

**PUBLIC HEARING:                      2011 Preliminary Budget**

**The following Notice of Public Hearing was legally advertised in the Daily Gazette, the Post Star and the Saratogian newspapers.**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** That the Town Board of the Town of Wilton, New York, County of Saratoga, will hold a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Wilton for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011.

**SAID PUBLIC HEARING** will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall located on 22 Traver Road in said town at which time all persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

**SAID PRELIMINARY BUDGET** will be completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Wilton at 22 Traver Road where it may be examined by any interested person during regular business hours.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN LAW, SECTION 108, PROPOSED SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS ARE LISTED BELOW:**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Supervisor              | \$22,387 |
| Councilman (4) (each)   | \$13,104 |
| Highway Superintendent  | \$67,414 |
| Town Clerk              | \$53,000 |
| Town Justice (2) (each) | \$31,017 |

**BY RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WILTON**

At 7:02 p.m., Supervisor Johnson opened the first Public Hearing and asked the Town Clerk to read the notice, she did so. There was a sign in sheet and the Supervisor called the names of the people who signed it to come up and address the board.

**Mark Mykins** explained that he wanted to discuss the acceptance of the new health care plan. He was concerned for the people that work for him stating that "it hits them hard." There is one of his employees who has a child on prescription medicines that cost him about \$5,000 a month because of a genetic disorder and under the previous plan it was covered, under this plan it is not. At the meeting we had the other day it was stated that for \$60,000 we could keep the present plan we have and everybody is covered and instead the town is taking on a lesser plan and even making the retirees who put plenty of years in service pay for that plan and prorate them over three years so they pay as much as the employees are. He thought it was wrong because these people are on fixed incomes.

**Judge Gerald Worth** asked if the six hundred dollars that the judges get for the unpaid medical. He understood there was going to be some changes in the vision part of it. How can the six hundred dollars be used, he uses that to get glasses every year. **Supervisor Johnson** stated that the amount is still six hundred dollars for the judges, what it would be used for is co-pays of hospital, in-patient, high deductible co-pays and brand name and formula drugs. Supervisor Johnson stated that some of things on co-pays are not budgetary in nature they are personnel policy things that need to be addressed. The

board will appoint a committee to review the personnel policy and determine what the use of the medical reimbursement would be.

**Ron Stunzi** stated that he started working for the Town in 1974, and worked for the Highway Department for 35 years. Back then it was part of the policy that the employees would get this health insurance for the retirees. There are six of us involved in this that will be paying and he felt it was not fair and should be grandfathered in.

**Joan Stunzi** stated that they had gotten a phone call on Friday, asking them to come to a meeting on a Monday morning to go over the changes. After reviewing the Tentative and Preliminary budgets there was quite a difference you have gone down about one hundred forty three dollars between the General Fund and the Highway Fund as your health insurance costs she wanted to know how much the town contributes (what is the towns cost) is the Town's cap going to stay the same or will it increase. **Supervisor Johnson** stated that's what the premium is for this year's plan. **Joan Stunzi** asked what the cap will be for next year. **Supervisor Johnson** stated that plans change and are evaluated every year. **Joan Stunzi** asked if the town looked at a lot of plans and a lot of options, because the one we are being given compared to some of the others out there is quite a change and not a good change for the employees. **Comptroller Reale** stated that the Insurance Company is going to let us offer up to two or three additional plans on top of the one the Town Board is offering. **Joan Stunzi** asked if that would be to additional costs to employees. **Comptroller Reale:** Yes. **Joan Stunzi** stated that as far as the retirees; do you really think that it is fair, after a policy of 35 or 40 years, to all of sudden hit them. The retirees have planned their retirement based on those costs for six people.

**Sandra Pellock** explained that her husband had retired from the Town about 10 years ago. She has a medical condition and with this new plan she will end up paying over \$8,000 because four of her prescriptions are not generic. They cannot pay that kind of money out of pocket. **Councilman Rice** stated that the other plans on the table include formularies and brand name drugs that will cost a little bit more, but that is an option to look at.

**Marge Little** read a letter she composed to the board because she felt she needed to respond to the changes proposed to the medical benefits for the retirees; stating that this benefit to the employees had to be prior to 1997 for the medical benefits have always been an incentive for people to stay with the Town. Back when this was instituted the employee salaries were not very high and any pay increases, because of the salaries, were minimal. We were always told that the medical coverage being paid for was part of the benefit package and our raise each year. It took many years to get the salaries where they were even close to what they should be for the jobs that were being done. Also the new payments being proposed by the retirees is being calculated over three years to be the same amount as employees that are currently working and receiving full pay with the small increases that the board gives for credit to off-set the increases. She stated that being retired on a fixed income it's very hard now to include this expense that you thought you worked for many years for being an employee for the town. With the other expenses and increases including heating and gas and no raises from Social Security in our pension to off-set any increases it will make it difficult to be a retiree. It would be greatly appreciated if you would review these proposed changes and all benefits that we all worked for. She then thanked the board.

**Kirk Woodcock** Explained that there are numerous employees that have put in twenty to twenty-five years in the Town of Wilton system. He went over the work the employees did after the last fire as an example of dedicated employees. He stated that this is the backbone of the Town of Wilton. He

mentioned projects that the Highway Department has done at no costs to the Town. He then went over the cuts made to his budget stating the board is not following the plan he submitted to purchase equipment and provide the funds to keep his department running efficiently. He stated that he is retired but chooses to keep on working, he understood that he is elected and he has medical expenses with medication that is not generic, therefore he will have to pay full price. Superintendent Woodcock stated that the Town has surplus, he is not a believer in spending the Town's surplus but in this case \$60,000 to leave the insurance the way it is not a lot when you have 5.2 million dollars.

**Jared Dinsmore** explained that as a resident he appreciated the fact there is no Town Tax here. In his profession he is a consultant who works with municipalities, one of the things they do is a competitive analysis looking at other municipalities to see what they are doing. He stated he had done a brief analysis on the Town's budget and the Highway budget was large; he compared the other Town's preliminary budget with the Town of Wilton preliminary budget and looked at the Highway appropriations in the highway section and monies that came out of the general fund for the highway. He looked at Wilton then Halfmoon the highway miles are basically the same; Halfmoon is spending 2.9 million on highway the Town of Wilton is projected to spend 2.8 million that's right in line. Then when he looked at Malta there was a significant difference Malta is going to spend 1.4 million on highway. Malta is maintaining 70 miles where the Town of Wilton maintains according to New York State 103 miles. But when you break that down per cost per mile that is where you notice the difference The Town of Wilton is spending \$27,000 per mile to maintain the highway, where Malta is spending \$20,000 per mile. Mr. Dinsmore stated that if the town was as efficient as Malta when it came to maintaining highways that would be a \$664,565 savings. There is your budget deficient right there. Perhaps before you pass the budget you could take another look at that efficiency.

**Judge John Wood** explained that he thought Superintendent Woodcock should have an opportunity to respond to Mr. Dinsmore's comments. He worked hard to get the State Police barracks in the Town of Wilton. The Town of Wilton sees fit to hire a deputy for a \$104,000, why? We have zoned headquarters in the Town with numerous troopers and deputies in and out of the town all day long. They have to come here whether you hire them or not to take care of complaints. He stated that \$104,000 compared to \$60,000 that it is going up to take care of these people here. The town does not need that deputy; the Sheriff will give him to you for free. The State Police will give them to you for free; don't waste that money keep the people on the plan that they feel they deserve.

**Chris Ramsdill** explained that he has lived in Wilton for fifteen years and works at a local hospital and does a lot of hiring and interviewing at the hospital and would like to put some perspective on what the public sector is dealing with. The hospital is considered to have very competitive benefits in terms of any other facility. We usually have people paying several hundred dollars a month for their insurance along with most plans offer a \$25.00 co-pay for a primary, \$40 to \$50 for specialist and for prescription drug co-pay it is 25/50/75. The hospital is looking at a 20% increase in an average of a \$200.00 payment for people per month plus increases in co-pays. That is still considered excellent benefits in the private sector. He wanted people to be open-minded that the benefits package should be comparable in his mind to what the average person in the private sector is making in the community.

**Mark Mykins** tried to explain to the Town Board that this is not the private sector. Some of the people who work for the town fill more than one position. The discussion became heated and Deputy Supervisor O'Connor stated that the board realizes that all of these issues whether it's about health care, budgeting even taxes and everything else are sensitive subjects and the board prefers not to have a debate between two people about their concerns.

**Supervisor Johnson** closed the first public hearing at 7:42 p.m..

**Local Law No. 6 of 2010 (Dog Licensing Law)**

**BY RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WILTON**

**Supervisor Johnson** stated that no one had signed up to comment on the Dog Licensing Public Hearing therefore, he would close the second public hearing. He did so at 7:45 p.m..

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Immediately following the public hearings, Supervisor Johnson called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:45 p.m..

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Supervisor Johnson** led the board and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call**

Roll Call by the Town Clerk showed all board members present:

**Arthur Johnson-Supervisor**  
**Raymond O'Connor-Deputy Supervisor**  
**Robert Rice-Councilman**  
**Robert Pulsifer-Councilman**  
**Charles Gerber-Councilman**

Also present were Town Attorney Richard DeVall, Town Comptroller Jeffrey Reale and Director of Planning and Engineering Keith Manz.

**Public Comment**

**Supervisor Johnson** stated that one person signed up to speak. He asked Mark Mykins to address the board. Mark Mykins declined.

**Approve Pending Minutes**

**Supervisor Johnson** asked for a motion and a second to approve the pending minutes from the last meeting.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 154**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2010 meeting as typed without amendment.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Pulsifer, duly put to a vote, all in favor.

**2011 Preliminary Budget****Public Hearing held earlier**

**Supervisor Johnson** explained that the board had just concluded the public hearing on the 2011 preliminary budget. The amount of the preliminary budget is six million seven hundred forty-two thousand five hundred and sixty dollars which is the revised from the tentative budget that was originally submitted. Now is the time for any recommendations or changes or we can adopt the budget as presented. If there is not enough information in this budget we do not have to adopt it by law until November 20<sup>th</sup>. We would have to have a special meeting to adopt the budget.

**Councilman Rice** stated that after listening to some of the comments he thought there was a gap in the understanding of what is actually being presented in the health care and the questions will be answered by Comptroller Reale or the board members. He stated that a lot of time had been spent on this.

**Councilman Pulsifer** stated that he wanted to personally thank the Employment Committee which is Jeff, Nancy and Bob. They did a lot of work on this. He appreciated all the comments from the Town Employees, we all know you do a valuable service for the Town. But also all of the private employers had to look at their employees and tell them that health care costs are going up for everybody. He appreciated Mr. Ramsdill for explaining wants going on in the private sector. He explained that the board worked hard in the budget workshops to lower the expenses of the Town to get a balanced budget.

**Councilman Gerber** stated that he would like to take the comments that were made and mull them over. He was not adverse to staving off final passage and having one more meeting. (Applause from the audience)

**Deputy Supervisor O'Connor** stated he did not have any objection there were some other issues for which there wasn't unanimity about the compensation for benefits and other issues as well so deferring the final decision to some time before the budget deadline is fine with him.

**Supervisor Johnson** stated that there are a lot of very valid comments and he thought that everyone appreciated all the Town Employees and the work they do. It was a tough balancing act for the board, they have a financial responsibility to the tax payers and also concerns for the employees. He stated he did not have a problem having another meeting.

**The Preliminary Budget was tabled** and notification of a special meeting would be sent out as soon as a date was set to adopt the budget.

**Dog Licensing Law (LL # 6 of 2010)****Public Hearing held earlier**

**Supervisor Johnson** explained that the board had just concluded the public hearing on the Dog Licensing Law. Everyone seems to be ok with it and asked for a motion to adopt.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 155**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve Local Law No. 6 of 2010 known as Dog Control Law.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Rice, duly put to a vote, all in favor.

**Bloomington Cemetery Plots (Ellsworth Cem.)**

**Investigation and Location**

**Kurt Heiss, LS (Tommell & Associates)**

**Supervisor Johnson** asked Mr. Heiss to address the board.

**Mr. Heiss** explained that he was contacted by Town Historian Jeannine Woutersz, late last year and discussed some cemetery plots in the new Gurn Springs Cemetery. He stated that Ms. Woutersz had been contacted by Dorothy Bloomington Bock, who is the last surviving heir of the Bloomington family who has plots in the cemetery she wanted to find out what she had left for cemetery plots and pass them on to someone else. The recommendation from the previous board was for Mrs. Bock to get a surveyor and see what was going on out there and then give a report and a recommendation to the board. Mr. Heiss then gave the board members maps of what was done and went over the cemetery plot deeds and where the vacant graves were. The recommendation is to allow Mrs. Bloomington Bock to do something with the lots. The purpose of the presentation tonight was to report to the board that we have cleared those parcels as there and in her title. Mr. Heiss will get Mrs. Bloomington Bock in touch with an attorney up here that is willing to get involved in this kind of thing to represent her in New York. After some discussion the board decided there would be no action taken. Supervisor Johnson asked Town Attorney Richard DeVall to handle any legal issues.

**Resignation (Zoning Board)**

**Scott Kingsley (effective December 31, 2010)**

**Supervisor Johnson** stated that the Town had received a resignation from Scott Kingsley, who was serving as the alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Scott will stay on until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Gerber, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 156**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to accept the resignation submitted by Scott Kingsley, as alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Rice, duly put to a vote, all in favor.

**H.O.P.E (Rt. 50)**

**Hope for Orphaned Pets Exist  
Waive Fees for Special Permit**

Supervisor Johnson stated that the Town does not want to set a precedent for other not-for-profit organizations to look for fee waivers as well. After some discussion by the board, no action was taken.

**Resignation (Historic Preservation Board)**

**Emily Brower (effective September 1, 2010)  
Term to end 1/3/2014**

**Supervisor Johnson** stated that the board had received a letter of resignation from Emily Brower and also received a letter of interest from Deborah Zellan.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Pulsifer, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 157**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to accept the resignation of Emily Brower as member of the Historic Preservation Board Effective September 1, 2010. Term to end 1/3/2014.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor O'Connor, duly put to a vote, all in favor.

**Appointment (Historic Preservation Board)**

On a motion introduced by Councilman Rice, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 158**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to appoint Deborah Zellan as member of the Historic Preservation Board effective immediately to fill Emily Brower's term 2014.



The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Pulsifer, duly put to a vote, all in favor.

**Committee Reports (If any)**

**Supervisor Johnson** asked if anyone had any committee reports, no comment. He stated that he had a committee to appoint actually the committee already exists; the members are: Robert Rice, Jeffrey Reale and Nancy Riely. They are Salary Benefits Committee to work on the Personnel Policy and any other recommendations that have come up.

**Comptroller's Report**  
**(Including Bills & Transfers)****September 2010 Cash Disbursements**

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$255,124        |
| Highway Fund | <u>\$143,592</u> |
|              | \$398,716        |

**Comptroller Reale** stated that the disbursements listed in the Comptroller's report are for informational purposes only.

**2010 Budget Transfers and Amendments**

**Comptroller Reale** explained that there is \$44,000 for the new truck for Buildings and Grounds which does not include the sand and salt hopper. If you are going to send the old truck down to the park they want it go with the hopper. Mark Mykins gave him some pricing before the meeting so there would be an additional \$3,100 on top of the \$44,000.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 159**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the budget transfers and amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 11/4/10 report to the Town Board and;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve an additional amount of \$3,100, for the sand and salt hopper requested by the Buildings and Grounds Department.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Rice, duly put to a vote, all in favor.

**Wilton Fire District**

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 160**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to approve the contract between Wilton Fire District and the Town to facilitate the solar energy project in regards to the NYSEDA grant that was awarded to the Town of Wilton for the Fire District and;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED,** to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Gerber, duly put to a vote, all in favor.

**Supervisor Johnson** thanked everyone for coming and asked the board for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor O'Connor, and seconded by Councilman Pulsifer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

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Carol Maynard, Town Clerk

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Supervisor, Arthur Johnson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman, Raymond O'Connor

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Councilman, Charles Gerber

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Councilman, Robert Rice

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Councilman, Robert Pulsifer