

Town of Northumberland

November 8, 2007

Public Hearing

Supervisor Willard Peck called the Public Hearing to order @ 7:00 PM. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending were Councilman Paul Bolesh; Councilman Harold Vance Jr. and Councilman George Hodgson. Councilman Daniel Gale was absent due to illness. Clerk Denise Murphy and Highway Sup't Neil Petteys were present.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive the public's comments on the preliminary budget for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008. Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries for elected officials are as follows:

Supervisor - \$12,922.00
Town Clerk - \$33,500.00
Councilman (4) - \$4,160.00
Justices (2) - \$6,448.00
Highway Sup't - \$45,656.00
Tax Collector - \$3,900.00

Supervisor Peck stated the salary increases for all elected and appointed employees are in the range of \$3 – 4%. Supervisor stated the Town Budget for 2008 is conservative and the estimated revenues are also conservative. The projected 2008 figures for sales tax, by the county, reflect a slight decrease.

Supervisor Peck gave an overview of the proposed 2008 Town Budget. Supervisor Peck opened up the public hearing for comments.

James Heber, 286 Brownville Road, expressed concerns in the following areas of the proposed 2008 Town Budget. A1420.4 (Attorney) Mr Heber felt the amount of \$12,000 was too high.

A1440.4 (Engineer) Mr Heber asked if the applicant that come before the Planning Board paid the engineer costs associated with his/her application. Supervisor Peck stated that the applicant did reimburse the town for fees associated with their approval. The only amount not reimbursed was for general engineering services, such as attending the monthly Planning Board Meeting. A3120.4 (Police & Constable) Mr. Heber asked why we went from \$520 for a constable to \$2,080.00 for a contractual expense. Supervisor Peck stated that the Town Court asked for police presence during court, he estimated three hours a week for 52 weeks a year. A4068.4 (Insect Control) Mr. Heber asked why the amount budgeted went from \$8,100 to \$13,800. Supervisor Peck stated the program has grown in popularity and more residents are taking advantage of the mosquito dunks.

A8160.4 (Garbage) Mr. Heber stated that the town needs to consider raising the cost for bag stickers. The cost to run a transfer station is increasing. Supervisor Peck stated the town is looking at this area. The last time sticker prices were increased was in October, 2003 when the cost went from \$1.50 per bag to \$2.00 per bag. DA5112.2

(Improvements). Health Insurance (A9060.8) Mr. Heber asked who was on Health Insurance and felt strongly that the Town Board needs to adopt a policy that limits health insurance to full time employees. If a part time employee/elected official wants health insurance, they should pay for it themselves. Mr. Heber asked why the amount budgeted for road paving has gone down. Supervisor Peck stated the amount could increase if needed. The town has no idea what the cost per ton will be this year for paving. This is an estimated figure. Mr Heber asked where the money was reflected that the town is scheduled to receive from Finch Pruyn for parks. Supervisor Peck stated that the agreement with Finch Pruyn has not been finalized as of this date. Finch Pruyn is still waiting for final approval from DEC on there application. Supervisor Peck stated if the town receives these funds it will be a capital project and will not be reflected in the town budget similar to the Sweeney and Canal Corp Grant for Hudson Crossing Park.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing @ 7:45 PM.
Councilman Harold Vance Jr seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk