

MINUTES OF THE SMITHVILLE TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARINGS
8 NOVEMBER 2023

The meeting for the Public Hearings for 3 Fire Districts; to hear Public Comment of Local Law #1 to override the 2% Tax Cap on the Town of Smithville 2024 Budget; and to also hear Public Comment on the 2024 Town of Smithville Budget was called to order at 6:24pm by Supervisor John Cammarata.

Present were Supervisor Cammarata, Board members Holcomb, Wark and Whitmore. Absent was Board member Butler. Also present was Town Clerk Owens.

The order of the Public Hearings were as follows:

- 6:25PM Oxford Fire District Budget Public Hearing (Brisben portion) Public Hearing
 - 6:30PM Genegantslet Fire District Budget Public Hearing
 - 6:35PM Smithville Center Fire District Budget Public Hearing
 - 6:40PM Overriding the 2% tax cap of 2024 Town of Smithville Preliminary Budget Hearing
 - 7:00PM Town of Smithville Preliminary Budget Hearing
- Notice of Public Hearings read by Town Clerk Owens

6:25PM Oxford Fire District Budget Public Hearing (Brisben portion)

The Public Hearing was declared open at 6:25PM by Supervisor Cammarata. The request from the Oxford Fire Dept. who is handling the Smithville portion of the outgoing Brisben Fire Dept. District, requested an amount of \$1441.60 to handle the 2024 commitment vs. the original amount designated in the 2024 Preliminary Budget of \$1311.94, the difference being \$129.66. Supervisor Cammarata asked Board members if the Town should approve this increase even though it was not specifically requested until late in the Budgetary process. Board members felt it should be approved. There were no other comments.

Supervisor Cammarata closed the Oxford Fire District Public Hearing at 6:28PM.

ACTION:

RESOLUTION # 44 (2023): ACCEPT THE PROPOSED OXFORD FIRE DISTRICT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE FORMER BRISBEN FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET FOR 2024

On a motion by Board member Wark, 2nd by Board member Whitmore, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED:

AYES: Holcomb, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata
NAYES: 0
ABSENT: Butler

RESOLVED to accept the proposed amount for the Brisben Fire District Budget now being handled by the Oxford Fire Department at \$1441.60 vs the original amount in the 2024 Preliminary Budget of \$1311.94. This will increase the Brisben Fire District Budget by \$129.66 to a total of \$21,401.66.

6:30PM Genegantslet Fire District Budget Public Hearing

Declared Open at 6:28PM by Supervisor John Cammarata

The amount of the Genegantslet Fire District Budget for the 2024 period Jan.1-Dec 31, 2024 to be raised by tax is proposed to be \$98,937.00. There were no comments.

The Public Hearing was declared Closed at 6:28PM

6:35PM Smithville Center Fire District Budget

Declared Open at 6:35PM by Supervisor John Cammarata

The amount of the Smithville Center Fire District Budget for the 2024 period Jan.1-Dec.31, 2024 to be raised by tax is proposed to be \$11,767.00. There were no comments.

The Public Hearing was declared CLOSED at 6:35PM

ACTION:

RESOLUTION # 45 (2023): ACCEPT THE PROPOSED GENEGANTSLET AND SMITHVILLE FIRE DISTRICT BUDGETS FOR 2024

On a motion by Board member Holcomb, 2nd by Board member Wark, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED:

AYES:	Holcomb, Wark, Cammarata
NAYES:	0
ABSENT:	Butler
ABSTAIN:	Whitmore

RESOLVED to accept the proposed amount for the Genegantslet Fire District Budget for 2024 at \$98,937.00 and the proposed amount for the Smithville Center Fire District Budget for 2024 at \$11,767.00.

6:40PM Overriding the 2% tax cap of 2024 Town of Smithville Budget, Local Law # 1 2023

Declared Open at 6:40PM by Supervisor John Cammarata

Supervisor Cammarata explained that due to the rise in Town and Highway Insurance costs, the transition cost of the Brisben Fire District transfer to the Oxford Fire District, health benefits, and needed salary raises, the proposed 2024 budget is about 13.98% overall more than the 2023 Budget. Most Chenango County municipalities are facing the same need to override the tax cap. Passage of this proposed Local Law # 1 will satisfy the requirement by NYS to override the NYS cap of 2% annually.

There were no additional comments. Supervisor Cammarata declared the Public Hearing CLOSED at 6:42PM.

ACTION:

RESOLUTION # 46 (2023): PASS PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 1 2023 TO OVERRIDE THE 2% TAX CAP REQUESTED BY NYS

On a motion by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Holcomb, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED:

AYES:	Holcomb, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata
NAYES:	0
ABSENT:	Butler

RESOLVED to pass Local Law # 1 2023; to override the 2% Tax Cap for the proposed 2024 Budget for the Town of Smithville. This is due to several factors influencing the budget: higher costs for insurance, health benefits and salaries.

7:00PM Town of Smithville Budget

Declared Open at 6:54PM by Supervisor John Cammarata

Supervisor Cammarata explained that adding in the \$129.66 difference for the Brisben Fire District now handled by Oxford would increase the amount in the Fire District portion of the 2024 Preliminary Budget to:

Fire Districts \$132,105.66, then adding in the amounts for

Highway \$417,600.00

General \$92,575.00

Total to be collected by tax would be: \$266,380.66 for the 2024 Budgetary year.

There were no further comments. Supervisor Cammarata declared the Public Hearing Closed at 6:56PM.

ACTION:

RESOLUTION # 47 (2023): PASS PROPOSED 3 BUDGETS WITHIN THE PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET WITH ADDITIONAL AMOUNT TO THE OXFORD FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE BRISBEN FIRE DISTRICT SECTION IN SMITHVILLE

On a motion by Board member Wark, 2nd by Board member Holcomb the following Resolution was ADOPTED

AYES: Holcomb, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata

NAYES: 0

ABSENT: Butler

RESOLVED to pass the 2024 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Smithville with the addition of \$129.66 more to the Oxford Fire District for the inclusion of Brisben Fire District homes located in Smithville. The total amounts are noted above with the total amount to be collected by tax for the 2024 Budgetary year being \$266,380.66.

Business:

- discussion on upgrades to the DEC fishing access on Art Lake Rd.

Randy Gibbons is looking for assistance from the Hwy Dept. on repairing the fishing access on Art Lake Rd. Permits will have to go through the NYSDEC, so there will be further discussion for the November meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION for Personnel issue

Motion made by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Wark. All four Board members in favor, into Executive Session at 7:01pm

Motion made by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Holcomb to come out of Executive Session at 7:34PM. All four Board members in favor.

There was no action taken.

Supervisor Cammarata declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35PM. Regular monthly meeting is November 20th.

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk