

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held November 6, 2007, at the Town Building in Oak Hill, NY.

Present: Gary Hulbert - Supervisor
Robert Elpel – Councilman
Jodi Wood – Councilwoman

Absent: William Carr – Councilman
Linda Sutton – Councilwoman

Secretary: Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk

Others Present: Tal Rappleyea – Town Attorney
Wes Moore – Highway Superintendent
Gordon Bennett – Sole Assessor
Charlie Soderblom – Town Clerk

Supervisor Hulbert called the meeting to order at 7:30. There were nine people present.

Proof of notice having been furnished, Supervisor Hulbert called the public hearing for the 2008 Fiscal Budget to order at 7:33 p.m. The budget has a ½ % increase or \$3.70 per \$100,000 assessed value. There were no questions or comments. Supervisor Hulbert then closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 PM.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2008 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE TOWN OF DURHAM AND ESTABLISHING THE RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR SUCH PERIOD.

WHEREAS, this board has met at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing on the preliminary budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the preliminary budget as amended and revised and as hereinafter set forth is hereby adopted and that the several amounts stated in the column titled "Adopted" in Schedule A1, Schedule DA1, Schedule SF1, and Schedule SL1 be and they hereby are appropriated for the objects and purposes specified and the salaries and wages stated in such budget shall be and are hereby fixed at the amounts shown therein effective November 6, 2007.

**Motion to adopt the resolution made by Mr. Elpel
Seconded by Ms. Wood**

	Ayes	Noes	Absent
Elpel	X		
Hulbert	X		
Sutton			X
Wood	X		

Carr

X

**3 Ayes, 0 Noes, and 2 Absent
The motion is hereby carried.**

Proof of notice having been furnished, Supervisor Hulbert called the public hearing for the Real Property Improvement Exemption to order at 7:36 p.m. Assessor Bennett explained the Home Improvement Exemption. The exemption is limited to a minimum increase of \$3000 in market value up to a maximum increase of \$80,000 in market value, operates on an 8-year sliding scale (12% change each year – applied to the equalization rate). The home has to be five years old and a one or two family residence. The exemption stays with the property. There were no further comments. The Public Hearing closed at 7:38 PM.

Ms. Wood made a motion and seconded by Mr. Elpel to approve the Local Law # 5 Real Property Improvement Exemption. All were in favor and the motion carried. (Absent: Carr & Sutton)

Karl Heck from Durham Community Planners reported that the gazebo project was complete. They continue to work on the funding and construction of “Welcome to East Durham” signs.

Assessor Bennett brought up that the Cold Wars Veteran Exemption, which needs to be passed by December 1, 2007 to be on the 2008 tax roll. Supervisor Hulbert asked that it be tabled until we had a full board.

Ms. Wood made a motion and seconded by Mr. Elpel to close the Work Session at 7:43 PM and move to Executive session to discuss litigation, personnel & real property issues. All were in favor and the motion carried. (Absent: Carr & Sutton)

Mr. Hulbert called the meeting back to order at 8:12 PM. Attorney Rapplelea was directed to settle the Seidel and Durham Woods cases.

The cemetery software “The Crypt Keeper” to aid in the record management of the town’s cemeteries was discussed and approved.

The Highway Superintendent Moore received approval to advertise to the residents about cars being towed if parked on roadways during snowstorms.

Dr. Goldstein reported that the Agricultural Committee meeting was held to interview the prospective consulting group The Glenwood Center and the Ag Committee will meet Thursday, November 8 at 7:00 PM to discuss the interview.

Ms. Wood made a motion and seconded by Mr. Elpel to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Minutes approved: _____
Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk