

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, NOVEMBER 7, 2013  
www.townofmounthope.org**

The **PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET** of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at Town Hall, 1706 Route 211 West, Otisville, NY; **November 7, 2013** at 7:15pm with the following present: Supervisor William Novak Jr., Councilman Mike Bell, Councilman Gary Ketcham, Councilwoman Janet Sutherland, Councilman Ed Fairweather and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Highway Supt. D. Hassenmayer, L. Fairweather, Chief Rickard, Deputy Town Clerk A. Hassenmayer, M. Horzepa, E. Myslinski, L. Dodd, D. Loeven, M. Howell, C. Volpe, R. Rebman, K. Rebman, D. Golebiowski, Tax Collector L. Zgrodek, I. Stiles, L. Maurizzio, D. Cambareri, J. Cooke.

Supervisor Novak called the Public Hearing to order following the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET at 7:15PM:**

Supervisor Novak called the Public Hearing to order for the 2014 Preliminary Budget at 7:15PM. The public hearing notice was available at the front desk with Kathleen. Copy of the budget is in circulation. Overall there is less than a 1.6% budget increase. Supervisor Novak asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. Loeven asked for more copies to be made. Supervisor Novak said that those with copies to please share. Overall, there's a 3% increase in salaries across the board. Supervisor spoke of rumor that the town attorney has made \$93,000 this year. His budget is \$36,000 not \$93,000. In 3 years we haven't spent \$93,000 in that line. We have the lowest attorney fees in the county. Ms. Loeven asked about the senior program line. She stated that Angie told her there was \$15,000 but budget is \$13,000. Supervisor Novak stated that she must have been mistaken it's been \$13,000. The meals program uses this line too. Ms. Loeven asked about the Mount Hope Fire Company figure being the same as this year's. Discussion ensued. Supervisor stated that the columns were off. Ms. Loeven stated that the figure didn't change from last year to this year. Supervisor stated that the column heads are not right and there is a wrong figure for 2012. Mr. Maurizzio asked about the 3% salary increase – if it was for everybody. Supervisor Novak explained that the Supervisor line dropped to an entry level salary; which was like when Blanche left. The Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Highway Supt., Assessor are all entry level. Mr. Cook asked how much money is in the general fund. Supervisor explained there are different funds; General A, General B, Highway. Mr. Cook asked if there is a big difference from last year to this year. Supervisor Novak stated that last year was approx. 1.2% increase and this year approx. 1.6% increase. He explained that last year it was about 6.37 per thousand and this year it will be \$6.44 in A not just the village. Overall taxes increase from 7.467 to 7.5619. An audience member asked about the ambulance line. Supervisor Novak stated that this line is used for emergency services like when we had the storm last year. And we keep it in there in case there is ever a new ambulance company that comes in. It only comes out of the "B" budget. Mr. Maurizzio stated that people have been getting taxed all along then. Supervisor Novak stated no – if you look at that line - the fund zeros out. Mr. Dodd asked if the town and village pay the same in taxes. Supervisor explained that everybody pays the A; certain portions are outside village only town people pay. Mr. Cook asked about the money that is left over at the end of the year. Supervisor Novak stated it goes back into the budget as unexpended balances. Mr. Cook asked if there is money in the budget to get a recording device for the clerk. Supervisor Novak stated that would be her choice. Mr. Cook stated that he would like to have the audio tape put on the website of the meetings. Supervisor Novak stated that the minutes are on line. He asked if anyone had any further questions.

**RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to close the public hearing at 7:40 and open regular meeting. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

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AT THIS TIME, Supervisor Novak stated that if there were any Veterans in the audience, he thanked them for their service.

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Ketcham to approve the minutes from the 10-28-13 meeting as printed. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Police Dept. report Oct. 2013
2. Howells Fire Dept. Annual Election notice 12-10-2013 between 6-9pm
3. Building Dept. monthly report Oct. 2013
4. Complaint re: 14 Guymard Turnpike
5. Supervisor's report Oct. 2013
6. Budget modification – Supervisor office
7. Mount Hope Fire Company report
8. NYS DEC correspondence re: Shawangunk Ridge Unit Management Plan
9. T/O Walkkill public hearing notice 11-14-13 at 7:25pm
10. Liquor license notice re: Morley's Bar & Grill, 2 Robbins Road
11. County Snow & Ice Agreement

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**POLICE DEPT. by Chief Rickard:**

Chief Rickard stated that he had nothing to report unless anyone had any questions.

**HIGHWAY DEPT. by Supt. Hassenmayer:**

Supt. Hassenmayer spoke re: Snow & Ice agreement. There has been no increase in 3 years. The salt contract was not awarded until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October.

**VILLAGE OF OTISVILLE:**

No report.

**PLANNING BOARD:**

No report.

**MOUNT HOPE FIRE COMPANY by President L. Dodd:**

Pres. Dodd went over the number on the report. (Report on file in Town Clerk's office)

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COUNTY SNOW & ICE AGREEMENT FOR 2013-2014:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Fairweather to approve the 2013-2014 Snow & Ice agreement with the County of Orange in the amount of \$4700 per mile for 9.18 miles and that the Town Supervisor be authorized to sign said contract – see attached. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

**RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE FOR VACANT HIGHWAY POSITION:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Fairweather to authorize the Highway Supt. to advertise for the vacant highway position in the Times Herald Record. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:**

**MOTION offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Bell to approve the Supervisor's report for October 2013 as presented. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

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**BUDGET MODIFICATION:**

Supervisor Novak explained that the reserves fund come in handy for things like this. We received an email today from retirement that the figure has changed. And it has come in \$30,000 more than what they originally speculated. So for that, we need to do a budget modification.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to approve the budget modification as follows:**

**Move from A1990.4 to A90108.1.8 \$1200.00 and to move from A1990.4 to A90158.1.8 \$29,500.00.**

**All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

**RESOLUTION FOR THE AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to approve the following bills:**

<b>GENERAL A:</b>	<b>#611-640</b>	<b>\$195,592.33</b>
<b>GENERAL B:</b>	<b>#114-121</b>	<b>\$ 18,554.20</b>
<b>HIGHWAY:</b>	<b>#190-200</b>	<b>\$117,621.56</b>
<b>SEWER:</b>	<b>#116-120</b>	<b>\$ 2,707.09.</b>

**All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

Supervisor Novak asked if there were any further comments on the 2014 Budget. There were no further comments.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2014 TOWN BUDGET:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to adopt the 2014 Town Budget as presented. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather; carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Cook commented on the sign at the entrance still saying 9/20 meeting. Supervisor stated that Julie maintains it. Highway Supt. Hassenmayer stated no - he does. Mr. Cook asked about the library line in budget. Supervisor explained the issue with Thrall library a few years ago. Now we get charged \$70 per card with the contract from Port Jervis Library.

Ms. Loeven spoke about the Highway General and Highway Outside Village in the budget. She was under the impression that the Village doesn't pay into the highway part. Supervisor Novak stated that this is mandated from the State. This is a town-wide service providing the stripes on the road and the bridges in the town. Ms. Loeven asked if the county was still talking about doing a county wide assessment. Supervisor stated he didn't think so.

Mr. Howell asked if the town maintains the bridges. Supervisor explained that the town maintains except when they need replacement then we go to bid for that. Supt. Hassenmayer explained that every 2 years a state hired inspector comes to inspect the bridges. The Spruce Road Bridge will need to be painted this year as there is rusting underneath. He mentioned that they inspect for trout/streams, too. Supervisor Novak added that that's where the state comes down on you. DEC contacted Dr. Roeder about the piles and leveling of dirt at the park and possible issue with wetlands.

Mr. Maurizio asked if retirement is A-wide. Supervisor explained there is retirement in A, B, Highway. Mr. Maurizio asked if the highway retirement is in the A part of the budget. Supervisor explained that certain people come out of different parts of the retirement.

Mrs. Stiles asked about the total money in the reserves. Supervisor asked which reserves the restricted or unrestricted part. The total for both is \$3,000,000. She asked about the % in the restricted part. Supervisor Novak stated about 2 million is in restricted.

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**RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Fairweather to enter into executive session at 8:00pm to discuss personnel. No action will be taken at this session. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather, carried.

**RESOLUTION TO RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session at 8:27pm. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather, carried.

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Fairweather to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm. All in favor; Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather, carried.

**The next meeting is November 25, 2013 at 7:30pm at the Mount Hope Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Myers  
Town Clerk