

Draft

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 7, 2018
7:00 PM**

Supervisor Jamieson opened the meeting at 7:10pm followed by a salute to the flag. Members present: Supervisor Jamieson, Councilman Valentine, Councilman Wensley, Absent: Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Medican

PUBLIC HEARING - 2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

ON A MOTION BY Councilman Wensley and second by Councilman Valentine to open the Public Hearing on the matter of the 2019 Preliminary Budget at 7:12pm.

VOTE AYES 3: Jamieson, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

The following is the notice as it appeared in the Times Herald Record on October 29, 2018.

**TOWN OF CHESTER
1786 KINGS HIGHWAY, CHESTER, NY 10918
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019, is available in the Town Clerk's Office, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY for inspection by any interested person Monday thru Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the Town Board of Chester will meet and review said Preliminary Budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY, on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 7 PM or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. The Town Board will hear all persons who desire to comment in favor of, or against, any items therein contained.

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the Town Officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor	\$ 66,279.73
Councilpersons	\$ 15,983.52
Town Clerk	\$ 88,195.80
Highway Superintendent	\$107,798.05
Justice	\$ 33,640.08
Justice	\$ 32,518.71
Receiver of Taxes	\$ 18,628.34

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF CHESTER**

**Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk**

Dated: October 25, 2018

Supervisor Jamieson explained that the events of the election with the library budget passing will affect the final budget for 2019. He said the apportionment for the library will be taken out of the Town's budget and will appear as a new line item on the Town/County tax bill. He said as funds are collected, the Receiver of Taxes will separate the funds and hand them over to the library. He said there will also be quite a few changes before the budget is adopted on November 14th, at which time he said he will make a presentation of the budget. He said the preliminary budget contains the debt for the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center but does not include any projected revenue. In addition, he said the budget includes the expenses for the new Police Department and Senior Center. He added, however, that the Town is in good financial condition with sales tax and mortgage tax receipts which have been underestimated. Supervisor Jamieson noted that the Greens of Chester will be a windfall next year with regard to the mortgage tax receipts. As a result, he projected that the budget will be kept under the cap this year with a likely increase of about .8%. He said the Town's ability to stay under the tax cap and holding on to strong unfunded balances and underestimated revenues shows financial strength and keeps lending rates low. He added that the \$4.4million note for the purchase of Knapp's View will be coming off the Town's books in 2022. He said the Town is in a good position going forward. Supervisor Jamieson said he will be providing a presentation at the next board meeting on the budget and the tax cap formula.

Supervisor Jamieson added that the garbage district taxes are the lowest in the County and have gone down over the years to the current under \$16 p/month in 2018. The anticipated wells available in cluster subdivisions such as Juniper Woods which will be provided to the Walton Lake Estates Water District to improve water quality, and in Ashford Estates as a backup in case of emergency show the benefits of clustering and the use of resources from the 50% of property given to the Town as open space. He explained that the Town has enough sewer capacity for the first 300 homes in the Greens of Chester, leaving 140 that they will have to bear the cost of connection. He said the board will have to petition Harriman for more capacity if there is no expansion at that time.

Councilman Wensley asked the Supervisor to expand on the library tax issues. Supervisor Jamieson explained that the library expenses currently come from the general fund. So the proposition passage will move their expenses out and onto a separate line. He said that the approved \$633,99 is now their floor and any increases they propose on their budgets will go out for a vote. He added that the lease is almost completed for the library building and they library will assume responsibility for all maintenance and any capital improvements will become a one-time expense. He said they may be able to obtain grants for improvements.

The Supervisor asked if there were any public comments on the budget.

A question was asked about the removal of the library from the budget and how it affects the budget. Supervisor Jamieson said the library increase will not affect the Town's tax cap but will make the Library subject to the tax cap. He was asked if it would affect money received from the State. The Supervisor said it would not. A question was asked about the two library taxes. Supervisor Jamieson explained how libraries are chartered by schools and towns and those residents in the Warwick School District have to pay both libraries' tax as a result. He said both Nancy Calhoun and James Skoufis have tried, unsuccessfully, to resolve this problem at the state level. A question was raised about the increase in the recreation budget of \$60,000. The Supervisor explained it was related to new programs being offered that have a corresponding revenue stream. A comment was made that the additional funds for the expansion of the building department personnel was no longer in the budget. A question was asked about the salary increase being set to the union contracts and the Town reporting higher salaries. The Supervisor answered that the Police and Highway Department are contractual and elected officials and employees get a 3% raise. A question was raised about how the salaries are determined for elected officials and if newly elected persons get a reduction in pay to coincide with experience. Supervisor Jamieson said that the salaries have evolved over time and that they go with the office. He was asked why other officials earn more than the Supervisor. He replied that the Supervisor was considered a part-time position. He added that in certain towns additional persons are hired as the budget officer.

ON A MOTION BY Councilman Valentine and second by Councilman Wensley to close the public hearing at 8:03pm.

VOTE AYES 3: Jamieson, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

PUBLIC HEARING – INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW OF 2018 – A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C

The following is the Public Notice as it appeared in the Time Herald Record on November 2, 2018.

TOWN OF CHESTER
1786 KINGS HIGHWAY
CHESTER, NY 10918

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL
LAW ENTITLED: A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE
TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Chester will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 7 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY. Said public hearing is to hear comments on the above captioned proposed local law.

A copy of the proposed local law is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for inspection during normal business hours (M-Th, 8 am to 5 pm).

Any person interested in the proposed local law may appear in person or by agent. All written communications should be addressed to the Board at the above address.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF CHESTER

LINDA A. ZAPPALA
TOWN CLERK
DATED: OCTOBER 31, 2018

ON A MOTION BY Councilman Valentine and second by Councilman Wensley to open the Public Hearing at 8:04pm on the matter of the Introductory Local Law of 2018 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Limit Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-C.

Supervisor Jamieson explained that the tax cap would not be exceeded. There were no comments heard.

ON A MOTION BY Councilman Wensley and second by Councilman Valentine to rescind the motion on the Introductory Local Law of 2018 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Limit Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-C.

VOTE AYES 3: Jamieson, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION BY Councilman Valentine and second by Councilman Wensley to close the Public Hearing at 8:08pm.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION BY Councilman Valentine and second by Councilman Wensley to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.
Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2018-11-07