

**Town Board Budget Public Hearing Meeting
November 14, 2022**

The Hamlin Town Board held their special meeting in the Hamlin Town Hall located at 1658 Lake Road, Hamlin, New York. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Baase.

Present: Councilperson Jennifer Voelkl, Councilperson Phil Hurlbutt, Councilperson Joel Yager, Councilperson Angel Male, Supervisor Steve Baase.

Also present: Town Clerk - Patty Jo Groenendaal, Assessor – Liz Spencer, Finance Department – Norm St. John, Austin Warner, Jim Nesbitt, Jim & Donna Schiebel, Norm Trembley, Jennifer Turbeville, Deb Turbeville, Gerry Hutchison.

BROADCASTED LIVE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LokUhGYILYY&t=1035s>

PUBLIC FORUM:

Austin Warner – Is there a expenses list of the covid relief fund and a balance for that account?
St. John – the balance is \$615,907.52 right now. The total original balance was \$919,404.08

Warner – Is there a copy I can get?

St. John – We can get you one.

Warner – On the Hamlin Lakeshore Sewer District #1, the bond principle is \$15,000.00 the bond interest is \$25,800 the sewage collection is \$5,200.

St. John – the amount that is raised in taxes is the \$46,000.00 so there is actually extra if you add the 15 and the 25 together that \$5,200 is extra. That stays in the fund balance for that sewer district only. Instead of raising or lowering taxes every year, we are trying to keep it as steady as we can. The bond should be coming this year.

Warner – ok. Thank you. The Dog Control, is he paid from each town?

Baase – He is paid by the Town of Clarkson and the Town of Sweden through separate contracts.

Warner - He is using the Town of Hamlin truck and computer for those towns, shouldn't there be reimbursement from that?

St. John - The towns pay the mileage when he uses the truck and the Town of Sweden has paid part of his cell phone bill. The contract to store the dogs is different.

Warner – that seems like a sweet deal. Not Parma?

Baase - Parma is just leasing. There is a municipal agreement for when one goes on vacation they cover for each other.

Warner – Has there been an independent audit for on the Dog Department? Ever?

St. John – There is an independent audit for the town every year.

Warner – Isn't there specific department you can do?

Yager – Ag. and Markets did.

Warner – I think the \$11,000 for the dog control brings up the question are we first sometimes when towns are combined, sometimes we get the short end of the stick. The Assistant Dog Control Officer makes \$9,360.00

St. John – No that is hourly for the Assistant. The hours fluctuate from 15 – 45 hours for two weeks.

Warner – It might be good to do an audit.

Baase - We can look into that.

Warner – The Cultural Committee, I would like to know how many people are on that?

Male – We have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven.

Warner – What areas of the town do they represent, or come from?

Male – Do you want their addresses? Is that what you are asking for?

Yager – Do you want to volunteer for it?

Baase – like business.

Male – Fire Department, business, VFW and church and Town Board. Is that what you are asking me for?

Warner – Actually do you have residents in it?

Male – Every single one is a resident.

Warner – Good. Culture is the characteristic and knowledge of a particular group of people encompassing language, religion, cuisine, song, social habits, music and art. We have so many cultures here. We have Three Fire Departments with different cultures, Mobile Home Parks with different cultures, Ryan Homes, Highview and Brookedge. I don't know if we are getting a good representation of everybody. I know it is hard to please everybody. I see there is celebrations of \$3,000 and \$7,500 that's \$10,500. When the Town Clerk was running the Wheelfest it was \$2000 for a stipend and the rest was to fill in every year. Now that is double. Do we really need the Cultural Committee? Or is it better to have the Recreation Department in on it? The Town Clerk in on it? She has a hell of a lot of experience with that and it doesn't cost us \$2,000.00 for her but you would have to talk to her.

St. John – The \$3000 is not a stipend

Warner – I know

St. John – The \$3000 is a payroll account. Because recreation employees

Warner – I know. I'm talking about the \$2000 stipend that was given to the Town Clerk

St. John – There isn't a stipend

Warner – Yes, when the Wheelfest was going

St. John – and that's not part of this budget.

Warner – I know I am just saying that it is only half of this

St. John – No there was always \$3000 seed money for the fireworks. The \$3000 in the payroll account is not a stipend for anybody, that is for the recreation employees that work these events

Warner – I know that, I know that. I'm talking in the years past

St. John – that is in the past. That is not this budget.

Warner – was \$5000. Now you got \$10,000 here

St. John – I guarantee you fireworks don't cost like they did 20 years ago. Budgets go up.

Warner – Yes, they do. What is the tax rate?

St. John - \$4.02 per 1,000

Baase – To answer some of your other questions. The Cultural Committee is under the Recreation Department. The Cultural Committee answers to the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department is the head of the Cultural Committee. She has been working with the Town Clerk with the Fall Festival. They have been working together. We always welcome members to the Cultural Committee. We just started nine months ago. We also have openings on the Historical Committee.

Warner – The last thing I would like to talk about is the Town Clerks office. The Town Clerk and Deputy is the most important Department. It is the first point of contact with our residents with customer service and also if another department is out, they can take a message or direct them to who they need to see. I think Patty Jo and Colleen are top notch and the best I've seen in a long time. It would upset me if that changed because right now, she is probably the lowest paid in the county. The Town Clerk in Clarkson makes \$57,242.00 including tax collection, Town of Mendon 9,095 people \$75,000.00. The Town of Riga population 5,586 gets a total of \$60,019.48. She makes \$49,785.86. I know you might not be able to do anything now but down the road you might look at that and the Deputy as well she makes \$33,000. I hope we can take care of them. I hope this nickel and diming we do on the budget stops too. If she gets more support, she can do more for you. Thank you for your time.

Baase – I will agree with you that the Town clerk's office is doing very well, they are a good office. And they probably are under paid a lot of our officials are underpaid. I will admit that.

Gerry Hutchison – I live across the parking lot. Steve has known me for years and Mike too.

Groenendaal – He is the Mayor of Apple Hollow.

Hutchison – Yes, I am. Mike has a stump to get rid of for me. I am retired and living so close a lot of people stop and talk to me and several and when I say several three, four, five times it is concerning because we are a small community, by Angel, Jennifer and yourself we need to get people on some of these committees to enhance it. I thought the Cultural Committee did some good work this year. I'll be honest I don't know much about the History Center I will take a look at that. I think there should be some kind of promotion and let the people know and seek to work on these committees, maybe something in the Hamlin paper promoting it. My pure interest is there an expenditure sheets for individual events, that I can come over sometime to look at for events?

St. John – It is not set up for individual departments but for accounts. So, like the Town Clerk contractual account. I can click on that as see everything that is charged to it for any account. If you narrow it down to what your looking for I can find it.

Hutchison – I'm retired I'm not looking for a job here.

St. John – If there is something you are looking for like summer in the park we can find it.

Hutchison – That’s really it. We are a good community. I’ve been here for 30 years I was on the Master Plan committee back in the 90’s and I am quite frankly very happy to see the walking path in the park. Everything is good and everyone is doing a good job. Let’s keep it up.

Baase – We have a disc golf course also going in. We will have to set those in cement pads.

Hutchison – I heard that. My nephew will be here all the time.

Baase – The Cultural Committee and the History Committee we did have it advertised in the paper. We did just get a new website hopefully we can get it up there.

Groenendaal – This can also be in the newsletter every once in a while, with meeting dates and times.

Hutchison – Maybe on the bulletin board. I’ll be honest I don’t read everything. I appreciate everything you do. Thank you

Baase – We tried to do our best with the budget this year. I think we did fairly well. There is always something you can improve on. It is a good budget our tax rate didn’t go up that much we stayed underneath the cap, so we don’t have to worry about the Star Exemptions going away. We tried to get people decent wages with the cost of living going up so much. We did increase employees 4% this year

St John – Some employees we did increase more.

Baase – some were increased more because the amount of hours they were doing under their salary were not making minimum wage.

St. John - Those were the monthly people

Norm Trembley – I have taken a look at the budget and being an accountant, retired now. You said employees got 4% but I did notice Patty Jo’s is under 4% I’m wondering why that is.

Groenendaal – In order to get the increase for Colleen, I offered part of my 4%, right now she doesn’t even qualify, I don’t think I should say this,

St John – Then don’t

Groenendaal – We need to bring her up so she can qualify for better health insurance.

St John – Last year there was talk in the state to increase that minimum wage that they were going to do mid-year raises to the minimum wage. So last year we raised everyone to \$15.00/\$16.00. Patty Jo gave part of her salary to get Colleen at the amount the others at the town got last year. The state talked about doing raises every quarter we didn’t want to do that. We were trying to stay ahead of the game.

Groenendaal – I am trying to get the deputy at a rate where they don’t want to leave and go to a town where some Deputy’s make more than me. I try to do what I can to keep her here.

Trembley – Reasonable answer. Thank you

ADJOURNMENT:

Resolution #262 Motion was made by Councilperson Yager and seconded by Councilperson Hurlbutt, requesting Town Board approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 pm as all business had been concluded.

Polled votes: All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Jo Groenendaal
Hamlin Town Clerk