

A regular meeting of the Lysander Town Board was held at 7:00 p.m. on November 7, 2013 at 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John A. Salisbury, Supervisor
Arthur C. Levy, Councilor
Melinda Shimer, Councilor
Andrew O. Reeves, Councilor
Russ W. Johnson, Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS ATTENDING: Anthony Rivizzigno, Town Attorney; David Rahrle, Town Comptroller; Gene Dinsmore, Highway Superintendent; Al Yager, Town Engineer; Lisa Dell, Town Clerk and several residents.

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in The Post Standard on October 27, 2013, with same being posted on the Town Clerk's sign board at the Town Hall and on the Town's website on October 24, 2013, for the purpose of hearing all persons for and against the preliminary budget of the Town of Lysander for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2014.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Councilor Shimer acknowledged the effort and time spent working on the 2014 preliminary budget and expressed her appreciation to the Board and especially Comptroller Rahrle and Councilor Reeves for their efforts.

A presentation on the 2014 preliminary budget for the Town of Lysander was given by Comptroller David Rahrle. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Town Clerk's Office for public review.

A presentation of Onondaga County Financial Information regarding the town of Lysander was given by Councilor Reeves. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Town Clerk's Office for public review.

Supervisor Salisbury then opened the floor was then opened for questions from the public.

John Van Wie, W. Genesee St., expressed his concern that the Town added four part time positions to the cost of approximately \$100,000 since the 2011, 2012 and 2013 budgets which is a 20 percent in the budget for 2014. The four positions referenced are Bookkeeper to the Supervisor, Engineering Aid, changing a part time clerk to full time in the Assessor's office and adding a Deputy Clerk in Code Enforcement.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that the Bookkeeper to the Supervisor and the Deputy Clerk in Codes were transfers. The Secretary to the Supervisor position was reduced to part time from full time and a part time Bookkeeper position was created. In the Codes Department a person was moved from Dog Control to the Codes Department. The Engineering Aid was added because the Town is actually receiving money from either developers or from various departments within the Town towards Engineer costs. The Engineering Aid will be able to help the Engineer settle his time more. In the Assessor's Office a position was reduced and after it was looked at, more hours were needed.

Mr. Van Wie expressed his concern that in the Building area in the budget that the amount increased \$17,000 last year and for 2014 it has increased by \$14,000.

Comptroller Rahrle explained that these are expenses related to the Town Hall and Highway buildings and operating them in regards to supplies, maintenance, security and fire alarm system.

Supervisor Salisbury added that for next year's budget this amount will include new signage for the Town Hall.

Mr. Van Wie also noted that the budget for utilities cost has gone down.

Comptroller Rahrle said that the monthly costs are going down and that costs are tracked every month.

Mr. Van Wie also expressed his concern that the fees for the Attorney and Engineer are increasing and the Town is back to what the Town's highest engineering cost was before when it was subbed out.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that was not accurate and that the Engineer is generating revenue that used to be paid out in engineering fees and that now it comes back directly to the Town in the General Fund.

Councilor Reeves added that the current rate for special districts is just under \$75.00 an hour and the former rate was \$150.00 an hour and that money went out of the building. This money at least stays in the building and the Town is saving the special district's money.

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Walt Maihofer, Cadys Arbor, asked what the State Comptroller recommends for the amount for appropriated and non-appropriated fund balances.

Comptroller Rahrle explained that they don't recommend an amount. In 2001 a law was passed that let the Towns set their fund balance at whatever reasonable amount they want to have.

Attorney Rivizzigno added that credit rating agencies look at it differently. They want the Towns to have a higher fund balance to keep the credit rating up.

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Tim Dwyer, Quaker Lady Circle, asked how the Town spent the \$740,000 from the fund balance last year in the budget compared to \$374,000 this year.

Supervisor Salisbury said that the money is not spent on a specific item; it is actually a reduction in the tax levy.

Mr. Dwyer expressed that this may have been careless given the current circumstances and that it was not used to improve the highways.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that they did not have the information last year about the current conditions of the Town's highways.

Mr. Dwyer expressed his concern that according to the County document presented by **Councilor Reeves** the Town has not spent any money on highways since 2010.

Mr. Dwyer then referred to the increased payroll expenses of \$100,000. **Comptroller Rahrle** explained that there was no increase in anyone's pay as stated earlier but there is an increase in payroll costs of \$101,000.

Comptroller Rahrle explained that this is because of the fact that there is a Bookkeeper position at \$16,000, a net transfer in the Assessor's office of \$20,000, the Engineering Aid of \$18,000, the intern for \$5000, an increase in the Codes Department of \$4000, an increase in the Highway Department for the new seasonal employees at \$37,000 and an increase in the Highway Superintendent's Department of \$4000.

Mr. Dwyer asked if there is any effort being made to reduce expenses other than the reduction in insurance costs.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that no one received a raise in hourly rates for three years. Last year the hours of some of the full time people were increased so that increased their salaries because they work longer they get paid more.

Councilor Reeves added that the highway study down the road should lower the cost of highway maintenance by using preventative measures.

Comptroller Rahrle also explained that a lot of money was spent last year on heating and air conditioning system in the Town Hall as well as on the purchase of computer software to better manage the energy dollars. Some reductions have been seen and hopefully there will be more savings in energy costs in the Town Hall.

Supervisor Salisbury added that LED bulbs were added to the exterior lights to try to cut down energy costs and that the Town is working with a vendor to analyze the electric bills in lighting districts to hopefully reduce the cost to the people who live in that district.

Mr. Dwyer also expressed his concern that the negative press on the tax rate increase may hurt the Town and for years it has been known that the Town is a great place to live because of the low tax rate and asked if there has been any effort to attract new residents and new businesses.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that he does not know where the Town's tax rate is at comparison with other towns but feels it is still low and added a town can keep their tax rate down when they disregard repairs that should be made to the roads, buildings and other things.

Mr. Dwyer expressed his concern that the Town cannot afford to have residents leave because the tax levy will continue to go down and that there has to be a balance.

Dorothy Smith, Isle of Pines, asked what the Town paid last year for Highway.

Comptroller Rahrle explained that the amount spent on the Highway budget in 2013 was \$1,844,593 so the budget is increasing by \$428,882. This amount is for \$37,000 is for the part time seasonal employees, \$20,000 is for the increase in repairs to equipment, \$290,000 is an increase for road repair and \$51,000 is an increase in the debt service for the Highway Fund, \$35,000 for equipment purchases and \$5,000 is for other expenses.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that the Town has a plan for highway maintenance and the Town has to make sure that they have the manpower to do it. The Town will be watching this in 2014 and the plan will be adjusted so the Town gets the most out of dollars spent.

Patricia Rickard, Cadys Arbor, stated that she agrees with Councilor Johnson that the Town needs to lay out a long term comprehensive plan in advance of any property tax increases so the public will know precisely what the problems are, how they are going to be fixed over the next several years and what the costs will be. She said her taxes have gone up every year and she moved here because she thought her taxes would stay kind of stable. She is single, in her 70's and still works part time and after a while she can say she can't pay out anymore. She would like to know exactly where every penny of this increase is going to be spent, what are the jobs, how much each job going to cost, when is it going to be started, when is it going to be completed, how many people need to be hired to do these various jobs and who are the people getting raises for this tax hike because she is paying for this. She would like to know ahead of time where those expenditures are.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that the public is being made aware of this now at the public hearing for the budget.

Ms. Rickard also expressed her concern that she was not made aware of the October 28th meeting where the Board voted to override the tax levy limit until it was over with and felt that the Board should have been more transparent advertising for this meeting. She said she felt that maybe the Board would not have passed it if there were more people who knew about the meeting and voiced their opinion about it.

Supervisor Salisbury explained that the meeting notice was publicized with the Post Standard.

Bob Geraci, Dinglehole Rd, stated that he will be one of the new Town Councilors and is looking forward to working with the Board and said that having been in public office his entire career he put together multi-million dollar budgets and he knows how difficult they are. When he presented his 15 million dollar budget he knew where every nickel and every penny was going. He stated he knew it was absolutely necessary to do the things that he was proposing to do. He suggested that a 37.8 percentage increase looks bad and maybe there is a better approach by doing it in stages. Taxes would have been increased anyways because the appraised value went down. Maybe the \$120 dollars for a \$200,000 house is a bit too much. Not that the roads shouldn't be taken care of but the roads are only \$300,000 of that \$500,000 increase so there is \$200,000 somewhere else in the 2014 budget. He suggested that this can be done in stages, doing a little bit less instead of trying to fix everything all at once. He added that the Town has a perception of being a great place to live and a low cost place to live and he doesn't want to lose that perception.

Greg Maxwell, Brixham Court, commented that it is obvious the main increase is because of the appropriated fund balance adding that there is nothing you can do from going from using \$490,000 in one year down to \$84,000 in another. He said it is very short sighted of the people working on the budget a year ago and would encourage this Board and any Board to be looking long range when you appropriate the fund balance because this is exactly what happens when you take too much out. He added that in the General Fund there is a line called labor relation, \$50,000 and asked if this is for contract negotiations why the Town Board can't take the

lead. He asked if it is another item then he asks for transparency and an explanation as to what the \$50,000 is for.

Mr. Maxwell continued and said that this Town has a very competent Comptroller and he questioned the need for a bookkeeper pointing out that Mr. Salisbury is a certified public accountant who understands numbers. He added that it is just another layer and since Bookkeepers are usually a political appointment he questions the need for this position.

Mr. Maxwell then referred to the Cornell Road study at the cost of 8.5 million to repair roads and at \$290,000 budgeted for a year it will take 25 years to make the repairs and the Town will never catch up. He suggests that the Town bond for the mill and grind to get that work done and pay it out over the next 15, 20 years particularly with historically low interest rates.

Supervisor Salisbury replied that they are not spending \$290,000 and asked **Comptroller Rahrle** what the total budget for road maintenance is.

Comptroller Rahrle replied, \$850,000.

Supervisor Salisbury said it went up \$290,000 and they don't want to bond because then the Town has the added interest expense and why bond and pay for it over 20 years adding that financially it would be fiscally irresponsible.

Engineer Yager added to bond for road improvements that are considered maintenance improvements you are going to be paying on the bond when the service life of the improvement has expired.

Mr. Maxwell commented that a 15 year bond is a pretty good life of a road for mill and grind, not a top coat.

Engineer Yager replied that a lot of the Town roads need more than a mill and grind.

Councilor Reeves added that they know that the 8.5 million is probably the high number and they are hoping that they plan on every year doing a re-inspection and reevaluation of the roads as well as updating the plan on a yearly basis. The Town is paying \$110,000 principal and \$56,000 interest on the Town Hall and the Ice Rink. The Town does not need to be paying off anything else and they are totally convinced the way this program is laid out, it will take care of these roads and getting them into the shape they need to be in.

Mr. Maxwell then asked how much do employees pay toward health insurance premiums?

Comptroller Rahrle replied, zero.

Mr. Maxwell asked if everyone in the Town is unionized.

Councilor Levy replied, no.

Mr. Maxwell then referred to the Benchmark study presented by **Councilor Reeves** earlier and asked if the study shows what the different highway departments pay towards their health insurance.

Councilor Reeves explained that the reason why the Town pays 100% of the cost of health insurance is because the Town Board negotiated and took the lead on that contract and it includes all of the employees in the Town. They are all on that same, Teamster policy with 100% coverage but they all have to be on the policy and they all have to have the premium paid through the Town if he is not mistaken.

Steve Power, Town of Lysander Highway Department, commented that this was not true that employees that are at the Town Hall are not in the Teamsters and they were given 100%. **Mr. Power** explained that those employees are in an insurance program but they and their premiums are not covered by the contract and the Town can charge them what every the want. They are not covered by any contract and the Board can do whatever they want with the insurance.

Mr. Maxwell commented that if you look on the benchmark study, the Town of Lysander for highway employees are the only one that pays zero for health insurance, the middle is about 15% adding that this is cost savings that the Town can do.

Supervisor Salisbury replied the Board has been looking at it and they will be negotiating a new contract in 2014.

Mr. Maxwell then asked if this is why \$50,000 is budgeted for labor.

Supervisor Salisbury commented that at looking at the contract they feel that they need expert advice.

Mr. Maxwell asked if this is going to be taken out to bid or is it going to be a professional service?

Supervisor Salisbury said it is a professional service but it will be going out to bid.

Mr. Maxwell asked if other Towns pay \$50,000 on negotiations and commented that as a tax payer he would like to see that taken out of the budget. He said that because a 37 percent increase might be \$60.00 and a \$1.25 and that might be great for some people who have a lot of money but for the average citizen it is not only \$60.00, when you add the special districts on top of it and all the other taxes. He asked that the Board cut the spending in this budget and get the taxes down for the people.

Hugh Kimball, Dexter Parkway, referred to Mr. Van Wie's previous numbers and said they were accurate even though some of those changes in the Assessor, Supervisor and Public Safety Code Clerk situation may have occurred over the past year and that the difference between the 2013 and the 2014 numbers he came up with are accurate. **Mr. Kimball** said at some point you have significantly increased the cost of continuing business in the Town.

Supervisor Salisbury replied that they have not significantly increased the cost. They have decreased in one place and increased in another area adding that they have come out about even the number of personnel.

Mr. Kimball replied maybe in the numbers but not in the dollars.

Mr. Kimball also asked if the Board could cut the number a little bit for the budgeted amount for labor relations as it seems like a lot. **Mr. Kimball** also pointed out that for the attorney's position it was in 2012, \$57,000, in 2013 it was \$65,000 and in 2014 it is \$70,000 and its going up very rapidly.

Jim Stirushnik, Dinglehole Rd, referred to the 2013 evaluation of roads by the Cornell program and asked if the Town now is going to have a lessor program done on an annual basis.

Supervisor Salisbury replied that the plan always has to be updated becomes it becomes outdated one day after it is started and the Town is looking at an intern to do that to too.

Mr. Stirushnik stated the County does an evaluation of every 4 years of county roads and the County has more roads and traffic than Town roads do, He asked if the Town can do this on a quarterly basis of every four years instead of every year.

Councilor Reeves replied that the Town may get to that point even next year or the year after but the one thing you have to do is constantly put in the new information whether it is a crack fill or a resurface. That information has to be updated in the software also adding that the County does a physical evaluation of their roads every four years.

Highway Superintendent Gene Dinsmore said the County has a contract with an engineering company and they are putting it on the county contract bid this year so it will be available to the Town. The County divides the county into four quadrants and a person travels all the roads in that quadrant and actually films the road, the signs, and drainage ditches and prepares a report similar to this Cornell program for that quadrant. Every four years every County road gets the same treatment that the Town got this year. That program will be available to the Town in 2014. He said he has discussed this with the Town Engineer and will look hard at it whether or not it will be suitable for the Town.

Mr. Stirushnik commented that he feels that the Town is over managing it by doing it every year and a Town as wealthy as Lysander is should not be going into debt to buy trucks. He said that the Town should be able to pay for them with cash as the Town buys them. **Mr. Stirushnik** added that the County Highway Superintendent said that the County has not acquired any new, significant roads in the last four years. He stated that the Town is going on and on acquiring more and more road surfaces and is going to have substantially more costs to maintain these roads in the future adding that the Town should reconsider its policy of acquiring new roads until there is a way found to pay for their long term maintenance.

Councilor Reeves then asked Engineer Yager what the cost was to repair Upper Dexter Parkway and the length of that repair.

Engineer Yager replied approximately 1743 feet of total length and just to binder alone the cost is about \$260,000. He explained that the road has reached its surface life and the tarvia was approximately three inches and other roads in Indian Springs are two inches or less.

After no one else spoke, the public hearing was closed at 8:42 p.m. Supervisor Salisbury called for a short recess and the regular meeting convened at 8:49 p.m.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

None

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

UPPER DEXTER PARKWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER

RES. #220/2013 Motion by Levy, Second by Reeves

RESOLVED to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign Change Order No. 1 for the Upper Dexter Parkway Drainage Improvements Project which reduces the final contract amount to \$189,082.50.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

UPPER DEXTER PARKWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
APPROVAL OF PAYMENT REQUEST

RES. #221/2013 Motion by Shimer, Second by Reeves

RESOLVED that payment request No. 3 which will be the final payment for the Upper Dexter Parkway Drainage Improvements Project be made in the amount of \$17,911.12 to LaFleur Constructors, Inc., per the Town Engineers recommendation.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

CENTER POINTE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT
APPROVAL TO SIGN CONTRACT DRAWINGS

RES. #222/2013 Motion by Johnson, Second by Shimer

RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor be authorized to sign the cover sheet of the Contract Drawings, dated October 7, 2013, and the NYSDEC Application for Approval of Plans for a Wastewater Disposal System (Formally BSP-5) for The Center Point Sewer Extension Project.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

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TOWN OF LYSANDER LANDFILL
APPROVAL TO SIGN 2013 POST-CLOSURE MONITORING PROPOSAL

RES. #223/2013 Motion by Levy, Second by reeves

RESOLVED to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the Barton & Loguidice 2013 Post-Closure Monitoring & Analytical Proposal for the closed Town of Lysander Landfill in an amount not to exceed \$5,735

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

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MVP HEALTH CARE
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

RES. #224/2013 Motion by Shimer, Second by Reeves

RESOLVED to authorize the Town Supervisor to enter into a contract with MVP Health Care to provide Health Insurance for employees and retirees aged 65 and over. This is to be effective January 1, 2014.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

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APPROVAL OF 2013 AGREEMENT
CNY SPCA

RES. #225/2013 Motion by Johnson, Second by Reeves

RESOLVED to authorize the Town Supervisor to enter into an agreement with the S.P.C.A. to provide Animal Cruelty Services to the Town of Lysander for 2013. The amount of the contract is \$1,958.00

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

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APPROVAL OF 2014 AGREEMENT
SPCA

RES. #226/2013 Motion by Levy, Second by Reeves

RESOLVED to authorize the Town Supervisor to enter into an agreement with the S.P.C.A. to provide Animal Cruelty Services to the Town of Lysander for 2014. The amount of the annual contract is \$1,958.00.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

WEST PHOENIX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
2014/2015 CONTRACT
ENTERPRISE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1
AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARING

RES. #227/2013 Motion by Salisbury, Second by Shimer

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorized to advertise for a public hearing to be held on December 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lysander Town Building for the purpose hearing all persons for or against the proposed 2014 and/or 2015 contract with the Enterprise Fire Company No. 1 for fire protection services in the West Phoenix Fire Protection District in the amount of \$100,166 for 2014 and \$103,170 for 2015.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

APPROVAL TO SEEK REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
LEGAL SERVICES

RES. #228/2013 Motion by Salisbury, Second by Shimer

RESOLVED to authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposal for an attorney to handle labor negotiations for a new highway contract.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	No	Councilor Levy	No		

Three Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

APPROVAL OF SALE
SURPLUS SPOILS AND MILLINGS

RES. #229/2013 Motion by Salisbury, Second by Johnson

RESOLVED to approve the selling of 2000 yards of spoils and millings valued at \$4000 from the Dexter Parkway and to purchase 8 used jersey barriers for an even change.

VOTE:

Supervisor Salisbury	Aye	Councilor Reeves	Aye	Councilor Shimer	Aye
Councilor Johnson	Aye	Councilor Levy	Aye		

All Ayes, Motion Carried and Adopted

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS:

Norm Ashbarry, Hidden Lake Drive, addressed the Board and asked for an explanation on the contract between the Town and the CNY SPCA. Mr. Ashbarry also asked the status of the dog control lawsuit against the Town. Attorney Rivizzigno explained that another motion was filed with Supreme Court and are waiting for a trial date.

Gene Dinsmore, Highland Drive, expressed his appreciation to the Board and the residents for their interest and efforts regarding the budget process.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:17 p.m. Supervisor Salisbury adjourned the meeting.

This is a true and complete recording
of the action taken at this meeting.

Lisa Dell, Lysander Town Clerk