

**TOWN OF WESTERLO
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP
MEETING OF
Tuesday, October 18, 2016**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a Workshop meeting on Tue. Oct 18, 2016 at the Town Hall 933 CR 401, Westerlo, NY 12193 to discuss and review the 2017 Town of Westerlo Tentative Budget and then discuss the proposed Solar Moratorium. Supervisor Richard H. Rapp opened the meeting at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDING WERE: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp
Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside
Councilman Joseph J. Boone
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman
Councilman William F. Bichteman Jr.

Also attending were: Zoning Board of Appeals Chairwoman Virginia Mangold, Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr., Deputy Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, ZBA member John Sefcik, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato and approximately six residents.

The Town Board discussed the need to schedule a Special Town Board meeting for the purpose of moving from the 2017 Tentative Budget to the 2017 Preliminary Budget. The Special Town Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 27 @ 6:50 PM. Councilwoman Burnside advised she would be unavailable on that date. The Town Board members were all in agreement of holding the meeting on this date and time. A resident asked a question about the Preliminary budget and he was advised the Public Hearing on the Fire, Rescue & Preliminary Budget will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

The Town Board then reviewed the Tentative Budget and proposed updates in the Budget for increases for staff members.

Clerk to the Supervisor increase of 3.8 %
Clerk to the Assessor increase of 4%
Clerk to the Justices increase of 4.3%
Town Justices from \$10,000 to \$11,000

Councilwoman Burnside and Councilman Boone inquired about the effect on workers compensation insurance and who requested the raises. Councilman Bichteman and Supervisor Rapp answered their questions.

Supervisor Rapp reviewed with the Town Board the following accounts on the 2017 Tentative Budget.

GENERAL FUND:

Attorney-Same no change	Guidance-Same
Engineer Increase \$10,000	Ambulance-(Albany Co. ALS) Same
Elections-Same	Highway Superintendent-salary increase \$2,000
Buildings-Raised amount	Garage-Same
Insurance-Same	Street Light-raised
Association Dues-Same	Park/Highway employees raised 75 cents
Public Safety Admin.-Same	Historian-Same
Dog Control-Same	Celebrations-Same
Safety Inspector-Same	Youth Programs-same
Zoning -Same	Adult Recreation (Sr. Bus) raised \$2,000
Planning-Same	Publicity-Same
Refuse & Garbage-Same	Social Security-Same

Councilman Boone asked about \$22,000 for radio equipment for emergency services (Rescue Squad). Jody Ostrander said he had heard they (Albany Co.) may not have the new system in place until spring of 2017 possibly.

Councilman Bichteman asked about the Building Maintenance expense. Was this increased by \$100,000 in case the Referendum on the proposed Town Hall Renovations is not passed at the November 8th Election? Supervisor Rapp indicated he was correct. Discussion followed on the amount and any borrowing that may be needed on a short term basis for replacement of boiler, etc.

The Town Board had no further questions or comments regarding the Tentative Budget. The residents in attendance were informed that a Special Town Board meeting would be held on Oct. 27 to move by resolution from the 2017 Tentative Budget to the 2017 Preliminary Budget. Copies of the 2017 Preliminary Budget will be available by request for the Public in the Town Clerk's office and it will be posted on the Town's website.

PROPOSED Draft of Local Law # 3 – 2016 Solar Moratorium on Solar Farms & Ground Mounted Solar

The Town Board discussed and reviewed the proposed law with ZBA Chairwoman Virginia Mangold. Councilman Bichteman commented he heard comments regarding any possible/potential hardship situations previously from the public, it appears this has been addressed.

Section # 6 seems to be missing any civil penalties and amounts that would be charged for violations of the Moratorium. Discussion followed between Virginia and the Board members for suggestions of potential civil penalties for personal vs. commercial entities. Resident Leonard Laub suggested a penalty related to the portion of the value of a solar project. Councilman Bichteman was unsure if this would intended to be a penalty as written in the draft or to provide reimbursement to the cost to the Town in order to administer the Law, legal input is needed. Councilman Bichteman advised Virginia that the Board cannot move ahead on this at this meeting the vote to accept this will have to wait until issues have been resolved and a draft is available for the Public and a Public Hearing can then be held regarding the proposed law.

Section # 10 Effective Date –Councilman Bichteman suggested the elimination of the last sentence of this section. The Board members agreed. Section #6 & Section #10 need to be addressed by the ZBA by the next Town Board meeting. The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wed. November 9th. The Town Board did not schedule a Public Hearing date.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Bichtman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Rapp, motion carried all in favor. Workshop meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato, Town Clerk