

Mrs. Warfel stated she would like to see the Board go with the second option (Tax Stabilization only) simply because it still holds onto some of the cash on hand; it's a little bit more and may be harder for some people on fixed incomes. If you go with the third option (Tax Stabilization and cash on hand), next year you will still be short the \$100,000 that is being pulled out of the cash on hand; if the taxes are increased, it's not going to be that same situation. Further discussion followed relative to cash on hand and fund balances.

Mr. Bove thanked Mrs. Warfel for all the work she has done and giving the Board all the information so that it can make these decisions. He said Mrs. Warfel noted that the cash on hand on January 1, 2015 is going to be \$2,054 million; the Board is talking about using some of that and some from the Tax Stabilization fund to set what the tax rate would be. He referred to the Tax Stabilization Fund, and asked Mr. Morrell if there were any restrictions on using it. Mr. Morrell replied it is intended to be used for unanticipated things that come up that would significantly increase the tax rate. It is also intended to only be a certain percentage of the overall Budget and certain percentage of the amount of the tax levy. He added it was created when the Town had a zero tax levy; now that the Town has a tax levy, it is much larger than was intended under the Statute. Mr. Morrell said doing it as the Town is proposing to do this year is entirely reasonable. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bove said there will be discussions about proposed additions to the Budget; although additions are not in specific line items, the amount being discussed is already in the Budget and reflected in these rates. Mr. Earle stated the recommended additions from the Personnel Committee are that a part-time Court Clerk and a part-time Water/Sewer Clerk be added. He said the workload in the Court has increased tremendously because they do a lot of the probation work – seems we are the probation hub. He added the other position (Water/Sewer Clerk), this person would be responsible for easing some of the work that is being done which created overtime – clerical work that was taken on by the Water/Sewer Department person which was done by the Superintendent of Water/Sewer.

Mr. Earle stated there was a proposal submitted for the Seneca Falls Development Corporation – their projected budget and goal is to hire a full time person to do economic development just for Seneca Falls. He added the expectations of that person would be to set up an office not only for economic development promotion, but also to seek funding for that Corporation. They are requesting to increase the amount given from the Town to the Development Corporation from \$10,000 to \$54,000 in 2015. Mr. Earle said the intent of the Corporation is to use the funds in conjunction with any fund balance the Corporation already has to hire a person and accomplish those goals. Mr. Bove stated the idea is to hire a developer approximately July 1<sup>st</sup>. He said these are the things we need to do to meet the time when the Landfill revenue is no longer available. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. DeLelys mentioned that the Board received an email from Jean O'Connell who said it is a good thing. He said with Mr. Bove, Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Earle on the Development Committee – is that kosher to have three Board Members on that Committee. Mr. Morrell replied the Corporation was originally formed with two Members of the Board and two Members of the Village Board and Members of the Community; we no longer have a Village to contribute Board Members, so now it is wholly run by the Town Board. As far as he knows, all their meetings are public and noticed as required. He added part of the reason for creating the Corporation was to do things a municipality cannot do; having the majority of this Board as Members compromises the ability to do that. Mr. Bove said because the Town will be funding this until it generates its own revenue, there will be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Development Corporation. He added if it's the spirit of the Board that you wish to reduce the number of Town Board Members on that Board, he certainly thinks that would be appropriate. After discussion, Mr. Earle stated the Development Corporation understands that this is not a desirable situation, and have reached out to at least two other people that are interested in being on the Board. He said once that happens, either one or both of the Board Members would step down. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Bove stated the Development Corporation has about \$62,000 on hand, so that it would be contributing an equal share of the cost – that money came from the Town and some from the Village over the years. He mentioned that the salary would be \$75,000 plus benefits. They had various people look at this as far as whether those are realistic numbers, and the feeling was that they are. Mr. Moore said when the Budget is adopted, we would be all set – we just have to find someone to fill this position. Mr. Bove replied they would be using J. O'Connell & Associates as they assisted with the creation of the office and the creation of the plan.

Mrs. Warfel stated if the Board wants to add the Economic Development position, it is in Contingency, but it can be moved to a line item in the Budget itself, adding it to the Economic Development amount we are already contributing. The wages of the two part-time positions are already in the Budget in their proper lines. She said \$10,000 was added to the Contingency Fund for consideration of the Mausoleum repairs that has been requested. She added the request was for \$20,000, but it was suggested by the Town Clerk to put \$10,000 in this Budget and \$10,000 the following year for the repairs.

Mr. Earle mentioned two options to balance the Budget – using Tax revenue and Tax Stabilization Fund or using Tax revenue, Tax Stabilization Fund and cash on hand. He said Mrs. Warfel is recommending that the Board go with the Tax Stabilization and Tax revenue which is slightly higher, the reason being that we don't

keep depleting cash on hand; also, it would lessen the likelihood and projected problem that would repeat itself next year in the budgeting process. Mr. Bove said the proposed Budget using Tax Stabilization and cash on hand shows a tax rate of \$3.19 per \$1,000 for General Fund – how much of the cash on hand will be used. Mrs. Warfel replied \$106,934.00. Mr. Bove said if the Board doesn't do that, the tax rate would be \$3.45. He doesn't understand why the Board wouldn't apply \$100,000 and make the tax rate \$3.19. Mr. Earle said it is definitely an option. Mr. Sanderson said using \$106,000 of the cash on hand, what would it reduce the cash on hand to; Mrs. Warfel replied it would reduce it to about \$1.9 million.

The Town Clerk stated the Visitors Center has requested \$9,000 to fund a full time person – is it in the Budget. Mrs. Warfel said it is not in the Budget. After brief discussion, the Budget for the Visitors Center was adjusted to include \$5,000 for Summer Staff.

A motion was made by Emil Bove and seconded by Dave DeLelys to modify the Budget by \$44,000 out of Contingency Fund to the line item for a contribution to the Economic Development Corporation for the purpose of creating an Economic Development office effective July 1, 2015, with the understanding that there will be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Corporation. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Bove stated two part-time Clerk positions, one in the Court system and one in Water/Sewer, were created and put into the Budget with a line item of \$20,000 each - part-time being no more than 25 hours a week.

A motion was made to add \$5,000 to the line item for the Visitors Center for the part-time Summer Staff by Chad Sanderson and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to move the two full time Court Clerks to the midpoint hourly rate of \$14.75 per hour, as recommended by the Personnel Committee, by Don Earle and seconded by Emil Bove. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to modify the Budget to move from Contingency Fund to the line items for the full time Court Clerks by Don Earle and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to move \$10,000 from the Contingency Fund to the Cemetery Line item for Mausoleum repairs by Emil Bove and seconded by Duane Moore. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Bove stated there is \$18,000 in the Budget for Drug Court which the Town doesn't have. The Personnel Committee discussed this with the Judges and told them an answer was needed as to whether or not there will be a Drug Court next year. The latest communication is that the Judges keep speaking with the Judges in Rochester and ask the question, but they don't get a response. He said if the money is taken out of the Budget and if they decide to have a Drug Court next year, can we find the money to make that happen. Mr. Moore said can it be taken out of Contingency; Mrs. Warfel replied yes. Discussions followed relative to eliminating the funding for the Drug Court or leaving the funds in the Budget, and whether it is beneficial to have a Drug Court.

A motion was made by Emil Bove and seconded by Duane Moore to remove the funding in the line items for Drug Court, and stating that it does not remove the Board's support for a Drug Court. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made by Emil Bove and seconded by Chad Sanderson to adopt the 2015 Preliminary Budget with amendments made this Evening, to be funded by Tax Stabilization Reserve in the amount of \$251,500 and \$106,934 from the Fund Balance, which would result in a General Fund tax rate of \$3.19 per \$1,000. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Moore stated the Board put a lot of time in this Budget, and he thinks it did a fairly good job – it did cut a lot. He feels good as to what the Board did with this Budget. Mr. Earle thanked Mrs. Warfel, Mrs. Havelin, Board Members, Department Heads and Members of the Public for their input. Mr. Sanderson stated it's not all about the numbers or the cost; it's being thankful for what we have and for what this Budget supplies to our taxpayers – safe water to drink, safe streets and homes, avenue for recreation, etc.

#### New Business

Contribution – Garland for Downtown: Mr. Earle stated he has talked to each Board Member prior to the Meeting relative to funding one-half of a garland that is going to be strung across Fall Street; total cost of a garland is \$2,500, and the amount for one-half is \$1,250. He indicated that there is money left over in the Christmas lighting budget line to cover that.

A motion was made to contribute \$1,250.00 towards one-half the cost of a garland by Don Earle and seconded by Duane Moore.

Mr. Bove asked who is going to own the garlands, and who is going to hang them – will they belong to the Town. Mr. Earle replied no; his understanding is they are proposing one of the electricians or the Fire Department to hang them. Mr. Morrell stated there are cables from the Village which are very old, and some of them are not in very good shape. He has been in touch with the It's a Wonderful Life Committee and the Museum, and they are submitting a permit to the DOT. He asked if this was covered under their insurance, and their response was no. Mr. Morrell said he was told the intent was to put these up for the Holiday Season, not just the three days. He added if the intent is to be a Town project, the Town should be applying for a permit, not the Festival. He asked if this is something the Board wants to do. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Earle withdrew his motion to contribute \$1,250 towards one-half of a garland until the Board gets some clarification, and Mr. Moore withdrew his second to the motion.

Mr. Bove said he would like to see this go forward subject to appropriate answers to the questions. Mr. Morrell stated the most important thing is the inspection that was conducted this morning. He added Mr. Marquart and Representatives from Barton & Loguidice were on the lift inspecting the anchors into each of the buildings. He would like to hear from them as to how they feel about this.

A motion was made to approve this appropriation to contribute one-half the cost of a garland subject to approval from the Town Engineer, and subject to this becoming a Town project by Emil Bove and seconded by Chad Sanderson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Bove referred to the Festival, and brought up some issues, such as snowplowing, garbage bins being full, and other little minor things. He expects that these things will be taken care of – maybe the Supervisor can take care of this. Mr. Morrell said that is going to be both the Recreation Committee and Highway Committee.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Chad Sanderson and seconded by Emil Bove. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER  
Town Clerk

SENECA FALLS TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2014

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Public Hearing and regular monthly Meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 81 W. Bayard Street.

Present were Supervisor Donald Earle; Councilmen Duane Moore, David DeLelys, Chad Sanderson and Emil Bove. Also present were Patrick Morrell, Attorney for the Town; James Spina, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation; Stuart Peenstra, Police Chief; Donald Collins, Assessor; Donald Wood, Highway Superintendent; Michael Pickard, WWTP Operator and John Condino, Town Engineer.

Public Hearing – Proposed Local Law – Maple Street Parking: Mr. Earle opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. relative to enacting certain amendments to the Code relating to parking on Maple Street.

Gordon Trickler, Maple Street, stated he hopes this is approved as parking on the street is dangerous; right now with winter coming on, parking on the median probably won't happen. He said they are older people on the street and pretty responsible – they will take care of it on their own.

Since there were no further comments, Mr. Earle closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 P.M.

Mr. Earle called the regular monthly Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. A roll call was taken of Board Members and all were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Petitioners:

Dan Dowd – Bridge Street Parking: Dan Dowd, Owner of Third Ward Tavern on Bridge Street, stated he is here pleading with the Board to help him. The No Parking situation in front of his business is causing him a hardship. He has run the Tavern for nine years, and the highlighted parking spots (on diagram he presented)

