

December 10, 2018

Special Meeting

A **Special Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on December 10, 2018 in the Vincent F. Nyberg Meeting Room of the Cortlandt Town Hall located at One Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY (10567) with the following elected officials and appointed staff in attendance:

LINDA D. PUGLISI	Supervisor
FRANCIS X. FARRELL	Councilmember
DEBRA COSTELLO	Councilmember
RICHARD BECKER	Councilmember
JAMES CREIGHTON	Councilmember

Also present:

TOM WOOD	Town Attorney
LAROUÉ ROSE SHATZKIN	Town Clerk
PATRICIA ROBCKE	Comptroller
JEFFREY COLEMAN	Director, DES
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Director, DOTS
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Supervisor Puglisi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Supervisor Puglisi led all in attendance in a Pledge to the Flag

ROLL CALL

On a roll call attendance taken by Town Clerk Shatzkin all Town Board members indicated their presence.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. RE: Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the 2019 Budget

(A complete transcript of this Public Hearing is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.)

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Hearing and presented its Affidavit of Publication from the official Town newspaper.

Supervisor Puglisi called the hearing to order at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING, (cont.)

Supervisor Puglisi reviewed the budget process and its timetable for the State. She stated that for .Patty and I started working on developing next year's budget. The Town Board then deliberates on the budget, has open work sessions and then they receive and file the proposed budget. Then after there's a consensus about next year's budget, they hold an official public hearing. The preliminary presentation is on the Town's website and it gives all the particulars and details of the Town finances and of the proposed budget for next year. They have to do that by State law by the end of October and that proposed budget then becomes a public document. It's up online, people can pick up hard copies of it and they can certainly contact Patty Robcke, Town Comptroller and the Supervisor to answer any questions.

Patty Robcke stated that the overall tax increase for the year 2019 for those who live within the Town outside of the village is only about .1% for the average taxable value within the Town equates to about \$1.80 a year increase in your taxes. Town taxes are about 12% of your overall property tax bill. This covers everything from your highway services, sanitation, parks.

Supervisor Puglisi added that the villages receive some services from the Town government so they pay also a very low Town tax for the services that they can utilize. She stated that the largest portion of your annual tax bill is the school tax which she and the Town Board members have no input or legal jurisdiction. The County has about 14% of the annual tax bill and there are special districts such as paramedics, sidewalks and lighting around 5%. The Supervisor stated that they've always had a balanced budget, never a deficit and they've increased the savings account, fund balances, and reserve accounts which have they tripled during the tenure of this administration. At the same time they have made many improvements. Capitol projects are \$50,000 and over and the Town has done well over 150 million dollars of capitol projects, playgrounds, streetlights, pool improvements, senior citizen complex improvements and so on with a surplus every year.

Patty Robcke added that they are currently looking at a balance of Town debt that's about 5 1/2 million dollars at the end of this year. That is less than 1% of the constitutional debt limit that the Town is allowed to borrow

Supervisor Puglisi commented that it is a mandate from New York State to have a tax cap to help taxpayers and they give us a cap for next year of 2 tax cap which the Town always has met.

Patty Robcke discussed capitol reserves now set aside for capitol improvements and that the unassigned fund balance is about 3.9 million which is available in our general fund for Town purposes. She stated that they like to keep a good fund balance because they do collect taxes not only for the Town, but for the County, school district and special districts and the Town has to make those entities whole.

PUBLIC HEARING, (cont.)

Supervisor Puglisi gave an example of the two nor'easter storms with no FEMA reimbursement.

Patty Robcke continued that the tax revenue is about 54% of our budget from taxpayers and that another major revenue source is sales tax revenue. budgeting 4.6 million dollars for the incoming year. The Town also collects mortgage tax revenue, planning to receive \$1,150,000 in mortgage taxes and the state revenue sharing is \$190,000. The departmental revenues are about 8 million dollars. That makes up the balance of the others. Interest on the accounts is extremely low.

Patty added that interest has been only about \$40,000 for the entire town wide. Rates were sitting for a very long time at less than 1%. They are now seeing treasuries go up to about 2% and they are taking advantage of that with a little more long term.

Supervisor Puglisi noted that the amount of the Town-wide debt is very low.

Patty Robcke added that there is about 5 1/2 million dollars outstanding at the end of this year and gave examples of projects.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that they have a good financial record with Moody's, the company that tells, based on its good financials, what the Town could borrow. The Town's capacity is 378 million dollars. **Patty Robcke** added that the Town has an AA rating with Moody's.

Supervisor Puglisi described CIP (capitol improvement plan). The Town Board votes on it every December and it is to plan for 5 years of major projects. It gives a great outline of projects that the staff puts together and funding is planned. Some of it comes from grants; some comes from other sources, development and so on. It really helps them plan for capitol projects and buying vehicles, like a sanitation truck.

Patty Robcke commented that the cost is about \$180,000 for a sanitation truck and that large plow trucks can run over \$200,000.

A motion to close the public hearing at 7:19 p.m., adopt the 2019 Budget and authorize the Annual Library Budget was made by Councilmember Farrell seconded by Councilmember Costello

All Voted **AYE**

RESOLUTION NO. 291-18– RE: Adoption of the 2019 Town of Cortlandt Budget and Authorize the Annual Library Budget

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ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Costello moved that the following Resolutions be adopted.
Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO.292-18 RE: Object to the establishment of a Community Residential Home.

Tom Wood explained that the Town Board is aware under the law that whenever an agency wishes to establish a Community Residence within the Town, notification is given to the Town Board. The Town Board is given 30 days to determine whether or not the Board wishes to pursue an objection.

The objection can only be sustained if you can prove that the Town as a whole has such a number of community residences licensed by the same agency that causes an over saturation within the population.

The Town has objected at times in the past but not successful because of the proof needed for the objection. **Tom Wood** continued that it is hard to prove because once a residence is established there is little or no issue with the community.

This proposal is for 5 developmentally delayed men to live in this residence. Ferncliff is the agency and they operate many homes within Westchester County and the state agency contracts with them to care for these individuals.

Supervisor Puglisi stated she has spoken to about 3 of the 5 residents and the majority is not to object, the other 2 have more questions. She might schedule a meeting between the agency and the residents for any issues. The state wanted individuals with disabilities to be assimilated into the community rather than institutions. Tom Wood pointed out that one of the biggest concerns of the community is property value and over the years the Town Assessors have monitored that to find no indication that there is any impact.

Supervisor Puglisi commented that the residents have asked the Town Board to go forward with this and not object.

Councilmember Costello moved that the Board be Polled. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Farrell asked for clarification that passing the resolution will allow the Board to have the time for the meetings with the agency and residents to which Supervisor Puglisi answered yes and regardless if they go forward with

ADDITIONS to the AGENDA, (cont.)

the objection or not, they would make sure there is a meeting, noting that the residents of this home are well supervised 24/7. **Councilmember Farrell** added that it is their experience that it is not an issue but it's news to the neighborhood.

Councilmember Costello asked also for clarification that it would allow them to withdraw their objection. Tom Wood explained the process and this would have them meet the deadline.

The Board was Polled:

<u>Councilmember Costello:</u>	Yes
<u>Councilmember Becker:</u>	Yes
<u>Supervisor Puglisi:</u>	Yes
<u>Councilmember Creighton:</u>	Recused
<u>Councilmember Farrell:</u>	Yes

The motion Passed

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m. on motion of Councilmember Becker, seconded by Councilmember Costello.

All Voted **AYE**.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Laroue Rose Shatzkin
Town Clerk**