

**TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
November 07, 2019  
7:00 PM**

Supervisor Valentine opened the meeting at 7:00pm followed by a salute to the flag. Members present: Supervisor Valentine, Councilman Perez, Councilwoman Smith, Absent: Councilman Finizia, Councilman Wensley

**PUBLIC HEARING 2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to open the Public Hearing on the 2020 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Chester at 7:05pm.

**VOTE AYES 3: Valentine, Perez, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

The following is the Public Notice as it appeared in the times Herald Record on November 1, 2019.

**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, 2020, 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 Thursday, November 7, 2019 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
Deputy Supervisor	\$ 5,627.55
Councilpersons	\$ 16,463.03
Town Clerk	\$ 90,841.67
Highway Superintendent	\$111,031.99
Justice	\$ 34,649.28
Justice	\$ 33,494.27
Receiver of Taxes	\$ 19,187.19

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

**Linda A. Zappala  
Town Clerk**

Dated: October 24, 2019

Supervisor Valentine asked if there were any public comments.

Tom Becker, Sanford Avenue, asked if there was more itemized budget information for review. Supervisor Valentine said he could review the departmental submissions which made up the tentative budget.

Susan Bahren, Whispering Hills, asked if a public notice containing the salaries of elected officials had been published. The Town Clerk said it was published in the Times Herald Record on November 1, 2019 and posted on the official signboard and on the Town's website. She asked why the increase in Town Board personal services of \$4,890. Supervisor Valentine replied that all Board members received a 3% raise except for Supervisor and that there was \$165,000 added for the extra payroll in 2020 due to the leap year. She commented that fund 7230 is for "joint youth program" and the correct fund code for the SLPAC should be 7560, "other performing arts". She asked what other fees comprised the Recreation Department revenues of the additional \$90,000. Supervisor Valentine replied that was added for additional bus trips which cost is offset with revenue. Ms. Bahren noted that revenues show as negative amounts. The Supervisor said that is due to an improper formula in the spreadsheet. She asked why the increase in Building Inspector personal services of \$32,000. Supervisor Valentine replied there is an increase for a part-time and full-time employee that might not get expended until the middle or latter part of the year and that Jim Farr's engineer and building inspector fees are included in the contractual line. She asked about the Zoning and Planning personal services increase. He explained that includes a 3% increase plus extra payroll and the huge health insurance benefits over \$300,000. She asked about the increase in the Courts personal services line. Supervisor Valentine explained that the increase actually represents a 2019 increase not budgeted for last year. Ms. Bahren asked about the highway fees for Village residents that receive no services and the subject of consolidation. Supervisor Valentine said that is a big topic and there have been discussions about the Police Department consolidation in the past and there are things that can be done.

Lydia Cuadros, Creamery Pond, asked the difference between the tentative and preliminary budget. Supervisor Valentine explained that the tentative is the departments' wish list while the preliminary is the adjustments made after the budget session and discussions with the Town Board and based on anticipated revenue such as sales and mortgage tax that we really won't know until year end. She asked for an explanation of the funds. Supervisor Valentine explained .1 was for all salaries and benefits, .2 includes equipment such as computers and .3 includes items such as services by other providers and office supplies. Ms. Cuadros asked what the \$15,000 for budget officer was. The Supervisor said it was for himself, and could be contracted out. She asked if there was a detailed budget for the theater. The Supervisor explained that there were personal services included and revenue including rental fees plus \$1-2 p/ticket sold and percentage of concessions. Ms. Cuadros asked about the bond debt. Supervisor Valentine pointed her to the schedule of debt service which includes the combined BAN for the new senior center and theater purchase that could be paid down in 7 years and the \$290,000 in principal and \$37,000 in interest due on the Knapp's View property purchase which should be paid off in 2024.

**A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to close the Public Hearing at 7:40pm, there being no further comments from the public. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW #4 OF 2019 - A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C**

Supervisor Valentine explained that he had to add back more funding for the note on the new highway equipment and he was working out a glitch with the Library portion. He said the additional \$300,000 for benefits and extra payroll along with using fund balances of \$165,000 would push us to exceed the tax cap although there is anticipated additional revenue next year. The tax cap of 1.01% is based on the Town's base growth factor which is calculated at 2% or the rate of inflation of the prior year's levy.

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to open the Public Hearing on the matter of the Introductory Local Law #4 of 2019 A Local Law to Override The Tax Levy Limit Established In General Municipal Law Section 3-C at 7:55pm. Motion Carried 3-0.

Supervisor Valentine asked if there were any comments. There were none.

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilman Perez to closed the Public hearing at 7:57pm. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala  
Town Clerk  
2019-11-07