

Town Board Minutes November 19, 2008

Present: Supervisor William A. Eagan, Councilmen Richard K. Hawkins and James E. Pluta, Councilwomen Cathleen M. Dobson and Cathy A. Maghran.

Also Present: Highway Superintendent Telaak, Town Attorney Downey and Code Enforcement Officer's Ferguson and Lisowski.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to approve the minutes of the 11/05/08 meeting.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Pluta and seconded by Councilman Hawkins upon review by the Town Board that fund bills on the Abstract dated November 13, 2008, in the amount of \$39,808.72 be paid.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Received and filed a thank you letter from the Boston Emergency Squad in regards to the passing of Town of Boston Proposition No.1 in support of amending the Boston Emergency Squad Defined Contribution Service Award Program.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to appoint Branden Watson to the Boston Emergency Squad and will continue until such time as resignation, removal, or replacement.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to accept the letter of resignation from the Planning Board from David M. Bernas.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Supervisor Eagan stated that we have already seen a loss of over \$60,000 in Mortgage tax revenue for 2008 and next year it is predicted to be reduced further. Our State Aid only went up about 1% and with what is coming out of Albany we are told to prepare for less in 2009. With regards to Sales Tax revenue in 2008 it up less than 1%. As we have all been informed through the media consumers are spending less, which means we will be getting less in sales tax revenue for 2009.

In the General Fund appropriations (expenses) from 2008 to 2009 increased by only .01% and the Highway Fund decreased by about 2% from the 2008 budget. The important thing to point out is that the actual General Fund Tax Levy stayed the same and the tax rate went down.

Supervisor Eagan Cont'd: The budget contains a combined tax rate of \$3.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the General, Highway, Fire, Light, and Ambulance funds a drop from 2008 rate of \$3.40. The end result is a property rate tax reduction for the second year in a row in both the General and Highway fund.

The Town Board has also had to look at workforce reduction. The loss of Mortgage Tax Revenue along with predicted losses in Sales Tax and State Aid for 2009 the Town Board would not be acting responsibly if they fail to look at cuts in the workforce. So the management position of Deputy Highway Superintendent was eliminated from funding at a savings in 2009 of over \$60,000. Fortunately, with the retirement of one of the highway workers no one has to lose their job and our unrestricted work force in the Highway Department can stay at full force.

Other cost areas of the budget are primarily controlled via contracts such as fire protection, ambulance and refuse. We had a 1% increase in overall expenses due to the Refuse contract that requires an increase of \$30,000. Without this increase our overall appropriations (expenses) would have shown a decrease.

Supervisor Eagan said he is pleased that the Town Board worked to holding the line on spending and taxes. Although my tentative budget froze the general fund tax levy for 2009 and offered a tax reduction for the second year in a row in both General & Highway, the input of the other members of our town board made it all possible. This was truly a team effort.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilman Pluta to adopt the 2009 Town of Boston Budget as follows:

Appropriated

Appropriations Est. Revenues Fund Balance Raised by Taxation

General	1,660,150	1,004,800	470,000	185,350
Highway	1,232,381	403,984	120,000	708,397
Fire	736,000	0	16,000	720,000
Light	20,000	0	0	20,000
Ambulance	90,000	0	25,000	65,000
Refuse/Garbage	588,000	0	19,140	568,860
Water #1	79,909	0	0	79,909
Water #2	57,000	0	0	57,000
Water #1, Ext.1	6,422	0	0	6,422
Water #2, Ext.	238,305	0	0	38,305
Water #3	198,000	0	0	198,000
Grand Totals	\$4,706,167	\$1,408,784	\$650,140	\$2,647,243

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan and seconded by Councilman Hawkins to adopt the 2009 Elected Officials Salaries as follows: Supervisor \$28,300, (4) Councilman \$7,770, Town Clerk \$43,515, (2) Town Justices \$14,455 and Superintendent of Highways \$49,918.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Councilman Pluta on the recommendation of Town Attorney Downey noted that because there is funding for the Boston Community Days in the 2009 budget that he make mention that he is the Chairman of this committee.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins upon the recommendation of the Town Engineer, TVGA, that Town Board as lead agency has determined that after taking a long hard look into the Special Permit for Dumping of Material at 7010 Boston State Road finds that the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the environment, and declares a Negative Declaration and that no further action is required per 6 NYCRR part 617.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to confirm the Town Board's approval of the Special Permit for Dumping of Material from Paul Reinecke, 7010 Boston State Road, as modified and initialed by Paul Reinecke.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to ratify the approval of the Special Permit for Paul Reinecke, 7010 Boston State Road.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins that based on the unpredictable economy not to approve any overnight travel expenses during 2009.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Received and filed monthly reports from the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Assessor, Code Enforcement Officers and the Dog Control Officer.

Town Clerk Shenk noted that the next Town Hall blood drive will be Tuesday, December 9th from 2:30-6:30. He also noted that the Town of Boston Sharing Tree is up. Anyone interested may take a gift tag from the tree, purchase the gift for a child and return it by Wednesday, December 17th.

Highway Superintendent Telaak reported that leaf pick up will end this Friday.

Highway Superintendent Telaak thanked the Town of Hamburg Highway Department and Kirst Construction for their help with installing the Christmas decorations throughout town.

Highway Superintendent Telaak noted that recently due to snowplowing the two 550 trucks broke down. He stated that his crew did their best with the equipment and manpower available.

Highway Superintendent Telaak noted that by moving the Deputy Highway Superintendent position into the vacant position still puts his crew down by one.

Supervisor Eagan stated that the Highway Department has been working with seven individuals in the organized labor force since Highway Superintendent Telaak took office. He noted that in 2005 Highway Superintendent Telaak presented a budget with eight working in that department. The Deputy Highway Superintendent is paid by the General Fund. The 2006 Budget had seven workers. Supervisor Eagan stated that it was Highway Superintendent Telaak's choice to eliminate the eighth worker. Supervisor Eagan stated that under his department regulations it's his responsibility schedule workers.

Councilman Pluta noted that he met with Keith Kaszubik and they have a tentative agreement to allow the Highway Department to plow and push the snow to the end of Maple Grove Drive.

Councilman Pluta noted that he is pleased with the final budget and that the Town Board has put in a lot of time and effort to keep the spending at a minimum. He noted that this Town Board will be vigilant in the coming year to look for more ways to reduce spending.

Councilwoman Maghran thanked all the volunteers that helped with the installation of the Christmas lighting. Councilwoman Maghran noted that an ad for town planner is being placed.

Councilwoman Dobson thanked the state troopers who have been working diligently on enforcing the speed limits on Eckhardt and North Boston Roads.

Councilman Hawkins noted that Mark Gaston, Erie County Soil and Water, during his presentation on the 18-Mile Creek noted that eight projects are being worked on in the Town of Boston. Councilman Hawkins stated that he was notified by the NYS Police that many homes and vehicles were broken into and they requested that if anyone has any information to please contact them. Please lock all doors and windows on both homes and vehicles.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilman Hawkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

DAVID J. SHENK, TOWN CLERK