

Public Hearing 2015 Budget  
October 29, 2014

The Public Hearing for the 2015 Budget of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler  
Councilman Douglas Ford  
Councilman Gerald Skiff  
Councilman Robin McMurray  
Councilwoman Susan Herrington

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor, Connie Watkins, Janet DeCarlo Town Justice, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent

Supervisor Fedler called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Fedler opened the public hearing for the 2015 Budget and Fire Contracts at 7:35 PM.

Supervisor Fedler told the public that they have had three budget workshops. Some have worked on this budget longer than the three budget workshops and outside the meetings. The Supervisor said that she would go through the budget line for line.

When the Supervisor got to the Town Justice section the Town Justice was present and requested of the Town Board that they take the 2% raise the 68.00 out of the budget. The Town Justice said that this is an insult to her intelligence she has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and she has worked very hard for this Town. This brought line A1110.1 Justice Personal Services back to \$3375. The Town Justice mentioned that amount is not even her starting salary.

Connie Watkins asked why line item A1110.4 was changed from \$3000 to \$3135. Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor said that this was an increase for the court computer system.

When the Supervisor reached the line item A3510.1 Personal Services for the Control of Dogs \$2070. The Town Justice mentioned that she was concerned that they were receiving this money and no one is able to get a hold of them. The Dog Control Officer will not answer the calls and he will not issue the ticket. Supervisor Fedler said that the situation has been addressed, this is a budget meeting and this can be addressed at a different time.

Supervisor Fedler reviewed the Fire Contracts which are 3 year contracts which the Town is in the middle of the contracts with Cambridge at \$29142, Easton \$9000, Buskirk \$15062.

The Total amount to be raised by taxes was \$624,941. The Supervisor mentioned some things that have made the increase in this budget; State Retirement, Assessor increases, unexpended balance are down from last year. Supervisor Fedler said that about 5,000 of our budget increase equals one percent. The actual number needed for the budget to be under the tax cap is \$611,561.

Councilman Skiff said that he would like to make a motion to rescind his vote on the tax cap override. He mentioned that he had six phone calls about the budget. Supervisor Fedler said the last thing that she wanted to do is to override the tax cap but to be fiscally responsible for the Town this needs to be considered. Supervisor Fedler asked where the money was going to come from. She mentioned that she hopes that the Town does not lose the money from the County Rt. 60. Councilman Skiff said that he has reviewed past figures and in December 2013 there was a balance in the Highway Department \$175,246.18. He is questioning where that money went. Supervisor Fedler said that today she reviewed past budgets. She started at 2009 and there was anywhere from 120,000 to 100,000 that was rolled forward to help balance the budget. Last year it was 76,000 and the year before that it was \$78,000. This year it was \$66,000 that was rolled forward to help balance the budget. Supervisor Fedler said that this is where the problem is coming from. Councilman Skiff asked if this is 1/3 than were does the other 2/3 go?

The Town Justice and Connie Watkins asked where the money is and how much money is in the accounts. Town Justice DeCarlo is asking where is the other 2/3 and why isn't it shown. Councilman McMurray said that the figures are there but the amount is only 1/3 of the actual amount in the account. Audit and Control suggest only to use 1/3 of the amount that is in the account. Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor said that the money that is in the accounts is recorded every month on the Supervisor's report.

Connie Watkins said that the Comptroller's Office says that the town can not use percentages. Town Justice DeCarlo says that the person that they spoke with in the state, suggested that a reasonable amount be held back not 2/3.

Councilman McMurray said that the amount of money needed to stay under the cap is roughly \$13,500. Councilman McMurray says how much is enough is a personal opinion of each board member. Councilman Ford questioned why 1/3, he wanted to know if this 2/3 was in case something went wrong and it was needed for operating expenses. Margaret Shaw again said she was only going by what Audit and Control told her to do. Councilman Ford says if you are using assets to balance the budget then somewhere along the line this is going to catch up with us. It was suggested by Councilman Ford that they change the unexpended balances to correct the budget to stay under the tax cap.

Councilman Skiff said that he was ok saying under the cap and cutting the \$13,500. Councilman Skiff said that he wants this budget to be finished tonight. Councilwoman Herrington said that she would like to see the budget at the 3.8% increase and see that 4% for a few years rather than

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have a large jump this year. Councilman McMurray said that you can only fix this by management of the funds and not spending money poorly.

The unexpended balances were changed Margaret Shaw clerk to the Supervisor reported the changes General A \$24,810 to \$30,000, General B \$7250 to \$10,000, Highway DA \$22,100 to \$26,000, Highway DB \$12,766 to \$14,926. The amount to be raised by taxes has changed to \$610,941. The final percentage to be raised is 3.69 %.

Adopting the 2015 Budget

Resolution #63

Councilman Ford motioned,

Seconded by Councilman Skiff,

Be It Resolved and Determined, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge adopts the 2015 Budget as amended as the Annual Budget for the Town of Cambridge beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 with the budget figures of \$935,102 for total appropriations less \$243,235, less estimated revenues less \$80,926 unexpended balance resulting in \$610,941 to be raised in taxes.

Roll call Vote:

Councilman McMurray – Aye

Councilman Skiff - Aye

Councilman Ford – Noe

Councilwoman Herrington – Aye

Supervisor Fedler – Noe

Vote:                      Ayes – 3                      Noes – 2

Supervisor closed the Public Hearing at 9:25 pm.

There being no further business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>