

VILLAGE OF BREWSTER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 8, 2009

Public Hearing

2009-10 Budgets

7:30 P.M. 208 Main Street, Brewster, NY 10509

Minutes

Attendees:

Mayor:

Deputy Mayor and Trustee: Christine Piccini

Trustees: William Banks, Yoshihiko Ito, Terri Stockburger

Village Engineer: John Folchetti

Village Counsel: Anthony Molé,

Clerk & Temporary Treasurer: Peter Hansen

Absent:

James Schoenig

Pledge to flag

7:30 P.M. – Deputy Mayor Piccini motioned to open the Public Hearing on the 2009-2010 Budget, Trustee Ito 2nd, All in favor – 4 to 0 Mayor Schoenig absent

Mark Anderson asked

1. Will the Board be voting on the budget this evening? Trustee Piccini: No
2. What is the taxable status of 50 Main St? Bob Morini also asked about the taxable status. Hansen said it is the Assessor who has the exemption information. The Village of Brewster uses the Town of Southeast Assessor and does not determine who is taxable within the Village.
3. What are the SAFETEA-LU and other Grant monies on prior budgets and not on this year's? Hansen said that the grants artificially inflate the appropriations amount and that our insurance costs are based on appropriations, hence we are paying more for insurance than we should be as these grants that were budgeted for the last three years have never materialized. That is one reason they were dropped from the budget this year. The other reason is because one of the only reasons a budget can be amended is if a grant is received. So we would have no problem adjusting the budget should we receive a grant.
4. Why is the interest earnings revenue line so high? Hansen – made a mistake.
5. What about real property tax penalties, has that been updated? Hansen – no not yet but it needs to be and that line should be made larger based on actual year to date penalties assessed.
6. Why are franchise fees revenue higher than last year? Piccini – because we renegotiated the franchise license fee with Comcast and the percentage is now 4% instead of 3%.
7. Coin revenues do not appear to be on target for meeting this year's budget, why are we forecasting the same for next year? Hansen – revenues are precisely on target to meet the revenue goal.

John Degan commented that garbage revenue may be low as the current contract expires on December 31, 2009. Hansen – the cost of refuse (trash) is a pass through, if it goes up or down the customer will pay the pro-rated amount per unit as established by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

Mark Anderson offered that competition is increased and his trash hauler rates have declined.

Lynne Eckardt said that rumor has it that rates are higher than previously.

Levon Bedrosian stated the Town of Southeast is renegotiating its contract and went out to 70 bidders with a request for proposal.

Trustee Stockburger requested the list of vendors from Levon.

Laurie Manning asked if rates were based on tonnage, units. Commercial properties may be putting trash in residential receptacles. Hansen – if you know of specific incidents please let Bob Serino, the Code Enforcement Officer, know so he can enforce the law. Garbage costs are determined by the bidder/vendor and may include bulk pickups, number of stops, number of times per week, truck costs, disposal costs, recycling pickups and sale, etc. We do not determine the trash hauler costs. The contract is based on a monthly charge for the contracted services.

John Degnan asked about the Law Enforcement Grant – Hansen – The grant is still not etched in stone and has been adjusted downward twice and currently resides at \$75,000. We stopped purchasing against it until the contract is signed.

Mr. Degnan asked about the lease at 50 Main and any costs associated with the move. Hansen said the costs will likely be bonded (or notes) for at least five years.

Mark Anderson asked about the 208 Main Building. Hansen – 208 Main will be used to house Police and Code Enforcement/Building/Planning/Zoning. The costs to operated 208 Main will come from the cost savings of giving up 31 Main (Rent and operating costs).

Mark Anderson asked what the Treasurer Part Time line was for. Hansen – that is one of the lines I get paid under since I am both the Clerk and the Treasurer.

Laurie Manning asked if the lease was FOILable. Answer; yes, after it is executed and becomes an official document of the Village.

Renée Diaz asked what furnishings will go from 208 Main to 50 Main. Hansen – it has not been determined yet what will go and what will stay. Computers will definitely go. Beyond that we have yet to do the planning.

Bill Villanova asked about using the Town of Southeast spots at 67 Main on Sundays. Levon Bedrosian said those spots were reserved for the Museum.

Mark Anderson asked about the personnel costs and health insurance allocation. Hansen said the allocations were a little different this year as they are based on actual wages paid by each fund. So the General Fund will be higher than last year and the Sewer and Water lines will be lower. That goes for Retirement, Social Security, Medicare, and any other employer cost benefits.

Lynne Eckardt mentioned that she was there because some people could not come tonight due to Passover and said the people on Peaceable Hill are complaining about paying for Police out of the water budget. Ms. Eckardt also mentioned that she has heard the meter for peaceable hill is sticky or not working a lot of the time. DPW Superintendent Crawford, who lives on Peaceable Hill Road and is a Village water customer, said the meter is not defective nor is it unreliable. About once a year the “top” side of the turbine meter does stop turning usually from rock getting stuck in the turbine. If it is winter then the meter repair must wait until warmer weather. But the low side rarely stops turning. The low side meters the lion’s share of the water, the top side may account for less than 1% of the total flow. If the low side is working, and it is pretty reliable, then the total flow billed will be highly accurate even if the top side is estimated.

Levon would like readings taken once per month. Mr. Crawford will begin doing that even though we will only bill once per quarter.

Jack Gress said this is a budget public hearing not water.

Mark Anderson asked what the “water supply” lines were for. Mr. Crawford answered that those lines covered the cost of the wells, pump house, stripper, chemicals, and water tank.

Laurie Manning asked what the Citrin Cooperman expenses were for. Hansen – that is our auditor and the expenses have been more than previous because of the complexity of the capital accounting, the change in personnel, and the accounting application all combined to cause a disruption in the normal reporting process. Citrin Cooperman has been instrumental in bringing us back on schedule. The costs should ease up going forward because we have recently caught up with our reporting.

Mark Anderson asked what the status of the DEP agreement was. Hansen, still not signed.

Tyler Murello asked what the sewer rent (rate) was likely to be based on this budget. Trustee Piccini said at present it is forecast to be 1.3 cents per gallon for the four billings in FY2010

Mark Anderson asked if the board has considered changing the sewer rate structure. Trustee Piccini said we had and it would require a change to the local law.

Mr. Anderson wanted to know if commercial would pay more. Mr. Morini asked when this would be discussed. Ms. Piccini said after budget is adopted and we know what the final number needs to be.

Mr. Morini asked if 50 Main was paying sewer and water. Ms. Piccini said yes, and refuse too.

Mr. Degnan asked if there was money to fight Town of Southeast and force them to create special districts for water. Ms. Piccini said the attorney line in the water fund is not exorbitant and there are no plans to take Town of Southeast to court.

Ms. Manning asked who put the Police Budget together. Ms. Piccini said Alex Mancone and Mayor Schoenig.

Mark Anderson asked who Mary Donnelly was. Hansen said she is here to help with Police administrative responsibilities, apply for grants, and administer grants already received.

David Gillis asked if the Village was large enough to support a full time code enforcer. Ms. Piccini said most definitely.

Lynne Eckardt asked who else in the state of New York allocates their cost like the Village of Brewster. Hansen said he recently came across Saranac Lake, Trustee Banks mentioned that NYC uses water revenues to offset General Fund expenses.

Mr. Morini thanks the Board for taking the time to answer everyone’s questions. Ms. Piccini stated that we have put energy into making this budget better.

Mr. Degnan recapped the 14% tax decrease, the water rates staying the same, and the sewer rent decreases, and congratulated the Board on a job well done.

Trustee Stockburger motioned to continue the Public Hearing April 15, 2nd by Trustee Banks, all in favor 4 to 0