

Town Board Minutes November 2, 2011

Present: Supervisor Martin A. Ballowe, Councilmen Jay P. Boardway, Jeffrey A. Genzel, Eugene S. Wieckowski, Jr., and Councilwoman Maghran.

Also Present: Town Attorney Kobiolka, Highway Superintendent Telaak, and Code Enforcement Officer Ferguson.

The following bids were received for the Valley View Stream Bank Erosion project:

Eastwood Industries \$14,444 Site Specialties, LLC \$25,400

Highland Acres \$44,840 Donald Braasch Constr. \$19,952

A motion was made by Councilman Genzel and was seconded by Supervisor Ballowe to award the bid for the Valley View Lane Stream Bank Erosion Project to Eastwood Industries at a cost of \$14,444.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Boardway and seconded by Supervisor Ballowe to adopt the minutes of the October 19, 2011 regular meeting.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Wieckowski and seconded by Councilman Genzel upon review by the Town Board, that fund bills on the Abstract dated October 27, 2011 in the amount of \$99,402.88 be paid.

five (5) Ayes Carried

An email letter was received from Tom Steinagle regarding a 53-foot tractor-trailer on Zimmerman Road.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that Code Enforcement Officer Ferguson has been made aware of this and he has been trying to contact the property owner via telephone without response. He will now be notified via certified mail.

Ron Yormick inquired if there were any updates on the Deanna Drive Subdivision.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that he spoke with Dana Darling and he should have something to present to the Town Board soon. He is finishing up drawings with his engineer for the patio and single-family homes.

A motion was made by Councilman Wieckowski and seconded by Supervisor Ballowe to appoint Allison Koczur and Christopher Ford 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 Councilwoman Maghran and was seconded by Councilman Boardway on the recommendation of Recreation Director Clesse, to appoint the following to the Friday Night Recreation Program, terms to expire 12/31/11:

Name	Position	Hourly Rate
Kaelyn Gamel	Substitute Counselor	\$ 8.50
Sabre Gamel	Substitute Counselor	\$ 8.50
Allison Kozur	Substitute Counselor	\$ 8.50
Kayla Mazur	Substitute Counselor	\$ 8.50
Morgan Monin	Substitute Counselor	\$ 8.50

Brianne Peterson Substitute Counselor \$ 8.50

Dan Selby Substitute Counselor \$ 8.50

Mandi Burns Crafts Counselor \$ 8.50

five (5) Ayes Carried

RESOLUTION 2011-18 JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At 7:40 p.m. a Public Hearing was held to hear comments regarding the 2012 Preliminary Town Budget.

Supervisor Ballowe read the legal notice.

There were no public comments.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that in the 2012 Budget the total tax levy was reduced by 2 ¼ percent from the 2011 Budget. So it is going down this year. Residents will see a tax reduction in the General Highway Fund and a significant reduction in the Refuse Tax due to the negotiations of Councilman Wieckowski we went back to 2006 pricing. Those residents that are in Water District #3, will also see a savings due to receiving the Buy America Bonds which allows for a 35 percent rebate on that loan interest. Additional tax savings was the Ambulance fund which amounts to a slight decrease in the tax rate from the tentative budget.

Councilman Boardway noted that the headline in the October 27th issue of the Hamburg Sun is wrong. The headline stated that our taxes were increasing, when the article itself proceeds to show all the ways in which our tax rates are decreasing. We have asked them for a correction, but their characterization of the Preliminary Budget calling for any slight increase in taxes is blatantly and absolutely wrong. Supervisor Ballowe and Bookkeeper Selby have worked diligently on this budget, and they know the pulse of what this town requires in services and what this town can accept in taxes. Taxes have gone down and services have gone up. We are proud to present this budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Boardway and seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to close the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Genzel and was seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to adopt the 2012 Town of Boston Budget as follows:

Appropriated

Appropriations Est. Revenues Fund Balance Raised by Taxation

General	1,689,671	1,253,250	250,000	186,421
Highway	1,168,338	442,204	0.00	726,134
Fire	770,000	0	50,000	720,000
Light	20,000	0	20,000	
Ambulance	102,000	10,000	12,000	90,000
Refuse/Garbage	552,000	0	5,880	546,120
Water #1	79,909	0	79,909	
Water #2	55,400	0	55,400	
Water #1, Ext.1	6,422	0	0	6,422
Water #2, Ext. 2	36,800	0	0	36,800
Water #3	266,400	0	0	266,400
Water #3, Ext. 1	11,000	0	5,942	5,058
Totals	\$4,757,940	\$1,705,454	\$323,822	\$2,728,664

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Boardway and was seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to approve the following 2012 schedule of salaries for the elected Town Officials:

Supervisor \$22,640

(4) Councilman \$ 7,770

Town Clerk \$43,515

(2) Town Justices \$15,200

Superintendent of Highways \$52,450

five (5) Ayes Carried

Supervisor Ballowe noted that in the 2012 Budget, the increase in revenue came from the Gas wells that were put into the town and from the Assessed values. We want smart development in town. We need some growth to keep our services and costs low. We have to do it the right way and the smart way to keep taxes low.

Supervisor Ballowe thanked Bookkeeper Selby for her hard work on this budget and has crunched numbers day to day. All the department heads have saved money from crunching numbers to the way they purchase items and or office supplies.

A motion was made by Councilman Genzel and was seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to schedule a bid opening for The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Energy Efficiency Project for November 29, 2011 at 10 a.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Councilman Genzel noted that this grant in the amount of approximately \$14,000 is to replace lighting within the town hall, ambulance bay and Highway Department garage to energy efficient lighting. This was put out to bid once before, but there were no responses.

Town Attorney Kobiolka noted that the Boston Fire Company has filed a lawsuit against another resident that claims an interest in the property. He noted that he is waiting for direction from the Court in terms of who actually owns the property or who has an interest in the property and recommends the Town Board table this request until he hears from the attorneys involved.

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and was seconded by Councilman Boardway upon the recommendation of Town Attorney Kobiolka to table the Special Permit for Dumping of Material from the Boston Fire Co., Inc.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Received and filed monthly reports from the Town Clerk and Code Enforcement Officer.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that he received a thank you from town resident George Jenney of Feddick Road who was honored as a Grand Knight at the Hamburg Council. The Town Board presented him with a Proclamation for his accomplishment.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that the Ethics Committee has been working on the Town of Boston Code of Ethics, and a final draft should be available by the next regular Town Board meeting. He also noted that Town parks are now closed.

Deputy Town Clerk Mule noted that First Come First Serve Deer Management Permits went on sale November 1st.

Highway Superintendent Telaak noted that the winter supply of sand is stocked up. Snowplows have been worked on and are ready for the first snowfall.

Highway Superintendent Telaak noted that leaf pick up is still going on and will continue until the snow flies.

Councilman Wieckowski noted the Office of Emergency Management has a registry they are working on for anyone in town that may have a disability or special needs. He noted that a form will be distributed throughout town and will be posted on the town's website.

Councilman Genzel as Engineering Liaison noted that he has been working with Town Engineer Hannon with the Finalization of Water District No. 3, ext. 1. We are hoping to start this project by the end of November. The 2011 budget allowed for \$30,000 in Engineering Services, year to date we have spent \$19,395. In 2009 the town spent over \$90,000 in Engineering Services.

Councilman Genzel as Drainage Liaison received an email from Mr. Moran on Back Creek Road regarding a tree that fell behind his house. This area is part of the next section of the Eighteen Mile Creek scheduled for cleanup.

Councilman Genzel as Christmas Lighting Liaison noted that letters will be sent out to companies who have donated in the past for donations this year. Anyone wanting to donate to this fund can submit a check made payable to Town of Boston Christmas Lighting to the Supervisor's Office. The lights are typically put up around Thanksgiving.

Councilman Genzel thanked all those involved in the budget process.

Councilman Boardway as Fire Company Liaison noted that there is a service award program involved with the Fire Services. This Town Board met with representatives from Penflex earlier tonight. Based on some of their recommendations, we will have another meeting with fire company representatives and relook at this program. Along with that, at the Town Board's request an audit was done of the actual recording process for the different service award points that the fire companies have done once a year. Councilman Boardway noted that the Penflex representatives found no irregularities in the reporting systems in fire companies.

Councilman Boardway as Insurance Liaison has a meeting scheduled for next week to explore new directions for insurance coverage in town. Last year for Worker's Compensation, Liability, and Auto coverage cost \$133,976. If we can save ten, even fifteen thousand out of that number, it is a huge stride forward into keeping our taxes low.

Councilman Boardway also noted that this was a good, solid budget. This year was an incredible year because of the state mandates of the 2% property tax cap. We were able to

keep that 2% cap in mind during the process and came in well below that on the levy. Other towns in Erie County are asking to be relieved of that cap.

Councilwoman Maghran noted she attended the Knights of Columbus function where on behalf of the Town Board presented town resident George Jenney with a Proclamation for his accomplishments of completing his term as Grand Knight of Hamburg Council #2220.

Councilwoman Maghran noted that four years ago she promised to the residents of this town to do everything in her power to not increase taxes and is very proud she was able to keep that promise.

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and seconded by Councilman Wieckowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

JENNIFER A. MULE', DEPUTY TOWN CLERK