

DRAFT

**TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING
October 28, 2015
7:00 PM**

Supervisor Jamieson opened the meeting 7:06 PM followed by a salute to the flag. Members present: Supervisor Jamieson, Councilman Murray, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Valentine

PUBLIC HEARING PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2016

The following is the Public Hearing notice for the 2016 Preliminary Budget as published in the Times Herald Record on October 24, 25 and 28, 2015.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016, is available in the Town Clerk's Office, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY for inspection by any interested person Monday through 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, October 28, 2015 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 Elected Town Officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor	\$59,500.00
Councilmen (4) each	14,349.00
Town Justice	30,199.00
Town Justice	29,192.00
Town Clerk	79,174.00
Highway Superintendent	96,771.00
Receiver of Taxes	16,723.00

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF CHESTER
Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
Dated: October 22, 2015

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to open the Public Hearing on the matter of Adopting the Preliminary Budget for 2016. Motion carried 4-0.

Supervisor Jamieson commented that the preliminary budget is below the tax cap with an increase of .74%. He said Village residents will actually see a reduction in taxes. Supervisor Jamieson said we have maintained a strong bond rating; the highest of a Town of its size in the County.

Tracy Shuh, Preservation Collective

Ms. Shuh asked how it was possible since salaries, benefits and insurance have increased. She said the last column in the preliminary budget was not correct. Supervisor Jamieson explained that the final budget would actually calculate that column correctly. He said that the budget contains adjustments for under-estimated revenue and over-estimated expenses. There was also savings from the long-term debt refinance amounting to approximately \$170,000 and, the use of unexpended fund balances. Supervisor Jamieson noted that both the Police Department renovation of the ambulance building and the new senior center/recreation center were included in the budget.

There being no further comments on the public hearing **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to close the public hearing at 7:10pm. Motion carried 4-0.

DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to approve Orange County Trust and Sterling National Bank of designated depositories and allow the Supervisor to sign same. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to approve the minutes through September 22, 2015. Motion carried 4-0.

HIGHWAY GAS & DIESEL FUEL BID

Supervisor Jamieson announced the bid results from the bid opening for gas and diesel fuel held October 7, 2015:

Mirabito Energy, Binghamton, NY - \$.0444 p/gallon above the average posted price for diesel and \$.1455 per gallon above the average posted price for gasoline.

Supervisor Jamieson explained that based on the current NYS OGS award; the average posted price is discounted. As a result, Highway Superintendent LaSpina has recommended the Town continue purchasing from the OGS award.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to reject the bid received from Mirabito Energy Motion carried 4-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to continue to purchase gasoline and diesel fuel for 2016 through the OGS award. Motion carried 4-0.

RELEVY OF UNPAID WATER BILLS

Supervisor Jamieson read the memorandum from the Town Clerk concerning unpaid water bills.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to relevy the following amounts to the property owner’s 2016 property tax bill:

Walton Lake Water District:	\$ 15,386.25
Surrey Meadows Water District:	\$ 15,561.20
Lake Hill Farms Water District:	\$ 24,167.22
Sugar Loaf Hills Water District:	\$ 9,950.00
Fieldcrest Water District	\$ 3,141.00

Motion carried 4-0.

WARWICK RIDGE DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Supervisor Jamieson explained that the Warwick Ridge Drainage District formation would establish a tax levy in 2017. He said the acceptance is subject to some minor revisions and the maintenance bond of \$170,775.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to set the Public Hearing on the Warwick Ridge Drainage District on November 18, 2015 at 7pm to be held at the Chester Senior Center. Motion carried 4-0.

RESCHEDULING OF TOWN BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Jamieson suggested the rescheduling of the Town Board meeting of November 25, 2015 as it is the day before Thanksgiving. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilman Murray to reschedule the meeting of November 25, 2015 to immediately follow the public hearing scheduled on November 18, 2015, to be held at the Chester Senior Center. Motion carried 4-0.

EDUCATION REQUESTS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to approve the attendance of Planning Board secretary Alexa Burchianti to the “Zoning Updates” on November 2, 2015 and “Open Meetings Law” on November 5, 2015 to be held at the Orange County Municipal Planning Federation at a cost of \$15 per course. Motion carried 4-0.

“UNCLE BUCK”

Mr. Frank Pileggi addressed the Board to announce his Thanksgiving fundraising campaign to benefit veterans to be held at Shoprite, Chester on November 19, 2015. He said his pantry has received over 30,000 lbs. of food for veterans. He also announced the cell phone drive and the collection box located at Town Hall. Mr. Pileggi thanked the Supervisor and Town Board for allowing him to speak. Mr. Pileggi added that the Town has the best Police and Highway Departments.

MS4 SWPPP - RI SURESKY & SONS

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Smith and approved unanimously.

WHEREAS the Planning Board approved the R.I. Suresky new car storage facility in the Town of Chester, and

WHEREAS the town Engineer has approved the SWPPP;

WE HEREBY RESOLVE that the Supervisor as MS4 Officer is authorized to sign the MS4 SWPPP Acceptance form.

TOWN BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilwoman Smith asked the status of the ambulance building renovation for the Police Department. Engineer Fusco said a bid date should be set for December with a January start date. He said the final layout has been approved but not the construction plans.

Councilwoman Smith commented that the Kite Fest was a good time for all who participated and that the Park & Recreation Department did a great job at the Halloween Parade with the park set-up of a maze, jumpy houses and games.

Councilman Valentine extended his appreciation to the Town Highway Department for their assistance with the fill at the Oak Street Park.

Supervisor Jamieson thanked the Sugar Loaf Firehouse, and the Bellvale Community for their help at the Kite Festival with hayrides. He said it was good once the wind picked up.

Supervisor Jamieson thanked the highway and park and recreation departments for their help with the parade. He said it was well attended with the great weather and McDonald's who was a big sponsor of the event this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Doellinger announced that there will be a Halloween curfew set for Friday and Saturday nights from 8pm-6am for children under 18.

Chief Doellinger announced the Veteran's Day Memorial Service to be held on November 11 at 11am at the Walton Engine Hose.

Walter Popailo announced that Oak Park was being filled to allow for sledding. He thanked Val-con for donating the fill. He thanked McDonald's for their generosity and Kristine and Lori for their help at the Halloween Parade.

Walter also offered to install new bright white LED bulbs throughout Town Hall if the Town Board would approve. He said the lights would last 5-10 years.

Tracy Shuh of the Preservation Collective commented that the 100 year anniversary celebration of the Chester Historical Society was well attended and commemorated.

Ms. Shuh thanked the Highway Superintendent for installing the hiking crossing signs that her organization donated to the Highlands Trail at Bull Mill Road.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL

Ms. Sonya Mason of the NYNJ Trail Conference addressed the Board. She showed a slide presentation of the work done by the Trail organization of volunteers including the Bellvale Community and Tracy Shuh of the Preservation Collective. Volunteers spent 600 hours working on building a wide corridor and a 65 yard “Bog Bridge” which was built 6” off the ground. She explained that the Highlands Trail 150 miles long and runs from the Delaware Water Gap through the New Jersey Highlands to Sterling Forrest through Storm King. She said the Trail’s mission is to create an off-road green corridor from High Point to the Hudson River. She thanked the Town Board and Open Space Institute for their support of the project and the Preservation Collective for the hiker warning signs.

There being no further business brought before the board **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2015-10-28