

**Public Hearing
2012 Preliminary Budget
October 24, 2011**

A Public Hearing was held in the Hamlin Town Hall located at 1658 Lake Road, Hamlin, New York to review the 2012 Preliminary Town of Hamlin Budget. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Terry.

Present: Councilperson Thomas Breslawski, Councilperson Craig Goodrich, Councilperson Paul S. Rath, Supervisor Peter Terry.

Excused: Councilperson David Rose.

Also present: Highway Superintendent Steven Baase, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Patricia MacIntosh, Building Inspector Lee Nettin, Library Director Kay Hughes-Dennett, and Conservation Board Member Jason Baxter.

Supervisor Terry asked the Town Clerk to provide proof of publication of official notice of the Public Hearing.

The proposed 2012 budget for the Town of Hamlin for General Highway shows a spending level \$21,210 below the 2011 budget. However, due to less anticipated revenue, there is a projected tax increase below the allowable 2% property tax ceiling imposed by law. The Board has recognized a savings in contracting with a new revaluation service with the Assessors Department. Several Contractual Expense accounts were reduced including the Supervisors. The Town's Recreation Department continues to expand. Playground and Recreation Salaries as well as Contractual Expenses are increased to reflect demand. On the Revenue side, Recreation Income will offset these increases. Library Contractual Expenses have to be increased to meet costs passed down by the County Library System. Worker's Comp and Medical for General and State Retirement for Highway are all projected to have double digit increases. Necessary work on the infrastructure of the town will be better dealt with in 2012 with an increase in General Repairs Contractual Expense. Highway Superintendent pointed out to the board at one of our workshops that we have to pay to the County \$20,000 per year to stripe our roads and that comes out of General Repairs Expense. The price of salt is up for the winter season and is another increased expense for the town. On the revenue side of the ledger, Generals unexpended balance is projected to be \$100,000 less, while Highways is \$50,000 greater. Recreational charges are expected to increase \$15,300 and our new lease agreement with Grain Communications will result in a projected doubling of tower revenue. The bottom line for our residents is a tax rate increase of \$.10 per thousand of assessed valuation; 20% of that (\$.02) is due to a decrease in the total taxable value of the real estate in town. Following our reassessment in 2010, we had a sizeable increase in the number of residents coming in and obtaining valid exemptions for properties they own.

Supervisor Terry then opened the hearing for any public testimony, statements, comments and opinions.

Lee Nettin, 1756 Apple Hollow Lane – I wanted to point out that A3620.4 received a decrease in the proposed amount that was discussed at the workshop with the department heads. It was decreased \$130 with no explanation. Also I was informed that I would not be receiving a salary increase for the salary year 2012. I had noted that the majority of the employees in the Town Hall are receiving an increase. I was informed that I was not receiving an increase because of a complaint that had been received from a resident and because of a large increase that I had received at the beginning of 2012. The increase at the beginning of 2012 was money that had been promised to me when I was hired and I should have obtained it in 2010 and did not. In fact, I did not receive it until 2012. It was not a salary raise; it was money that had been promised to me. The complaint that was shown to me was from Mr. Burroughs and the complaint surrounded around a \$125 fee that I imposed on him because he did not obtain a building permit prior to construction. In fact, the roof was about half complete before he obtained the permit. §520-61 of the Code of the Town of Hamlin clearly states, “Anyone who fails to obtain a building permit prior to undertaking a project will be charged a penalty fee as set forth by the Town Board.” The Town Board now wants to penalize me for following the code. In fact his letter only supports that I am doing my job. This is the Town Board’s code, not mine. If you do not like the \$125 fee, then you should change your code. The Town Board is telling me that if I follow the code and impose the \$125 fee, then I will not be allowed to obtain a raise.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Rath, seconded by Councilperson Breslawski to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 pm as all business has been concluded.

Polled Votes: Councilperson Breslawski aye, Councilperson Goodrich aye, Councilperson Rath aye, Supervisor Terry aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi A. Rickman, MMC
Hamlin Town Clerk