

Minutes of the budget workshop of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held October 11, 2005 at the Town Building in Oak Hill, NY.

Present: Gary Hulbert – Supervisor  
 Linda Sutton – Councilman  
 Robert Elpel – Councilman  
 William Carr – Councilman  
 Jodi Wood – Councilman

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk  
 Others: Charles Soderblom – Town Clerk  
 Wes Moore - Highway Superintendent  
 Al Schmidt – Code Enforcement Officer

The Supervisor called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 7:30 P.M. Two people were present.

Supervisor Hulbert opened the meeting with a request from the Oak Hill Durham Fire Co. Due to the freeze on field trips for the school district, it is necessary for the Volunteer Fire Companies to pay to have the students from Durham Elementary bused to the firehouse on October 13, for fire prevention. However, as the Fire Companies are not a municipality they cannot contract with the school for the buses. They asked if the Board would contract the buses from the school on behalf of the fire company. **Mrs. Sutton made the motion seconded by Ms. Wood to have the Town of Durham contract for the buses for Fire Prevention and to have the invoice submitted to the town for payment. All were in favor and the motion carried.** (Mr. Carr arrived after this motion)

Supervisor Hulbert presented his budget to the board with a recommendation of 3% increase in personnel salary for each department. The board reviewed the proposed budget and department requests. No dramatic changes were made to the proposed budget. BAR and Elections were not changed from 2005 to 2006. BAR received a substantial increase in 2005 and Elections is slated to be taken over by the county in 2007.

Code Enforcement requested a \$2,700.00 salary increase for CEO and Clerk. Mr. Schmidt explained to the board that he has increased his time on the job with the added Site Plan Review Law, Truss Inspections, Court, and additional inspections. Mr. Schmidt offered the information that Greenville's COE receives a salary of \$16,000, has an assistant at \$11.00 per hour and a part time clerk. His request of \$13,000 for CEO and \$4,600 for the clerk was within reason. The board tabled discussion until the end of the meeting.

The reading room requested an increase of \$2,000. Discussion followed as to the expense versus value received. It was decided to approve \$10,000 for the same as they received in 2005. Ms. Wood and Mrs. Sutton will ask for a balance sheet so the board may review the costs involved in maintaining the Reading Room and determine if additional funding is warranted.

Mr. Moore explained the increases in his budget request. The cost of fuel has affected his budget tremendously. Highway surplus has been used this year to offset the unforeseen increase in fuel and utilities, decreasing the amount left for future needs.

In the Highway budget for 2006, Mr. Moore included \$5,000 for a new lawn mower for the parks. He could save money by purchasing a Club Cadet mower this fall for \$3,200. He has money in the equipment budget to cover the cost. Discussion followed. **Mrs. Sutton made the motion seconded by Mr. Elpel to purchase the Club Cadet lawn mower for \$3,200 in 2005, as there is money in the budget area. All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Mr. Moore explained that the 1999 550 Pickup/dump truck soon would need to be replaced as the windshield has rotted out and the transmission is in need of repair for the fourth time. The estimated cost is \$2,400.00 to repair the transmission. The estimated replacement cost for the 1999 550 Pickup/dump truck is \$50,000. He also anticipates needing to replace the roadside mower within the next 2 years at an estimated cost of \$75,000.

**Ms. Wood made the motion seconded by Mr. Carr to approve the budget requests for the emergency services in the town of Durham, Town of Durham Ambulance \$30,000, East Durham Fire Co. \$85,400, and Oak Hill – Durham Fire Co. \$79,400.00. All were in favor motion carried.**

The board discussed at length the position and salaries for the Code Enforcement department. **Mr. Hulbert made the motion seconded by Mr. Carr to increase the CEO salary to \$13,000 and the clerk's position by 3%. All were in favor and the motion carried.**

**Ms. Wood made the motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.**

Minutes approved:

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Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk