

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT HENRY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LOCATION: MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 4303 MAIN STREET
4303 MAIN STREET PORT HENRY, NY 12974

DATE: APRIL 16, 2012

TIME: 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Guerin, Trustees Brassard, McDonough, Rich and Sheldon, Clerk Daly, Treasurer Jurkiewicz, Chief Water and Wastewater Plant Operator; Chip Perry and Deputy Superintendent of Water and Streets; John Tromblee.

ATTENDANCE: Walt Mimas, Geraldine Mimas, Jackie Viestenz, John Viestenz and Jeff Kelly.

The following documents were distributed to the Board and public at the start of the hearing: the April 16, 2012 Public Hearing and Special Meeting Agenda, the June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013 Proposed Fiscal Year Budget, Budget Review, Budget Summary and the Village of Port Henry 2012 Tax Exempt Property Roll.

Mayor Guerin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 pm; thanked everyone for attending and led the salute to the flag.

Mayor Guerin indicated that the purpose of the Public Hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the proposed budget for fiscal year June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013, to include the General, Water, Sewer, and Joint Activity Funds for the Village of Port Henry.

Mayor Guerin indicated that he wanted to address an issue before discussing the proposed budget. It has been brought to his attention that public perception is, that the taxpayers are paying for water and sewer services for the Town and Village campgrounds as well as the Village's infrastructures. Mayor Guerin indicated that this is not factual and read off a list of Water and Sewer billings that were issued in 2011 as follows:

Village Champ RV Park/Campground	\$1,265.66
Town Bulwagga Bay Campground	\$6,096.00
Village Office	\$349.50
Village DPW	\$1,948.30
North End Pump Station (water only)	\$159.50
Village Fire Dept.	\$349.50
Library	\$349.50
TOTAL BILLED	\$10,517.90

The Mayor and Board reviewed and explained the changes and issues associated with the proposed budget and the resulting property tax levy.

Mayor Guerin informed the public that the State will now pick up the 12.5% of the Campground Restoration Project, however this will not affect this year's budget as reimbursement most likely will not be received until sometime the following year. This budget does however reflect the campground income shortage and the interest on the loan for repairs to the campground. Such repairs are required to be made before any Federal or State reimbursement can be distributed or received.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jeff Kelly asked what the increase in taxes will be as he is not familiar with the budget. Treasurer Jurkiewicz referred to the proposed budget and informed Mr. Kelly that the increase is 4.42% per thousand. Mr. Kelly asked why the increase is so high. Mayor

Guerin indicated that the budget reflects a \$40,000 shortfall in revenue from the campground.

John Viestenz explained that this year's budget has been impacted by the revenue shortfall, interest payments, legal expenses, etc. The repairs to the campground are required to be completed before any Federal or State reimbursement is received.

Jeff Kelly inquired about the Tax Cap Law. The Board informed Mr. Kelly that a Public Hearing was held on March 12, 2012 at 6:45 pm on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012; A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-C. The Board of Trustees passed a Resolution at the March 12, 2012 regular Board meeting adopting the law. Trustee Rich indicated that the tax override was partly due to the extraordinary circumstances regarding last year's weather events.

Mr. Kelly commented that Village property taxes are high compared to other communities; housing prices are deemed fair, but the high property taxes are a major deterrent to potential buyers. Trustee Brassard commented that the tax rate was actually \$1.00 higher, over ten years ago. Mayor Guerin indicated that the Village has no big businesses to offset the property taxes. No positions were cut in this budget however there are no extras either; it is a bare bones budget. The Board went through line by line and made cuts wherever it was possible. Trustee Rich indicated that the Village residents voted to keep the Village, therefore it still needs to run and operate; there are no more cuts that can be made in this budget, the increases left are state mandated.

John Viestenz noticed a decrease in the health insurance and asked how that was made possible. Treasurer Jurkiewicz indicated that the Village changed plans; which increased the deductible and decreased the premium.

Sandra Lovell entered the hearing at 7:15 pm.

Treasurer Jurkiewicz pointed out that there is an increase in "CHIPS" money, partly due to the fact that the storms prevented work/repairs to the roads and paving was not done this year. The State has made an exception and has agreed to allow the Village to roll the funds over to next year's budget in order to purchase a loader, which will have zero impact on the budget and taxpayers.

The Treasurer also pointed out that in this budget the water rates will be raised 9% per thousand gallons in November of 2012, due to a shortfall in the volume of water being billed, as there are more seasonal residents who opt to have their water turned off as well as an increase in vacant homes. The 9% increase will result in a \$9.00 increase per six months for a minimum billing. This increase will affect the water only, all other fees, service charges and the \$100 penalty will remain the same.

Jeff Kelly asked what the \$100 penalty was for, and was informed that it is applied to accounts that have not provided a water meter reading for two consecutive billings.

Treasurer Jurkiewicz also informed the public that a truck will be purchased for the water and wastewater treatment facilities; the cost will be split between the two. The expense will not impact this year's budget as the Village will borrow the money this year, but will not begin paying on the loan until the next fiscal year. The Town will pay for a percentage of the truck through the Joint Account. John Viestenz asked if the Town has agreed to the truck purchase. The Treasurer indicated that Mr. Scozzafava has agreed to such within his budget.

Treasurer Jurkiewicz reviewed the Final Budget Summary as follows: The proposed 2012 property tax rate is 10.41 per thousand, resulting in an increase of 0.46 from 2011 (9.95). For example; a property assessed at \$100,000, will incur an increase of \$46.00.

There is a 0.22% decrease in the tax base due to a decrease in taxable properties; assessed values have decreased by \$125,000 as the result of a property tax exemption.

Mayor Guerin called for any additional public comment; there was none. A motion was made by Trustee Brassard, seconded by Trustee Sheldon, to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm. Yes; Mayor Guerin, Trustees Brassard, McDonough, Rich and Sheldon. No; none. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURNED

Village Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT HENRY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LOCATION: MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 4303 MAIN STREET
PORT HENRY, NY 12974

DATE: APRIL 16, 2012

TIME: 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Guerin, Trustees Brassard, McDonough, Rich and Sheldon, Clerk Daly, Treasurer Jurkiewicz, Chief Water and Wastewater Plant Operator; Chip Perry and Deputy Superintendent of Water and Streets; John Tromblee.

ATTENDANCE: Walt Mimas, Geraldine Mimas, Jackie Viestenz, John Viestenz, Jeff Kelly and Sandra Lovell.

Mayor Guerin called the Special Meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee McDonough, seconded by Trustee Sheldon to pass a Resolution to adopt the budget for fiscal year ending May 31, 2013 and the resulting property tax levy for the Village of Port Henry.

Aye: Mayor Guerin, Trustees Brassard, McDonough, Rich and Sheldon.

Nay: none.

By a vote of five to zero, the above listed Resolution was duly adopted on this 16th day of April, 2012.

	GENERAL FUND	WATER FUND	SEWER FUND	JOINT FUND
Appropriations	\$823,808	\$290,996	\$250,311	\$257,262
Less Estimated Revenues	\$241,225	\$290,996	\$243,780	\$231,074
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 65,000	\$ 0	\$ 6,531	\$ 26,188
Balance to be Raised by Taxes	\$517,583	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Tax Rate = \$10.41019 per thousand of assessed value

A motion was made by Trustee Rich, seconded by Trustee McDonough to approve payment for the Election Inspector's for the March 20, 2012 Village Elections, as such payments were inadvertently omitted from the April 9, 2012 bills submitted for approval. Yes; Mayor Guerin, Trustees Brassard, McDonough, Rich and Sheldon. No; none. All in favor, motion carried.

John Tromblee addressed the Board regarding the Cheney Dam by reporting that the dam is in very bad shape. Mr. Tromblee recommended that the Board take a pro-active approach with regard to obtaining the funding to make the necessary repairs as this dam is the sole source of drinking water for the Village. The dam was built in 1915 and was reportedly re-habed in the 1950's. The Village crew will drain and clean the dam this summer and this would prove to be an ideal time for interested engineers to examine the dam closely. The Board agreed that funding and repairs to the dam need to be made a priority. Trustee McDonough indicated that engineering designs would be the first step to take in the process as it will show that the project is "shovel ready" and will help in securing possible grant funds. Mayor Guerin suggested that the Village ask an engineer from Essex County to examine at the dam, take pictures and ask for their advice in

obtaining potential grants funds for this project. A motion was made by Trustee Brassard, seconded by Trustee McDonough, to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP), with regard to the Dam Restoration Project. Yes; Mayor Guerin, Trustees Brassard, McDonough, Rich and Sheldon. No; none. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Guerin announced that the Village of Port Henry will hold an Open House at the Champ RV Park/Campground on Sunday May 6, 2012 from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm. This event will provide the public with the opportunity to view and tour the newly restored campground before it opens for the season. The Board indicated that the new campground managers, Robert Carr, Laurie Rodick and Amanda King, will be on hand to meet and greet the public. The Board will extend invitations to Governor Cuomo, Senator Little, and Assemblywoman Sayward. The Village will hold a raffle for a free weekend of camping and the drawing will be held at the May 14, 2012 Board meeting.

Walt Mimas asked whet the procedure is for a taxpayer to visit/tour the campground during the season? Trustee Sheldon indicated that a taxpayer may tour the facility during operational hours however they must park their vehicle and do so on foot, they are not permitted to drive through the campground when it is open for the season.

Mayor Guerin called for further discussion or comment. There was none.

A motion was made by Trustee Brassard, seconded by Trustee McDonough, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Yes; Mayor Guerin, Trustees Brassard, McDonough, Rich and Viestenz. No; none. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURNED

Village Clerk