

October 11th, 2011

The Special Town Board meeting of the Town of Stony Creek was held on October 11, 2011.

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

Councilman Dale Aldrich

Councilman Stanley Ross

Councilman Harry Paul Gill

Absent: Councilman William Liebl

Attorney James Cooper who was not required to attend.

Supervisor Thomas reported the purpose of the meeting is to review the proposed 2012 Town Budget. There is decrease of value in the town of approximately \$30,000.00 about 2%.

With the budget there is also a decrease in the amount of money we are raising in taxes by \$14,701.00 which lowers the tax rate by 88¢ to \$432.40 per 1000 and most of that is to make up the loss of value because you lose 2% in value, your in the hole before you start.

6:33 PM the Town Board reviewed the 2012 Town Budget.

Supervisor Thomas reported he increased everybody's pay rate by 2%.

The 2012 tax rate is \$432.40 per 1000. 2011 tax rate was \$433.28 per 1000 so it's a decrease of 88¢. Which is 0.24%. The fire protection tax rate may go up a percent.

Discussion:

General Fund:

Workers Comp: Councilman Ross stated you don't have any control over this. Supervisor Thomas stated no. The County has been paying 50% out of their Fund Balance the last two years and this year for 2012 is 25% and next year for 2013 it will be zero. There will be a big increase for Workers Comp next year for 2013. We are paying over \$51,000.00 a year for Workers Comp. Supt. Bradley asked if this was actual claims or insurance. Supervisor Thomas stated claims its stretch out over a seven-year period so it's from seven years forward.

Traffic Control: Supt. Bradley asked what this is. Supervisor Thomas stated signs.

General Fund Revenues

Scrap metal: Supt. Bradley asked if \$800.00 is all your getting for scrap metal. Supervisor Thomas stated no we get more then that. Supt. Bradley stated you have \$800.00 in revenue he thought that's what it meant. Supervisor Thomas stated last year we got like \$3000.00.

Tax Collector:

Councilman Aldrich asked if this was something we had to have. Supervisor Thomas stated we don't have to, he doesn't think we can do away with it just like that. We can propose to do away with it. Councilman Aldrich stated it jumped out tonight because of the \$75.00 and all the monthly mileage bills, this is quite a bit more then he thinks it should be. Could this be eliminated or should it be? Is it something the Board should talk about maybe at a general meeting, or something we shouldn't?

Supervisor Thomas stated it's something we can talk about. It's subject to mandatory referendum so it would have to go to a vote of the people. Supt. Bradley stated yes because she is elected. Supervisor Thomas stated we would have to propose it and then put it on the ballot, this is the way he understands it. Peter LaGrasse stated you can eliminate the Tax Collector but you can't eliminate the function of the collector. If you analyze the work that goes into what happens in that office. They get bills from the county already preprinted the Tax Collector mails them out, they receive the taxes as they come in, people sometimes come in with cash whatever she keeps track of somebody has to do that. Councilman Aldrich stated he understands that you just can't put a tin can out the front door and have them dump it in as they go by. He was thinking maybe if and just thinking, maybe if we turn this over to the Town Clerk. Supervisor Thomas and Mr. LaGrasse stated yes other town clerks do that function. Mr. LaGrasse stated realize that is a lot of work and if you don't want her to do it and you want the Town Clerk and if the Town Clerk was willing to put in the hours to receive the money and all the rest of it. It would be more convenient at the town hall there is no question about it. But never the less it is work. Councilman Aldrich agreed and would probably have a lot of people here at the next meeting if you brought this up. Supervisor Thomas stated probably. \$700-\$800.00 of the Contractual Expense is for postage stamps. Councilman Aldrich stated he was just thinking and maybe it would be better to bring this up at a board meeting because it can't be done like right now. Supervisor Thomas stated no we just can't eliminate it. We can eliminate the money but she will want to get paid. We have to pay for stamps. Councilman Aldrich stated he understands it's just an idea.

Band Concerts:

Councilman Aldrich asked if the money in this was enough to cover the expenses. Supervisor Thomas stated yes. Councilman Aldrich stated this seems to be a good thing for the town. Supervisor Thomas stated we use some of the Occupancy Funds to advertise it.

Street Lighting: Councilman Aldrich asked if this was all right or if there were some you could shut off. There is one on the Hadley Road and this is why he thought about it. Just pass Jim Mansfield. Supervisor Thomas stated he would check into this to see if this light belongs to the town.

Supt. Bradley asked if the town was getting a discount for the one that's not on by the mini park on the four corners. Supervisor Thomas stated we should the meter and everything is gone.

Mini Park

Supt. Bradley asked if we have to set the pole back and asked about the paving

Supervisor Thomas talked to Jeff Tennyson Friday and he said they rented a paver and it wasn't big enough. They are having trouble with it and trying to get another. They plan on being back.

Supt. Bradley stated that's what he is waiting for on Grist Mill Road. Once they get here he knows he can have them go up and do that. They will use the town's blacktop and won't charge the town. That's what he is waiting for on that. He keeps asking Greg and he has no idea.

Supervisor Thomas will see Jeff tomorrow and will ask him again.

Supt. Bradley stated the county probably wouldn't be cutting brush this year.

Supervisor Thomas stated he understood the county was going to put the stuff back, the bench pole and hydrant. Councilman Ross talked with George VanDusen about the hydrant.

Mr. VanDusen said what they want to do is reach over with the excavator and draw a bunch of stone up against the wall and he wanted to know if it would really effect us if they moved the

hydrant because the way it works now they can't get down in the water and wanted to know if they could move it down a bit. Councilman Aldrich stated they asked for an easement to use the store parking lot to go down over the bank to get to the creek.

HIGHWAY:

Supt. Bradley stated he needs cutting edges and four radios next year. He is getting low on hydraulic oil and he is trying to milk everything. He had to order pins and bushings for the loader. They are trying not to buy anything until January.

Supt. Bradley asked what happens if we don't get FEMA. Do you think for sure we are getting it? Because we are going to use a ton of money, we won't be paving again next summer.

Supervisor Thomas stated it depends if we get FEMA money, we probably will. We should get it for the August 28th, at least some of it. The other one he doesn't know.

Supt. Bradley stated he could make up pretty good if they give it to us. He just wants to be sure that if we don't get it we will probably have to do away with paving next year or half of it anyways. Just so we are aware. Councilman Aldrich asked if there is possibly getting something from FEMA?

Supervisor Thomas stated yes for the August 28th Hurricane, Tropical storm. They are supposed to contract us for a kick off meeting. Supt. Bradley will put together the figures for damages and equipment etc. and go from there. They have a cut off of \$64-\$67,000.00 each project. Under that they basically pay it, over that it becomes a major project.

No adjustments were made to the 2012 Town Budget.

106-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross to adopt the 2012 Preliminary Budget and hold a public Hearing on November 15, 2011 at 7:00 PM on the 2012 Town Budget along with the Stony Creek Free Library 2012 Contract, Stony Creek Fire Protection 2012 Contract and the Stony Creek Historical Association 2012 Contract. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Other business:

Supervisor Thomas reported that LeBerge Group would like to get started on the Hamlet Revitalization and they would like to meet with the town board to discuss the Hamlet Revitalization Plan. A questionnaire was given to the town board for review. They will meet on Tuesday October 18th, 2011 at 6:30 PM prior to the Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Thomas received a call from the State they are asking for figures from the fire co regarding the May 28th flood to be used for reimbursement.

A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington
Town Clerk