

A Regular Town Board meeting was held on November 1, 2018 at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Saraceni, Supervisor
Peter Moore, Councilor
Robert Geraci, Councilor
Roman Diamond, Councilor
Robert Ellis, Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dina Falcone, Town Clerk; David Rahrle, Comptroller; Al Yager, Town Engineer; Tony Burkinshaw, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Gerald Hole, Highway Superintendent; Anthony Rivizzigno, Town Attorney; and several residents.

Supervisor Saraceni called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

Public Hearing 2019 Tentative Budget

RES#291/2018

A motion to open the Public Hearing occurred at 7:50 PM. The motion was made by Councilor Moore and seconded by Councilor Diamond.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS:

Kevin Rode of Greymoor Way: *My first question concerns the parks budget part of the budget. I saw the rec leader had a raise but I was just wondering when, I think we just appointed someone to that position in September, and I think you are giving a 2% increase to that position; you know, it's only \$700 or \$750, but I think a 2% increase would sort of would go along with someone who had been working a whole year in a position as opposed to a month or two months. The other question about the parks budget, is, I know you are still working on funding for the spray park, but I didn't see anything as the additional, we were told there weren't increased salaries, we've got a program in there again, the summer program money budgeted, we have an additional assistant now, is that in anticipation of the spray park, or is this for other projects we are going to need the additional people?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *To answer the question, there was an adjustment made to the parks budget two years ago where we took out I believe somewhere in the nature of \$25K, that's when we did away with the summer day camp program. Now, when we did that, we were already talking about the spray park. What I told Tony was, that \$25K isn't going away permanently, we just couldn't justify spending \$25K on a day camp program for 13 kids. So we didn't spend the money we saved the money and we are bringing back an assistant, because one of the things we committed to when we looked at the model of having a spray park, is that unlike Camillus, it needs to be monitored. We have people in the park working all day long; whether it's mowing, or doing any other types of programming, you know we have full time seasonal people there that distribute equipment; we just thought we should have somebody overseeing the spray pad, and make sure that behavior, there's no behavioral issues, make sure it's a clean place for kids to play, that person may be doing some other things as well. That's why you are not seeing an increase necessarily in the overall parks budget.*

Kevin Rode: *In the areas I looked at there is about \$40,000 increase in the parks budget,*

Supervisor Saraceni: *In salaries?*

Kevin Rode: *Yeah.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I don't think you are seeing a \$40K increase in salaries.*

Kevin Rode: \$22K down in the directors part and (70, 20, 101 to 40, about \$22K for what was budgeted this year for what the preliminary budget is next year, and then over there, 7310 now 407, that increased \$44K. Between or \$2K budgeted; \$44K between what was budgeted this year and what you're anticipating your budget next year.

Supervisor Saraceni: *I'd have to see the breakout, but I don't think there is \$44K in personnel.*

Kevin Rode: *It's about \$12 by the time you take \$22K away and \$42, but you know.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *So it's like 20, but we cut \$25K two years ago...*

Kevin Rode: *Right. But it affected the budget because you took it out of the budget and then now you put it back in, so it increased. That was my question on that. The other question I have on the Codes office, I see where we are giving the Code Officer or suggesting a raise for the Codes Department. My question is, I attended the work sessions, and if we are anticipating more work in the Codes Office, which I don't see on paper, I look at the codes reports every month. We are down on revenues, which has nothing to do with how much work the Codes Office does, so if we pay our Codes Enforcement Officer more, does that mean we are going to get more work and more work taking less or away from the Clerk in that department? I saw you lowered that pay. But is that going to justify if there is a need for...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *We are not lowering the Clerk's pay. There's a part time Code Enforcement Officer.*

Kevin Rode: *I'm sorry, yes.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *So there will be a savings there. The number of hours utilized by that individual will be decreased. We have taken a step back and part time personnel in that department, which we may or may not be able to absorb, we kept the funding there, if we can live without it, might be a permanent cut. But, I'm of the believe if you find an efficiency, don't cut the budget the first year because it might not work, so overall, there was a transfer in money, there's a bump in our Code Enforcement Officer's pay will not affect the tax rate. We found savings in other areas. We moved money over, we did a County look to see what a Codes Officer makes in other Towns and we found that that position was under funded.*

Kevin Rode: *But if we are anticipating more work...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I am not, that, the adjustment to pay was not based on more work anticipated.*

Kevin Rode: *Okay because I mean it's a salary position, so you're not going to get more work out of somebody but putting \$5K into a part time if they have more work to do, you can hire additional people and part time people. Other than that I commend your job, I know it's not easy to be up there and make these decisions but at the same point in time its three years in a row of three consecutive tax increases and more on the horizon. I know you are anticipating the fund balance going up; you have more fund balance than anticipating or thought we had last year, is 22% too much?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *The only reason it's 22% is because of the unexpected winter severity funds. And what we are doing, we won't do what other municipalities have done and made a mistake in the past, we are not applying that one time shot in the arm to operational cost. We are applying those to equipment cost and we are applying those to road improvement cost. So what you are going to see, is an elevated fund balance because of unanticipated revenue coming in. But what we are trying to do is be smart as a municipality, spread that over time, and right-size. And remember – we had a 22% tax cut three years ago. We didn't want services to suffer we wanted to keep spending up in our HW, we wanted to keep the expenditures at a point where we could accomplish our mission as a municipality but rather than raise the tax rate the very next year, we are trying to come into like I showed you on that chart, a soft landing by utilizing unanticipated revenues by spreading them out over time. So, yes, the reason why fund balance looks like it's at 22% was because that big shot in the arm that we got. We are trying to be strategic in how we use that.*

Kevin Rode: *Right. And I know your plan is to take the remaining money and spread it out over three years. The drawback with that is as things get more expensive every year, that money is buying less three years down the road, so I would suggest using it as I think our HW Supervisor wanted to, and put into the roads this year because it's probably not going to get any cheaper to do roadwork three years down the road, and maybe it will, but that's you know, \$127 not going to buy much a few years down the road. Thanks.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *We are just applying it to a model. Thanks Kevin.*

Gene Dinsmore of Highland Drive: *Is the Highway Superintendent going to talk?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *He could? Do you want to talk?*

Gene Dinsmore: *I'm guessing the two of them. (Crosstalk)*

Supervisor Saraceni: *He will probably make a comment during Department Head comments. Do you have a question or comment?*

Gene Dinsmore: *I'll break the ice for him then. I first want to echo Kevin, and thank you for attempting to make a smooth presentation and have the numbers in all the nice columns and smooth and a general increase not too much, not going to start a fire with those number.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *We might, you never know.*

Gene Dinsmore: *However, I'd like to speak to the lack of a plan to get where we need to be. We are at the bottom of the pit of the 19 towns in Onondaga County where we are second or third from the bottom in HW expenses. That is because we just haven't been, and this goes back before the JAM team on this downhill slide from 1950, when they only had 50 miles of road, we had the same number of HW people actually, one less HW employee than we have now. What happened when Bob Cook had his stroke and left, and Bruce Reeves came out of the crew, and became the foreman he was never replaced, so we actually have one less person that we have when we had half as much road mileage, so that's one spot. What I'm trying to describe to you is the severity of the pothole that we are digging for ourselves that if we don't reverse that course, and start building a ramp for Jerry to get where the HW Department needs to be, just to sustain. We have Al and I went to Cornell and went to school, and came back with a plan; very reasonable only cost \$200 for the software, and there was a plan to get us from the conviction we were in, to a reasonable level of maintenance on our roads. We needed 1.0150, per year in order to make that goal. Those numbers, in 2013, okay, those numbers obviously are a little higher now, okay we also, when we had the budget presentation, we spoke in length about plow trucks, and that was good we determined if you are going to buy at least one truck, the HW department also has a pay loader, a backhoe, a skid steer, a sewer truck, a rollover, and a 1988 Case roller, we got a lot of old equipment some of which you can justify because it's the kind of equipment that if it was down you could rent something to replace it. The pay loader is a crucial piece of equipment, in the wintertime, you can load trucks with salt, clean the cul-de-sacs it is a crucial piece you can't rent pay loader's in the winter because they are already committed to snow contracts all over the county. These things, you have to have a plan, not only for the plow trucks, you have to have a plan for the entire HW Department fleet. I have shown that to you Bob Ellis, a couple of years ago, and I still have that piece of paper and my flow chart at home. You have to have a plan for all of your vehicles and have a target date for planned replacement. I am not seeing that and I'm not hearing that and budget presentation which still only talked about plow trucks is only one piece of this puzzle. Okay, I see Jerry falling into the same pit I was in, taking it personally, and really feeling bad, and that's not good.*

Councilor Geraci: *Could I ask you a question Gene?*

Gene Dinsmore: *Yes Sir.*

Councilor Geraci: *There's no doubt that the HW Department's needs are apparent to this Board. So for the record Gene, and let me back up, the HW Department is where the HW needs are not the only things that cost a lot we are projecting a 5.13 tax increase. For the record Gene, what would you propose we increase taxes by in 2019?*

Gene Dinsmore: *Whatever it takes...*

Councilor Geraci: *No. You can't come up with a number Gene, would you like us to increase taxes by 10% 12% 14%?*

Gene Dinsmore: *You can't.*

Councilor Geraci: *Oh you want to go higher. We are trying to be reasonable for the Town of Lysander Gene.*

(Crosstalk)

Supervisor Saraceni: *Let me make... Gene we have gone over our time, let me just, you raise a valid point, and let me respond to it the best I can now. So in that presentation, you see in the next two years, three years, where we start building fund balance again, significantly; that's where we hope to infill needs in the HW Department.*

Gene Dinsmore: *I saw that...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *So, in those are 1.8% increases; those are 2.3% increases, small modifications and rate adjustments go a long way to take care of those additional demands. What I have presented you tonight is the best plan that I can come up with without jacking the tax rate up, and starting that firestorm. I don't want it to be with a 5.1% increase spending severity money wisely, we are getting there. It is going to take another two, three years, but once we start building fund balance again, and you saw how it goes up significantly.*

Gene Dinsmore: *We heard the same speech last year.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *We are still recovering from a 22% tax cut.*

Gene Dinsmore: *I get that. I just wanted to kind of bring advice for...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I want to make sure and it gets forced out of us because we get put in a position where we have to justify what we are proposing. Three years ago, three years ago, they "they" the previous admin allocated \$950K in fund balance to fund tax cut. So, what we are trying to do, is be smart, come up with an equipment replacement plan that lowers our repair costs over time, and by next year, or the year after, half the fleet should be new.*

Gene Dinsmore: *You only look at plow trucks.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Gene, I know, but in two or three years there should be money to replace other pieces of equipment as well. That why repairs went up.*

Gene Dinsmore: *You are digging potholes that we are not going to be able to fill unless you fill the plan that accounts for all of those things, and dedicates some money for it.*

Dina Falcone: *Since this is a public hearing, there is no time limit for speaking. I just wanted to put that out there.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Is there anything else? I'm sorry I cut you off. Anything else Gene?*

Gene Dinsmore: *I appreciate the smooth presentation and the smooth numbers, and I just the numbers aren't good enough where you need, and I don't see any plan that shows incremental increases year by year to get us to where we need to be.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *It's on the last page of the presentation*

Gene Dinsmore: *There's not enough there by the time we get there we will be in a worse hole than we are now.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Thanks.*

Fred Burtch of Plainville Road: *I want to thank Mr. Dinsmore for his input, insight, and he brought some thoughts to the table that some people weren't at least some member of the public weren't considering, and I didn't plan on saying this before but I just wanted to say if Board members keep treating constituents in a condescending manner like that we might just dissuade them from coming up and participating in the public hearings or public discussions in the future. Good job. I remember you talked a few years ago where you wanted to try and get rid of the yo-yo effect with the taxes, if you were a kid and you played with the yo-yo, whoever had fun with a yo-yo that never went up or down? If you had a yo-yo that stays in the constant up position how much fun is that? I mean if it was low and you were walking the dog that was a whole lot better than holding it in your hand up high all the time?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Eventually it dies though.*

Fred Burtch: *Also you mentioned the word "hope" a couple of times in reference to the future fund balance and I just wanted to say, if hopes and dreams were nickels and dimes we'd all be rich, so I just want to add that in there; it is hope, numbers those aren't, you never know if something is going to happen, say for example you were projecting the sale of a vehicle being \$75K or \$80K, does anybody have an idea of what the real number is going to be?*

Fred Burtch: *Five thousand?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *No. I hope it's high, I don't have a crystal ball.*

Fred Burtch: *...for situations like that in the future.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *You're right we don't have a crystal ball.*

Fred Burtch: *Looking three or four years down the line projecting things out with the 3% assessment increase of the town's value, do we have any idea how much of that is new build-out as opposed to raising the existing assessment of what was there? So I mean I am just saying we have, if you look back three or four years when the previous [board was] in office, and what assessed value they had to work with and where their tax rate was, I mean if we were to look back and see if they had worth assessed value right now where they would have needed their taxes to be up or down?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Those should have gone up instead of a 22% tax cut.*

Fred Burtch: *I'd really like to break it down and see how much that is. New build out coming here as opposed to "oh we think your house is worth more than where we had projected before." I'd somehow like to break it down and look at that. As far as the increase in labor costs, the raises, I know boards like to cherry pick when they say as compared to other towns in our county, you know, a lot of times they don't like to use that, and at times they like to use that, it would be nice if we had, "Well this is what the other towns are paying on average for these departments." It would be nice to have, "This is what other towns and departments are doing as to how much value in permits are coming in. Is that double what we do, and we are still paying this person the same price when that person is supposedly working a lot harder? I'd like if it was broken down like that because then we'd have a better idea. Regarding the \$19K, in savings from dog catcher, it would have been nice if we could have saved it years ago. There were two people who acted in a capacity as dog control for the town but I think they had other jobs they did in addition to that. Is those jobs being done by somebody else by the town?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Yes.*

Fred Burtch: *The \$110K increase in benefits and salary, at 8.6% increase over last year, I'm not sure that the general public and the labor market and I don't think teachers got an 8.6% increase, or in manufacturing, or service workers got an 8.6% bump in the last year, so that is quite a jump right there.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *That's not each employee. That's total spending. What are you comparing?*

Fred Burtch: *Well we have the increase in salary and the increase in benefits coming to a total of \$110K.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *That's based on the total labor force. Are you trying to equate it to a per person increase?*

Fred Burtch: *No, no.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I just want to understand...*

Fred Burtch: *No I'm not saying that. The fund balance at 22% I can remember members of this board when they were running for office three years ago, mentioning to the previous board they'd like to see if they could hold that fund balance at 20%. I'm wondering do we need to be higher than 20%, is there a way we can compare that with the other 19 townships to see where they are?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I mentioned earlier why it's at 22%, we had an inflow of severity money.*

Fred Burtch: *Now, there's people on the board we know of who appears to have ran on the moniker of "We are going to lower your taxes", and there's been three increases in a row. Do you anticipate next year using a fund balance to lower the tax rate, in anticipation for political reasons?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *No. I mean that's on paper. That's on last year's presentation, that's on this year's presentation and you can check that on next year's presentation.*

Fred Burtch: *I appreciate that I just know that...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *We are trying to get away from that model.*

(Crosstalk)

Fred Burtch: *You ran on a tax cut.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I never ran on a tax cut and I never said that. I said a 35% increase in a given year was an outrageous ask.*

Fred Burtch: *I'm just going based on the flyer I got from the local committees. I am trying to put it all together. I hate to add the cost of looking (like) Kanye West but I'm going to make a jump over regarding the first page of the work session and the purchase of 8431 Smokey Hollow Road.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *This is a public hearing concerning the budget.*

Fred Burtch: *We'll be able to bring that up. Ok. Thank you. Appreciate your time.*

Bob Wicks of 65 W. Genesee Street: *I'm only going to go through the key components; I got here a little late so I didn't have a chance to really look it up. Once of the first things I notice you're telling us that there's an increase in different areas and increase in thousand for fuel for the engineer. But you don't really break it down how you got there, for instance, in addition of the \$20K engineering position, it would have been nice if you would have put down what you had done in the past, you know, outsourcing your engineering cost, and show us what that is, and how you came up with that number. The dog control, you saved \$19K, I imagine you had a contract with the previous dog control person. There was no contract?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *No.*

Bob Wicks: *So, in other words, you got a reduction of \$19K, is there going to be a reduction in services?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *There should not be no.*

Bob Wicks: *There should not be, but I mean do you have it in writing?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Yes, we have a contract with the SPCA.*

Bob Wicks: *Okay, so does it mirror what you were getting before?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I believe so.*

Bob Wicks: *See that would have been nice to show that here. I mean because you can knock down costs by just knocking down the services, that's easy to do. Increase of \$20K for fuel, how did you come up with that number?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Well, there's a \$20K cut last year and they asked more of the HW Department in trucking. That was a mistake we should not have done that, so we brought the \$20K back up in fuel, and based on the amount of work they did this year, that should, and if it's not, it's not like we are going to let the trucks sit; but we think \$60K as a budget number was a solid budget number we went back to.*

Bob Wicks: *But how did you come up with that? So in other words, if you look at if I was doing it, what did they spend so far this year?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Well last year, the reason why we cut was because we looked at a five year look back period and that was consistent with five years. We also asked of the HW Department this year, was to do more trucking. We didn't know how much exactly that was going to cost us that was going to have an impact*

Bob Wicks: *So is that going to be enough? So if you break it down, like with ¾ of the year, we are done with ¾ of the year, what are we at now, okay, so you can kind of ask where you are going to be at? Is it \$60K too much, is it not enough? You're not breaking it down.*

Councilor Moore: *What it sounds like to me Bob, the questions you are asking are questions we cover when we cover in a budget work session. This is a presentation, a general presentation of the overall budget. What you probably would like to do in the future is come to our budget work sessions and you will hear all of this discussion. Kevin is there and Jim and Gene; you'll hear and you'll know where the numbers are.*

Bob Wicks: *I understand that but...*

Councilor Moore: *This presentation. Would be four hundred pages long.*

Bob Wicks: *When you present it at least we can read it. What if people can't make those sessions? Everybody can't make those sessions. Then that's why it would be nice to have it documented here. Most people can't make it; I couldn't make it, or I would have loved to been there, that's why I'm asking you to break it down.*

(Crosstalk)

Supervisor Saraceni: *That's how we came to that number. It was based on last year, it was based on a historical number that was lower, so we lowered it, but we asked more of the HW Department, which had an impact on fuel usage, so we raised it back up. We were comfortable with this number.*

Councilor Ellis: *In the long run we saved money from contractually hiring someone to haul the stone for us, so we spent this money contractually all in stone.*

Bob Wicks: *Okay and if you put notes in here.*

(Crosstalk)

Bob Wicks: *Or just an explanation, it would be better for people who could make it or can't make these meetings who are too busy and might have to watch it on the video.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *These are detail oriented questions, and I am happy to answer them but like Pete said, like any number that you see, is thought out. There's a reason why there is a number on this sheet.*

Bob Wicks: *Let me give you an example, this is why I have questions. HW budget includes \$85K sale of in sale of equipment. I buy cars for a municipality and I go to buy a new car, first thing I do is see how much my vehicle is worth, so that I know if I am going to x amount of dollars for that vehicle how much is it going to cost me how did you come up with that number?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Well last year we were presented with a fleet maintenance program, where we are trying to roll the fleet every seven years. Last year called for a purchase of two new trucks, one of which we knew we could pay for outright. The other was contingent on the sale of a truck in getting \$85K. Now there's a question mark whether or not we are going to get that. If we can't get \$85K on a bid price for them then we are going to have to use our imaginations to see whether or not we get a truck to begin with or if there are other ways to get to a second vehicle. I don't have a crystal ball, these numbers were based on a model presented by Jerry and by Al. In the revenue column, to get us there, showed \$85K, so if we aren't going to get \$85K on a bid on a truck, then I need this Board, to see how we are going to get there within the confines of this budget.*

Bob Wicks: *And that's what I'm saying. The reason this jumped out at me is, I happened to be down talking to Mr. Hole about a HW issue, and while I was there, he showed me something with the trucks, they look pretty good, well the guy who sells you the trucks, you buy trucks from happened to come in, and they talked about, and he was talking about what the resale is, and one of the things that I was talking to Mr. Hole about is how you can purchase vehicles and roll them over every couple of years and there is no cost; you always maintain a new fleet, you always have the warranty of them. It dropped drastically drops your repair revenue down, and you always have new vehicles so they are always running.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *That might work. It won't work on fleet as large as our plow trucks. It might work on two pickup trucks that we bought last year, because we buy them at a state rate, we buy them significantly low, but I want to express to you, I understand your point and your point works when we...*

I'm still talking about the \$85K. The \$85K how we get there. The person who sells you your truck happened to be there, and the \$85K came up, I said, I asked him is that worth \$85K? He said no, it's worth \$25K. That's what he said, so you've got \$85K here he's saying it's worth \$25K. You're \$65K off; Now, I mean, why didn't somebody call him? He's the guy that you buy the cars from, somebody should have made a phone call "hey this is a 2014 vehicle, what is it worth?"

Supervisor Saraceni: *I agree.*

Bob Wicks: *You wouldn't have this \$85K number, you'd have \$25K, and then you wouldn't have to go back and start under the assumption, now, if you've got a number like that that's why I'm asking. Let me finish, you want me to be detailed with it; the reason I'm asking you for details is because we are looking at the \$85 and that's way up there, so how do we know these other numbers aren't unless you give us an explanation?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *This \$85K was given to us on a fleet replacement plan, now how fast we move forward on it depends on certain things coming to fruition; this was in that plan; if we don't get \$85K, guess what, we don't get a truck.*

Bob Wicks: *But you made the proposal, so I would think all it would have taken is you put down \$85K you estimating and getting for the vehicle. All you had to do was make a phone call the person who sells them.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Right now I don't have an alternative plan, so I am sticking with what was proposed until Al and Jerry get together and give us an alternative to consider. That's their job. I am sticking with the plan that was presented on the vehicle replacement. If we don't get \$85 we don't get another truck.*

Bob Wicks: *I'm telling you the person who sells...says it's worth \$25, so even if it is worth \$40...*

(Crosstalk)

Councilor Geraci: *The Department Head gave us those numbers, and it's contingent on new truck purchase on that \$85K coming in. If the \$85K doesn't come in, the new truck, the second truck doesn't get purchased. We are not going to second guess Department Heads, ok? That's the number that was presented. We are not going to go around knocking on doors, "Is this truck worth \$85K?" You know what? That is what a Department Head is for. When they make a presentation, we listen. Now, they aren't always going to get the money they ask for, but the point is, this was a detailed thought out budget that has a 5% tax increase; everything you are suggesting; "Did you ask about this? Did you do that? Did you figure this out?" Yeah, we did all of that Bob. I don't know where you are coming from but we worked in earnest to make sure the numbers were correct; and we allow Department Heads to stand on their numbers.*

Bob Wicks: *So this came from Mr. Hole?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Yes it did.*

Bob Wicks: *\$85K?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Yeah. The plan was done a year ago. The value of the truck may have been a little higher at that time.*

Al Yager: *Based on the model we used at the time, it would be...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *The only...*

Al Yager: *The resale values they are waiting for their trucks...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Over 60% of the original purchase.*

Al Yager: *Our problem is with this one truck and the motor that is in it is hurting us from a resale value.*

Gerald Hole: *The badge on the side of that truck says "Max Force" is killing the value of that truck right now. Can't give those things away. That's our bad, we have two of those Max Forces. Gene was giving me an example earlier tonight of one identical to our 2012 that just sold at an auction, that's our ten wheeler, okay, for \$34K fully equipped because it's got the damn "Max Force" on it. That's what's screwing this all up, it's the motors in those two trucks. The only trucks we have in it, I have a proposal here that this whole budget process, okay, the one glitch I found in the whole thing, and I was going to allude to it later, but I'll do it now, is \$85K, I can pretty much live with where we're going with our numbers, we had a conversation the other day. The only thing that's monkeying this up is the \$85K, now we did get quite a severity check, and that is for capital, not for personnel not for things consumables. I'll call it consumables, ok. Vehicles are capital, roads are capital, and this \$85K was to sell the 2014. I've never let it go for \$25K, it's just even though it's low on power, even though it's on its second motor already with 20 thousand miles on it still has a stainless steel package that package is \$480K so I'm not going to let a truck go for peanuts. In our budgeting process with the severity I looked at all the numbers here, the use of part of it is year with this battle for equipment, and then I looked forward on the next three years, at the 127, 127, and 127. If you can kick that 27 off of that next three years, there's 81, and if we brought our two new trucks and got them ordered right away we still won't see them until snow is flying next year because of time to produce them, and in the spring, if we survive this winter, I have truck six and truck 15 that are my oldest, they are like 2000 two plow trucks worth between 5 and 7500 dollars apiece, so if you guys kicked in the 27 times those three years I don't think it's the 27K certainly isn't going to kill your budget for those next three years, and that adds up to \$81K, and if I get \$5 each out of those two 16 year old trucks, there's 10, there's my 85, let me order my two trucks and let's move on. We are talking, we are not talking about piles here, to make a difference in the overall cost and operation of the HW Department. That second truck is going to make a world of difference, you can't stop there in low, you have to buy another one next year, but next year, instead of two plow trucks, you get one. You gotta keep rolling those things out. Because we got two smaller trucks that are gonna run \$50K a piece*

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that are dying on the vine right now. So you gotta have a plan, but we gotta get you to buy into it, and it was originally my plan was two new trucks, then one, then two, then one. We inverted it and got the one, and we took delivery of, now we need to get the two. And we can't play with that. We have to...

Supervisor Saraceni: *That you pointed out was based on.*

Gerald Hole: *So there's a way to get it.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Based on a plan that was put in place, now again, we don't get the \$85K, we don't get a truck right now. Now, if in the next month or two, Jerry and Al get together, or we are presented with a plan that gets us there we will have revenue there. But right now, I'm not going to make up my own plan. So, I'm just sticking to what was presented to me, and I've got faith in Jerry, and Al, to work together to come up with a second truck option; but right now, we only know for sure we are buying one truck. So, all this discussion now, has been had; we don't just put numbers down on a piece of paper and put the budget on here, because I need...*

Bob Wicks: *I'm not suggesting it; I'm just pointing out some things I'm hearing here, and I'm asking questions, but Mr. Geraci got a little hot, I'm not trying to be argumentative about it...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *There's no reason for anybody to get hot on this.*

Bob Wicks: *I think Mr. Geraci was with me, but I'm just pointing out things that I'm looking at, and I have questions about.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Does that answer your question?*

Bob Wicks: *Yeah, I still have some more, and that is what this hearing is supposed to be about when you have questions. Now the salary adjustments, there's the \$5K each for the Comptroller, the Town Clerk, and Code Enforcement? And you did look at other towns and saw they were low; which is what you should do, I agree with that, I mean if we are low, we should pay our people at least what they are worth.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *It's not on the high end of the scale, I mean...*

Bob Wicks: *Okay, you checked, and I agree with doing that, that's how you should do it, but you have the non-bargaining employees at 2.5% increase. Did you do the same thing with them the other non-bargaining employees to see if they were lower with the rest of the county?*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Yes, so I guess we didn't look at those positions in that way. But we did looked at the workload of the employees and we also looked at what we were asking them to contribute additionally towards their health insurance costs. So what's not pointed out in here is that we are also asking the employees to kick in an initial 2% for the cost of their health insurance; that probably should have been a bullet point in there. It probably would have moderated the 2% increase across the board...*

Bob Wicks: *I don't have a problem with the increase...*

Supervisor Saraceni: *But, let me just finish...in doing so, it saved the Town \$3,400K so there was actually a savings there.*

Bob Wicks: *Okay. The question is, if you check with the other towns to see that these three positions were low, it's easy enough to do the same things with the other positions and do it across the board.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *We did. We do. I have a chart. Association of Towns in Onondaga County...*

Bob Wicks: *That was my point, so everybody else is at least in the middle or where we should be.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *We are not at the high end of the pay scale.*

Bob Wicks: *Are they where they should be? They shouldn't be on the low. I mean, if anything, they should be in the middle.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I agree.*

Bob Wicks: *That's where they are.*

Councilor Geraci: *Let me emphasize it wasn't just the pay raise in terms of what do other towns do, when I came into office the town employees paid nothing to their health insurance. Now I left Onondaga County employment I think we were paying somewhere between 22 and 23% of the cost of health insurance so we made it a mission of this previous board, not just this current one where incrementally we would ask the employees to pay into their health insurance cost they are at 8% now and we are asking that this cost will be at 10% next year. To mitigate the effect of that 2.5% salary increase was not only to keep pace with what is going on in the rest of the county but to offset the idea of saying to folks, "We really value you but at some point you have pay a significant portion of your health insurance costs". And that is what this is all about.*

Bob Wicks: *And I don't have a problem with the increase, I just wanted to question what other, you know as long as everybody else, as long as you were doing three positions why not do them all, and if they're low, or if they are where they should be and then you do it with each position because that is what happens because if you want to maintain quality service you have to have quality people and we should be paying our people at least a fair wage. That was my point.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I agree.*

Bob Wicks: *I think that is all.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Thanks Bob.*

Jim Stirushnik of Dinglehole Road: *For the people on PAC-B I heard some chuckling earlier. The building was receiving heavy rain and some of us were trying to get dried out, and making such motions to communicate. I would urge everyone to get out Tuesday and vote, and for any reason you can't vote, that's necessary in the future start working on that problem. Be prepared for the future. Is I'm of the opinion and correct me if I'm wrong, the primary function of these five gentlemen and their fiduciary responsibility to the town to pass it off and reports were given this information and didn't verify or confirm I'm not satisfied as a taxpayer.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I don't? Where did you hear that?*

Jim Stirushnik: *Right here a few minutes ago.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *What did?*

Jim Stirushnik: *We were given these numbers and you were not verifying them yourself and it was your responsibility.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Oh, no.*

Jim Stirushnik: *It is your responsibility to verify. It's your responsibility to take care of the finances of this town.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *Absolutely but before we buy a second truck, that revenue...*

Jim Stirushnik: *I don't want to hear about trucks.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *I want to answer your request and address your comment. I rely heavily on my Department Heads to present a budget for their department that's what they feel they need to accomplish their mission; it's our responsibility that the money is spent properly, and if they project revenues coming in, we will surely check that those revenues have come in before we move forward on a second truck and if those revenues don't come in, there's gotta be a plan to work within the existing budget to get that second truck. That's my responsibility. Every number that you see on this budget, is my responsibility – I sign every single voucher that comes out of this building. Every one. Every budgeted dollar has my signature on a check with a voucher. That's my responsibility.*

Supervisor Saraceni: *So, (inaudible) but I'm the CEO of the Town. The buck stops here.*

Jim Stirushnik: *Ok. You should not be saying I receive numbers from other people (inaudible) not your responsibility (comptroller) (inaudible) you need to make sure you get correct figures. It's not the responsibility of some clerk to come up with a budget. We should be raising fees before replacements are necessary and cost of replacement on property which is brand new in most cases. May be deteriorating, just looking further ahead.*

Fred Burtch: *You mentioned that the Board listens to the Department Heads with respect to the budget, and their presentation. I saw a few meetings ago budget presentation put out by HW Department with what they thought our Town's needs are, and based on where we are on the final budget would you suggest that that is listening to what they suggest.?*

Supervisor Saraceni: Yeah.

Fred Burtch: *And I heard you mention a while ago, about signing the vouchers and what your responsibility is. I think the responsibility of this Board is to present an accurate budget to the public, so whatever it takes to get those accurate numbers, whether we think it's somebody else's responsibility or not, in the end, it's the Town employees and specifically the Board's responsibility to make sure that budget numbers are as accurate as possible.*

Supervisor Saraceni: Absolutely.

RES#292/2018

Having heard all comments related to the budget, a motion to close the Public Hearing occurred at 8:45 pm. The motion was made by Councilor Geraci and seconded by Councilor Ellis.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Kevin Rode of Greymoor Way asked about the purchase of the Smokey Hollow Road property.

Supervisor Saraceni said the Town is buying it "as is" in the contract. He said the dollar amount is \$75K, which is at, if not a little less than the assessed value, or somewhere in that range. He said it is higher than the assessment; as they were looking at \$95K a few years ago. It has been a priority for the park; and said it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to incorporate that piece. **Supervisor Saraceni** said if they have an opportunity to increase the maintenance of it they may mow it back, make it more presentable, since it is at the entrance of the park. They might have an opportunity to rent it out for a as well, as there were inhabitants in there less than a year ago; and perhaps generate some revenue before they make a final determination whether to incorporate it into parks or remove it.

Mr. Rode asked about the \$20K moved for the purchase and the \$55K from the in lieu of parks fund and asked about the annexation and stipulations associated with it. **Supervisor Saraceni** said the park will still be a town parcel, the village will wrap around that that. That [parcel] is not being considered in the annexation; at some point it might. He said he thinks there are going to be other annexations. Mr. Rode asked about costs associated with remediation of the property. **Supervisor Saraceni** said if it is determined that the building needs to come down, the monies would be in the building and parks funds.

Fred Burch asked about the Board's intended use for the property. **Councilor Geraci** said, "It's basically an island in the middle of our park, so it's to preserve or improve the integrity of the actual park". He said it's rare that you have a private land owner within a park system, and things like this were done in County Parks regularly. He said people wouldn't have to worry about how that piece of property is being used.

Mr. Burtch said that parcel has been around for a long time and asked of the Board was planning on holding a public hearing regarding the purchase of that property to invite input from the public. **Councilor Geraci** said that would not be necessary. He said the Board follows protocol. **Councilor Ellis** commented that is a "no brainer". **Councilor Geraci** said they are not voting on it tonight but the public can give us all the input they want, which is what citizens' comments are for. He said at some point the Board has to make a decision, but for every decision, they don't have to have nor should they hold a public hearing. Discussion ensued regarding purchasing and funding for intended uses.

Councilor Ellis said there is actually money in a special account, the in lieu of park fund that has specifically been built up over the years for exactly this purpose. He said this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, he said the house has been up for sale forever. Mr. Burch asked how long the town has been considering the purchase and **Councilor Geraci** said the previous board was considering it. **Supervisor Saraceni** said the Board was discussing the purchase of property in executive sessions.

RES#293/2018

A motion was made by Councilor Geraci and seconded by Councilor Diamond to move into Executive Session regarding a contractual matter at 8:45 PM.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

RES#294/2018

A motion was made by Councilor Geraci and seconded by Councilor Diamond to come out of Executive Session at 9:07 PM.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Gene Dinsmore of Highland Drive said the purchase of the property on Smokey Hollow Road is a perfect idea and he supports it; he said they need to complete the park.

Jim Stirushnik said he agrees with what Mr. Dinsmore said.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Saraceni he asked the Board to add an agenda item. It will be regarding the annexation for Town of Lysander Park with the Village of Baldwinsville. This has to be said: this past weekend of events was fun in Baldwinsville, he said he commended Mr. Burkinshaw on the window painting in the village and also the Park in the Dark event which was put on by the spray park committee and Halloween at Town Hall. Over 200 kids were in the building. He also congratulated the Center for Performing Arts for putting on an amazing Ghost Walk. They sold 600 tickets. He thanked the fire departments for their efforts in keeping kids safe during the weekend.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

RES#295/2018

Motion by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Geraci to adopt the October 18, 2018 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Abstain		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

HW Superintendent Jerry Hole said the parking ordinance is now in effect until April 15th. He said to stay off the roads. He read the fine list for convictions for anyone who does not obey the signs. He said, “Stay off the road if you want them plowed”.

Mr. Hole said that when someone has issues, for example, flooding, a tree down, or what he calls “emergency situation with life of property” to call 911; as with any other issues, call the HW Department at 315-635-5551 and leave a detailed message.

He mentioned the budget with regard to infrastructure. He has a calcium sulphate deposit from a pipe on Killoe Road. He said they need to dig up the pipe and change it to plastic. He said the cost could be \$15K to repair.

Mr. Hole mentioned that he wanted to “clear the air” as he listens to work sessions and watches PAC-B. He was upset regarding the last work session where he was not present regarding a culvert job on Doyle Road. He mentioned improprieties and gifting regarding gravel in the church parking lot. He also said at

the end of the last Board meeting he was chastised for his lack of attendance. He said it is not a requirement for him to be there. **Supervisor Saraceni** said that as Mr. Hole's budget is over 50% of the budget, he should be there for the residents. Discussion ensued and became heated. The scene was recorded on PAC-B TV and can be viewed via vimeo.com.

Tony Burkinshaw, Parks and Recreation Supervisor said the park is now closed and has been winterized. People can still visit the park, but the courts and restrooms are closed for the season. He mentioned the window painting and the Park in the Dark event was a success as well despite the bad weather. Clean up is Saturday at 9:00 AM in the village square to clean the windows. The Halloween event at Town Hall was a success as well. There is a snowmobile safety course November 17th at Lysander Town Hall from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It is a free program put on by the state. Please pre-register at the Parks Department. Parade of Lights is the 24th at dusk.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

**MOTION TO RELEASE PUNCH LIST
SECURITY FOR THE SPRINGWOODS DEVELOPMENT**

RES#296/2018

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Moore to release the punch list security for the Springwoods Development as recommended in the Town Engineer's letter dated October 30, 2018.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO RELEASE PUNCH LIST
SECURITY FOR WHITETAIL WOODS SECTION B-1**

RES#297/2018

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Diamond to release the punch list security for the Whitetail Woods Section B-1 as recommended in the Town Engineer's letter dated October 31, 2018.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN
CONTRACT WITH CLINTON PIERCE
FOR SNOW REMOVAL NYS TROOPER BARRACKS**

RES#298/2018

Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Geraci to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Clinton Pierce in the amount of \$1,600 for snow removal at the NYS Trooper Barracks for the 2018-2019 winter season. *One higher bid was submitted.*

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN
THE AGREEMENT FOR ANNEXATION OF TOWN OF
LYSANDER PARK WITH THE VILLAGE OF BALDWINSVILLE**

RES#299/2018

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Diamond to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Agreement for Annexation and operation and maintenance for the Town of Lysander Park to be included in the annexation into the Village of Baldwinsville.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Supervisor Saraceni said the Village of Baldwinsville had concerns and they wanted to make sure they are protected and accept a piece of land that will not overburden them cost-wise. They asked the Town of Lysander to consider signing an agreement with responsibilities. The Agreement can be viewed on the Town of Lysander website: www.townoflysander.org

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Geraci and seconded by Councilor Diamond to adjourn the regular town Board Meeting at 9:32 PM.

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

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk