

Public Hearing 2013 Budget
October 24, 2012

At the Public Hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 24th of October, 6:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present.

Supervisor William Watkins
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler
Councilman Gerald Skiff
Councilman Robin McMurray
Councilman Douglas Ford

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor, Nancy Mabeus, Astrid Davis, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Rani Bass

Supervisor Watkins called the Public Hearing open at 6:30 PM and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Supervisor explained the 2% Budget Tax Cap, he said that the way that it is set up the State wants the town to raise the budget line. He explained that the clerk to the Supervisor Margaret Shaw had called the Comptroller and that they explained that the Town wants to have a slight increase when budgeting. The Town can actually hurt themselves by having a 0% budget line. He explained that right now the budget is at a .42% increase from last years.

The Supervisor explained the slight increases that were put into the 2013 budget, which would include the Town Justice, Clerk to the Justice, the employees received a 2% raise, the Town Attorney, the Highway Superintendent and a few other increases.

Nancy Mabeus a resident in the Town read a letter requesting that the Board reconsider giving the employees a 2% raise. She went on to explain that this is totally unreasonable in the present economy. Mrs. Mabeus requested that this letter be submitted for the record.

The Supervisor went over the changes in the budget compared to last years and said that if anyone had any questions or objections to speak up. When they came to the Attorney Personal Services A1420.1 there was an increase from \$1800 to \$3600. There was a question of whether or not this needed to be increased that much. The board mentioned how much work the Town Attorney had done to catch up with the work that had fallen behind. Councilman Skiff stated that he felt that the Town Attorney and the Town Justice enforce the law. Councilwoman Fedler said that LaVerne Davis did not get a raise and he helped on county rt. 74. The board discussed this further and decided that a compromise would be to drop line A1420.4 to \$2700.

It was mentioned that Contingent A1990.4 had been lowered from \$7500 to \$5000. As of the first of the year the Supervisor and Councilman Skiff's salaries will be added to the contingent line.

The Supervisor mentioned there has been an increase in the Superintendent of Highways Personal Services A5010.1 last year Salary was \$35600 and with the \$900 increase, the

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salary changed to \$36500. Councilman McMurray said that the Highway Superintendent Alan Davis did not have his CDL and he had a problem with him receiving a raise. Councilman Davis mentioned that there was a lot more to running the highway department than having a CDL. Councilman Ford questioned this also and Mr. Davis said that he had an appointment for his CDL test this Thursday, October 25, 2012. There was controversy over what figure to put the Highway Superintendent salary at. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that last year the Highway Superintendent's Salary was decreased by \$5,000 because of lack of experience. However, there was discussion by the previous board that the salary could possibly be raised if the new Highway Superintendent could save the Town money and prove himself. Councilwoman Fedler and Councilman Ford suggested that the salary be increased by 5% which would increase it to \$37380. The board was split on what to do with this increase however the final decision was to go with the \$37380 for the Highway Superintendent Salary.

Supervisor Watkins asked Highway Superintendent Davis if he was planning on filling the part time position that is now vacant. The Highway Superintendent said yes that he was planning on hiring a part time person to drive this winter.

When it was discussed about the Employee Benefits it was questioned why the State Retirement was always almost a 30% increase. The response from the supervisor was that the State determines this number the Town has nothing to do with this.

The Highway DA Fund there was some changes from the proposed budget this would include equipment DA5130.2 from \$8,000 lowered to \$5,000. The Supervisor explained that this fund was for hand equipment and chainsaws this fund is not meant for large equipment. The Highway Superintendent said that he would rather see the two budget lines that were cut to stay the same and to cut the some from the Reserve Equipment Fund. Mr. Davis mentioned if you look at the Equipment Schedule the next big purchase will be the Loader and there is money for the Loader. If it is figured on \$85,000 for a loader and he has not figured on putting any of the trade-ins back in. He mentioned that he has calculated it out and feels that they are fine in the Reserve Equipment Fund if it is reduced by \$5,000. The Budgetary provisions for other uses which is the equipment reserve was decided that it would be lowered from \$40,000 to \$35,000. In the Highway DB Fund in the Contractual DB5110.4 this was changed from the proposed budget \$85,600 to the preliminary budget \$83,100. The final decision was to change Equipment DA5130.2 back to the \$8,000 and to change the DB5110.4 to \$85,100 which would be a difference of \$500 from the proposed amount.

Supervisor Watkins asked how much salt we had left to subtract from last year. The Highway Superintendent said that we were fine on Salt that they forgave it from last year. The Supervisor also asked about the Sand that was purchased from the County. Mr. Davis said that he had not received a bill yet. Supervisor Watkins asked Councilman Ford to read the letter from the county. The letter read that there was no charge to the Town of Cambridge for the winter sand that was received from the county. The Board and the Highway Superintendent briefly discussed taking on more county roads.

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The Fire Contracts were discussed the Cambridge Fire Contract was lowered from \$28,667 this year to \$27,409 for 2013 budget. The Easton Fire Contract was raised from \$8900 to \$9000 and will increase by \$100 for the next 5 years of the contract. The Buskirk Fire Contract increased from \$14755 to \$15062 and the Town of Cambridge has a contract with them for 3 years.

After all comments were received, the hearing closed at 8:30 PM. The Supervisor asked the board if they were all happy with the budget and would like to vote on it tonight.

Resolution#90

Resolution by Councilman Skiff,
Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler,

Be It Resolved and Determined, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge does hereby adopt the 2013 Budget as the Annual Budget for the Town of Cambridge beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2013 with budget figures of \$961,682 for total appropriations, less \$295,085 less estimated revenues, less \$76,150 unexpended balance resulting in \$590,447 to be raised by taxes.

Vote: Supervisor Watkins – Aye
Councilwoman Fedler – Aye
Councilman Skiff – Aye
Councilman McMurray – Noe
Councilman Ford - Aye

Attached is the 2013 adopted budget.

Respectfully yours,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>