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NOVEMBER 4, 2009

A Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2010 was held by the Town Board of the Town of Corinth on November 4, 2009 at 4:30 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Richard Lucia, Supervisor
Charles Brown, Councilman
John Major, Councilman
Edward Byrnes, Councilman
Rose E. Farr, Town Clerk
Shawn Ettlseton, Highway Superintendent

Mitchell Saunders, Excused

Public Present: Lisa Kiselica-Rumpf and Renee Baker.

The Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2010 was opened at 4:30 PM with the reading of the Legal Ad published in the Post Star on October 27, 2009.

Supervisor Lucia stated the following:

We have prepared a very hard line budget, one with no frills, and dealing with needs not wants. We trimmed 8% from last years spending in every line item where we could, in all departments. Taking into consideration the reduction of our major revenues, including Sales Tax, Mortgage Tax and interest. After we went through the budget we found out that the medial insurance no longer offered the plan we had last year, and finding the same comparable plan we could plan on 23% increase in premiums. We found that we could go to a similar plan with MVP for raising the rates 14% as opposed to 23%. State Retirement raised our retirement rate 58%. We tried to look at keeping the same spending as last year, and not have any lay offs or service cuts, but after all the unfunded mandates were thrown at us, this budget to go to Preliminary Budget is as bare bones as we can go. It offers no salary increase of any Town Employees, hourly, salary or elected; no New York Association of Towns schooling, and no extra school this year, only what is needed for mandatory positions. We had several letters from employees offering no salary increase this year if the present 80/20 insurance payments could remain the same, and that is what we have offered in this budget.

It is not the budget we would like to present, but we are looking at curbing spending for the rest of the 2009 budget, and also have to look at what might or might not happen in the 2011 budget process.

The Town General Tax rate stays exactly the same as last year, \$1.49 per thousand, everything else is in special districts. The DB Highway budget has gone down 2 cents a thousand. The last 2 or 3 years have offered to the taxpayers, no tax in the General Town outside B account, because of enough revenue and fund balance to offset it and eliminate the tax. B accounts take

DRAFT

in Planning, Zoning, Building Department, Senior Center and Veterans. This year there is just not enough revenues or unexpended fund balance to cover those accounts. Even though the spending is down over 13% from last year. The Fire Budget Special District is up and the Water District Rents are up due to the anticipated water projects the village expects to do.

This year the revenue stream in the B Special District Account is almost nil and not enough Unexpended Balance to eat the tax. In actuality, the overall spending is down \$105,098 from last year, BUT revenues are down about \$90,000 and there is about \$100,000 less unexpended balance available. We have also enjoyed no town wide highway tax for the last couple of years.

Supervisor Lucia asked for any questions on the budget. Renee Baker asked what the Unexpended Balance was. She asked is it was like savings accounts. Supervisor Lucia told her that it was savings account as well as moneys left overt from last year. Mrs. Baker asked if this amount was taken out each year because if the Town does how much money do we have left? She asked if we had this much to do it again next year. Supervisor Lucia told her that there will be but he can't guarantee how much because unexpended balance is what is left unused in the budget at the end of the year. Mrs. Baker said she would prefer to see a little tax increase rather than depleting the town's savings. Supervisor Lucia said that we may have to do that next year. He said the accountant hired by the Town said that she feels the Town is financially secured. Supervisor Lucia said that the Town took more out of unexpended balance last year than this year.

Supervisor Lucia said the newspaper article was very accurate and Drew Kerr did a great job.

A motion was made by Councilman Byrnes and seconded by Councilman Major that the public hearing be closed at 4:45PM.

Supervisor Lucia told the board that Councilman Saunders called him and he is in North Dakota. He asked that the board post pone the vote on the budget until tomorrow night's meeting. Supervisor Lucia told the board that he saw no problem with that.

Supervisor Lucia thanked the Town Board for their help with the budget process.

Councilman Brown thanked Supervisor Lucia for all his hard work on the budget and explaining everything to the board as the process transpired.

At 450 PM a motion was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilman Byrnes to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose E. Farr, RMC
Town Clerk

