

Special Meeting
Of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba

Held at the Palmer Opera House, 12 West Main Street, Cuba, NY

Present:

Supervisor: Lee James
Council Persons: Lon Sweet, Michele Conklin, Richard Patterer, Melodie Farwell
Also Present: Nancy Orcutt, Town Clerk, Justin Bennett and Christine Salamone, Accounting Associates

Supervisor James called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm. She explained the purpose of the meeting was to continue to work on cuts to the budget for 2021 and possibly adopt the preliminary budget.

Discussions covered several areas concerning payroll cuts and contractual expenditure needs rather than wants. The ideas for the purchase of vehicles and payment schedules were also discussed. These ideas included possible ways to save paying thousands in interest payments. Various changes were made to help reduce the totals to bring down the increase of the initial tentative budget.

Sweet is very adamant about staying within the 1.56% tax cap. Because of the 12.5% increase to the Sewer District #5 rates imposed by the Village and the \$10,000 cut by the State to the highway CHIPS funding, it is impossible to stay within the cap without cutting services. There are other expenditures the Town has no control over as well, such as utilities and materials, to name just a couple. The other board members feel the over-ride of the cap is necessary to maintain operating services and to help keep the Town from becoming an at-risk municipality.

When all changes were made, the budget reflected an overall \$41 increase per \$100,000 of assessment. This equates to a 7.6% increase over 2020. Farwell offered a motion to adopt the budget as preliminary with these changes. The second came from Conklin. A roll call vote shows Patterer, yea, Farwell, yea, Conklin, yea, Sweet, nay, James, yea. The preliminary passed on a 4 – 1 vote in favor.

The next order of business is to set times for the tax cap over-ride hearing, which will be at 6:30 pm and the budget hearing at 6:45 pm, both set for Tuesday, November 10, 2020. They will be at the Cuba Library, scheduled just before the regular meeting of the board at 7:00 pm. Seating for these meetings will be limited to 20 people and face coverings and social distancing will be observed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Orcutt
Town Clerk