

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF COXSACKIE
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
November 19, 2014**

PRESENT: Richard Hanse, Supervisor
Thomas Hobart, Councilman
Patrick Kennedy, Councilman
Jeffery Lewis, Councilman
Michael Veeder, Councilman
Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk

GUESTS: Daniel Westfall, Karen Pautz

Supervisor Richard Hanse opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Officer Dan Westfall stated that the total overall tax rate is 0.154% with a total tax levy of \$2,035,825 and is currently \$42,000 under the state mandate. Supervisor asked Dan to review the changes that have been made since the last budget meeting.

Increased the A Fund surplus revenue to \$180,000

Decreased A1081 in lieu of taxes to \$1,541

Increased B Fund revenue B9000 to \$95,000

Increased DA surplus to \$23,500

Increased DA 5130.2 machinery expenses to \$28,500

Ambulance cap discussion. Councilman Hobart asked what affect not raising the ambulance cap this year will have on next year, will it help or hurt us by not increasing the number now. Supervisor explained that the ambulance tax cap is a spending limit not a taxing limit. The local law establishing the cap was written and set up when it was a volunteer service. This issue is currently being reviewed by the Town attorney and the attorney who originally drafted the paperwork establishing the ambulance tax cap.

Override tax levy discussion. It was noted that the public hearing was held and the proposed local law drawn up as a precautionary measure. If the board chooses to override the tax levy it will need to be done prior to adopting the final budget. Supervisor feels that there is enough leeway in the budget to stay within the tax cap and the tax freeze. If the override is enacted it would need to be repealed by January 21, 2015. He does not recommend the override as he is concerned that there will be too much red tape involved in rescinding it. Rick further stated that the Town was over the tax limit last year by \$8,000. Apparently there was an on-line form/paperwork that was not submitted to the Comptroller's Office. He and Karen learned of this situation after spending a day in training and then a day on the phone with the Comptroller's Office. Supervisor also noted that according to the Comptroller's Office bond payments do come under the tax cap.

Councilman Hobart requested to go on the record while asking that Rick consider keeping Dan Westfall on as the Town's budget officer when appointments are made in January. Tom feels that Dan has done a good job for the Town over the years. He went on to say that this is nothing

personal against Karen. Having a bookkeeper and budget officer as separate positions is a good way for the Town to keep checks and balances in place.

A motion to accept the 2015 budget as presented by the Budget Officer was made by Thomas Hobart, seconded by Patrick Kennedy and duly carried.

Ayes: 4 – Hanse, Hobart, Kennedy, Veeder

Noes: 1- Lewis

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm was made by Patrick Kennedy, seconded by Michael Veeder and duly carried.

Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk