

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF COXSACKIE
PUBLIC HEARING and WORKSHOP
2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
November 5, 2014**

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

GUESTS: Donald Daoust, Michael Tighe, Daniel Westfall, Karen Pautz

PRESS: Melanie Lekocevic

Supervisor Richard Hanse opened public hearing at 7:10 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk presented the newspaper notice.

Supervisor stated that the total proposed budget is \$2,069,284 which reflects an overall increase of 1.8%. Discussion on the New York State Tax Cap. Currently the Town is under by approximately \$9,000.

Budget Officer Dan Westfall indicated that the budget is up \$36,588 this year stating that worker's compensation costs and attorney fees are up. The proposed budget includes a 2% salary increase for employees as well as the elected officials.

Donald Daoust asked about the fire which shows a decrease. He asked if the funds were separate from the ambulance. Karen stated that money cannot be moved between those two funds.

Melanie asked if the Supervisor was satisfied with the numbers. Rick responded that he thinks the budget is reasonable and meets the Town's needs. The projection on revenues may be lower.

There being no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 7:30 pm. Patrick Kennedy, made the motion which was seconded by Richard Hanse and duly carried.

The board continued with a workshop meeting.

The following comments were offered.

Councilman Lewis questioned the raises for elected officials and stated that the Town never compromises on health insurance. He also asked that the Town start looking at how they make contributions to various programs giving \$500 here and \$500 there. Need to start looking at ways to save and the Town should not be in the business of charity.

Supervisor replied that it goes toward the quality of life, the Town assists with youth and senior programs where we can.

Dan Westfall stated that the community programs have remained steady and have not been increased in years.

He suggested that the Town could save money by providing employee training to avoid on the job injuries which cause workers compensation costs to rise.

Mike Tighe is looking to replace the 2002 dump truck and 2003 pick up as outlined in his budget request. He has received estimates from Lacy Ford, \$42,000 for the dump and \$35,000 for the pick-up. Replacement of these vehicles is a necessary as they have become a safety issue. He is also looking to auction off the D-6 bulldozer, to assist in offsetting the cost. The board will take his request under advisement.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm was made by Patrick Kennedy, seconded by Michael Veeder and duly carried.

Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk