to bite the bullet later. Councilman Ross stated you don't know what his theory on offering that. If he was here he could explain it. Councilman Liebl stated while we are on that same page, brush and weeds personal services we have \$20,000.00 in there. He has traveled these roads and the brush is cut back good, the weeds are cut back good. We could cut that a little bit. Supervisor Thomas stated ok and asked how much he wanted to cut it. Councilman Liebl stated \$5000.00. Councilman Ross asked how much was used. Supervisor Thomas stated in 2009 it was \$7,195.00. Councilman Aldrich stated he would be concerned with this if this is part of the youth group that is working in the summertime. Councilman Liebl stated they used them this summer. The kids did a hell of a job. Councilman Aldrich stated if cutting this off of personal services would be taking that out of what they get paid. Councilman Liebl asked if we used it at all this year? Supervisor Thomas stated we haven't spent any of it. They were paid out of somewhere else. There is plenty in there. Ronda stated they were paid out of street maintenance. Supervisor Thomas stated they were paid out of General Repairs. Supervisor Thomas stated basically all these personal services are all in separate codes but it's all pay. Councilman Aldrich stated that covers all the men and part time help and all of that, before we cut that we should know in the personal services part, if all of this in the highway department how much we used of it if there is a little bit to be cut that's good. Supervisor Thomas stated you can get an idea from 2009. Last year we spent out of Street Maintenance \$110,576.00 that left \$7500.00. Bridges we spent about all of it except \$24.00. Brush and weeds we spent \$7195.00 what's left is not quite \$13,000.00, snow removal out of \$127,000.00 we spent \$108,527.00, we have a little less then \$19,000.00, he wouldn't cut that you never know what kind of a winter your going to have.

Councilman Aldrich stated it seems like he is missing something on the personal services as far as coming up with a total if you figure. The men for the year, that doesn't seem like enough money to cover them. Supervisor Thomas stated it does, at the end of 2009 we had \$38,000.00-\$39,000.00 left. Councilman Liebl stated he thinks we can still cut \$5000.00 out of that Brush and Weeds. We certainly don't need no brush cut on these roads.

Councilman Aldrich stated at the end of the year personal services is this where there is usually some access or more of a fund balance. Supervisor Thomas stated usually there is some yes. Councilman Aldrich stated by cutting \$5000.00 off it wouldn't be jeopardizing labor down the road. Supervisor Thomas stated you are going to make it tighter, he thinks it is fine right now but everybody is going to get a 3% raise, he didn't raise the .1's but he has been for several years, he raised them every year little beyond the 3%. We will be fine for a year Councilman Aldrich asked if it would come back to bit us next year. Supervisor Thomas stated he doubts it, it will just tighten things up, you are going to get closer to the line for right now we have quite a bit of extra. You could take half of it, half of the \$5000.00. Councilman Ross stated take it and see how that goes. Supervisor Thomas stated half, \$2500.00. Councilman Liebl stated if it is agreeable with the rest of the Board he will go with it.

Supervisor Thomas stated it takes the highway appropriation down to \$757,387.00, which is down from \$765,000.00. That reduces it to \$662,994.00, which keeps it right where it is.

It will still be up a little bit, .076% and the tax rate will be \$433.61 it's up \$.33¢.

Councilman Liebl stated page 8 Adult Recreation, did we use all that \$5000.00. Supervisor Thomas stated yes, we actually did. We spent \$5448.00. We do get reimbursed 50% up to \$1680.00, which is in the revenue section of the budget. So if you take the \$1680.00 off the \$5448.00 it cost us \$3768.00. Councilman Liebl asked if we anticipate any increase in the contractual expense to justify \$5000.00 this year? Supervisor Thomas stated no he doesn't. We contract with Community Action Agency who does the transportation. He doesn't think they are raising their rates. Councilman Liebl asked how many people are using it. Councilman Aldrich stated quite a few because the logs we look at when we do the financial end of it, they are listed there and it seems to end up with 8-10 people. Once in a while it is lower but most of the time it is pretty good. Councilman Liebl suggested living that where it is. Councilman Ross stated he thinks that is where you have to spend the money before you get any money back. If you cut it you will have to pull it from somewhere else. Supervisor Thomas stated right.

Supervisor Thomas asked if there was anything else. Councilman Aldrich stated to highlight this again, where are we at with the cuts we made on top of what was proposed. Where are we standing with the tax rate and increase? What is the taxpayer going to see?

Supervisor Thomas stated the rate will be \$433.61 per \$1000.00, which will be \$.33¢ so it will pretty much stay where it is, which is .076%.

102-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Liebl to adopt the 2011 Preliminary Budget and hold a public Hearing on November 3, 2010 at 7:00 PM on the 2011 Town Budget along with the Stony Creek Free Library 2011 Contract at 7:00 PM, Stony Creek Fire Protection 2011 Contract at 7:15 PM, and the Stony Creek Historical Association 2011 Contract at 7:30 PM. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Supervisor Thomas reported there are two vacancies on the Board of Assessment Review this will advertised to fill the two vacancies on the Board of Assessment Review.

Supervisor Thomas gave copies to the town board to review on the Local Law for the dog law. This will be discussed at the next town board meeting and set a public hearing in November.

103-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Aldrich authorizing the Supervisor to apply for a Grant for the year 2011 from NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered by LARAC for the summer concerts. Roll call vote, all in favor.

A motion was made by councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Gill to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington  
Town Clerk