

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET &  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR HIDDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS,  
TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, NOVEMBER 4, 2010  
www.townofmounthope.com**

The **INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR HIDDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS & PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2011 PRELIMINARY BUDGET** of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at Town Hall, 1706 Route 211 West, Otisville, NY, **November 4, 2010** at 7:00pm with the following present: Supervisor William Novak Jr., Councilman Mike Bell, Councilman Greg Stiles, Councilwoman Kathy Russo, Councilman Ed Fairweather (at 7:47pm) and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** W. Dul, T. Damiani, M. Meere, C. Meere, D. Tripken, Highway Supt. D. Hassenmayer, M. Carver, M/M Rebman, T. Moynahan, L. Fairweather, L. Mercurio, D. Golebiowski, S. Myrick, B. Duggan, A. Aurelia, T. Gilmore, S. Giodo, Chief Rickard, J. Myers.

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR HIDDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS:**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Novak opened the meeting at 7:00pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with the Hidden Valley residents whether to pay interest only or principal and interest on the B.A.N. Supervisor Novak asked for any questions from the audience. He stated there were forms on the table with the break down of the different options for payment for next year. He stated that's there's a very good chance for next year for the grant or long term (financing) funding. He explained that at some point within the next 3 years we have to go to long term financing. Mr. Dul asked if we could lock in this rate. Supervisor Novak stated that we cannot, we have to go to bid each year. The town has an excellent bond rating. Mr. Dul asked what the total debt is. Supervisor Novak stated 1.5 million. Two of the developers are still interested. Supervisor Novak asked Mr. Gilmore asked about the final approval of the final sub-division plans. Mr. Gilmore stated it will take a lot of time. Mr. Meere asked how long the plant has been running. Mr. Stiles stated about a year. Mr. Meere asked about an escrow account. Supervisor Novak stated it is not escrow it's surplus. Mr. Meere asked what the everyday expenses are for the plant. Supervisor Novak stated that he would have to check but there is 16.9% of the budget left for the rest of the year. Mrs. Carver stated the costs for a brand new plant should be less and they're not. Supervisor Novak added that Eustance & Horowitz, OVIVO and Ferraro Construction have all been put on notice for the faults of the plant. Mr. Meere asked about surplus for this year. Supervisor Novak stated there would not be one for this year. Mr. Stiles added that OVIVO has offered to help with more energy efficient equipment (pumps, blowers). He also spoke of variable frequency drives. Mr. Dul stated he is in favor of starting to pay down the principal in addition to the interest. Mrs. Carver stated that the design of the plant was not so wonderful – are we still going to use E&H again? Mr. Stiles stated – you have an excellent new plant out there. He also mentioned other costs that were saved; a new manhole \$250,000.00 and a UV would have been approx. \$10,000.00. Mr. Duggan asked how much was spent on unforeseen repairs. Supervisor Novak stated not a lot because a lot of it was taken out of the bond. Mr. Meere asked about creating a budget line for everything spent.

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**INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR HIDDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS  
CONTINUED:**

Mr. Stiles reminded everyone that he has stated this before but we need to camera the street pipes to see where the water is coming in from. This is expensive. Supervisor Novak added that the lines have to be scoped before the new developers come in. He also explained about the capital reserve account.

**(7:47pm Councilman Fairweather entered the meeting room)**

Mr. Myrick asked about the cost of the new houses coming in. Mr. Dul stated that we are getting off the original topic. Mr. Tripken spoke about getting a grant and subsidizing half the plant. Supervisor Novak stated a grant gives half and the state pays half. He added that grants tend to go towards entire municipalities instead of just a small section of a municipality. Mrs. Russo asked why is there more of a chance next year. Mr. Stiles stated that it is based on a score for long term financing. Various discussions throughout the meeting room ensued at this time. Mrs. Meere asked if the payments could be broken down to quarterly payments. Supervisor Novak stated he would ask the accountant. At this time, Supervisor called for a show of hands to pay the interest only. There were none. He asked for a show of hands to pay down \$100,000.00 on the principal and the interest. There was only one (Mr. Dul). He called for a show of hands to pay \$50,000.00 down on principal balance and the interest. All raised their hands. Supervisor Novak closed this informational meeting at 8:15pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:**

Supervisor Novak called the Public Hearing for the 2011 Preliminary Budget to order. The public hearing notice was available at the front desk with Kathleen. Mr. Novak stated that overall the budget as it stands now, taxes will go up .07 cents per thousand of assessed value. This is with no loss of services. Mr. Novak opened the public hearing for any questions from the residents. Mr. Gilmore asked if any reserves were being used to keep the taxes down. Supervisor Novak stated that \$326,000.00 was used of which is reserves plus unexpended funds. He would rather have money in the bank drawing interest. He also explained that Dean gave up one full time guy which saved about \$40,000.00. Mr. Dul asked how much the police budget increased. Supervisor Novak stated it went down actually then corrected himself and stated that it went up about \$4,000.00.

**MOTION by Mr. Fairweather seconded by Mr. Bell to close the public hearing at 8:20pm. All in favor – Bell, Stiles, Novak, Russo, Fairweather. Carried.**

AT 8:20pm, Supervisor Novak called the monthly meeting to order.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION by Mr. Stiles seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the minutes from the 10-25-10 meeting as printed. All in favor – Bell, Stiles, Novak, Russo, Fairweather. Carried.**

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**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Logging complaint
2. Letter from Dragon Springs re: storage sheds.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**HIGHWAY DEPT:**

Mr. Hassenmayer reported:

They're working on the sidewalks at the parks. The back filling and seeding was done. There is one more to do on the backside of the pond. We should be able to finish next week because the weather looks good. Supervisor Novak stated that he received a thank you letter from the Lions Club for the Town's help and involvement with the fair.

**POLICE DEPT:**

Chief Rickard reported that the parking tickets have been out and some have been used. Some even have paid their fines already. There is an issue with the Village and their parking ordinance. He will discuss this with Mr. Kelson. The card scan unit was ordered and should be in by November 15. There were no Halloween related issues to report. He is looking to update certain policies ie: use of force, pursuit policy. He will email the board in the next few weeks. Mrs. Russo asked if he was creating new policies or modifying existing ones. Chief answered the current policies are 10 years plus old. At the time they were good but they really should be looked at each year. A lot of it is tweaking though the "use of force" will be a total re-do. Mrs. Russo would like to see them. Mr. Hassenmayer asked if the parking tickets would be used for the 'no parking ordinance' in the town. Chief answered yes. Supervisor Novak stated that they will also be reviewing the whole police manual because it doesn't always go with the town employee manual.

**HIDDEN VALLEY:**

Mr. Stiles stated he is happy to report the budget was approved.

**BAKER STREET SUB-DIVISION PROPOSAL:**

Board received information before the meeting and requested time for review.

**2011 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:**

Supervisor Novak stated that the figure in the budget for the sewer plant needs to change to reflect how the residents voted. He explained we don't have control over the Howell's fire budget. Mount Hope Fire figure is 3.5% increase. Howell's fire is a 1.72% increase. Overall the increase in taxes for Mount Hope residents is 0.074 cents.

**2011 TOWN BUDGET:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Bell seconded by Mr. Fairweather to approve the 2011 Town Budget as presented. All in favor – Bell, Stiles, Novak, Russo, Fairweather. Carried.

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**AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Stiles seconded by Mr. Fairweather to approve the following bills:

<b>GENERAL A:</b>	<b>#556-581</b>	<b>\$41,706.73</b>
<b>GENERAL B:</b>	<b>#123-130</b>	<b>\$10,514.80</b>
<b>HIGHWAY:</b>	<b>#207-213</b>	<b>\$32,898.77</b>
<b>SEWER:</b>	<b>#115-120</b>	<b>\$ 3,269.07.</b>

**All in favor – Bell, Stiles, Novak, Russo, Fairweather. Carried.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Dul asked what the Baker Street subdivision was about. Supervisor Novak stated there is a man interested in buying a portion of the property – 1.7 acres with an easement for the police. This needs to be reviewed by the board.

Mr. Duggan asked about the abandoned RV on Mount Hope Road by the fitness center and is there anything we can do about it; also the abandoned house by the Mount Hope Country Store.

Mr. Tripken added that the building at the treatment plant needs a lot of attention ie: closing in the sides of it.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Bell seconded by Mrs. Russo to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm. All in favor – Bell, Stiles, Novak, Russo, Fairweather. Carried.

**The next meeting is November 22, 2010 at 7:30pm at Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Myers  
Town Clerk