

**Danby Town Board  
Minutes of Budget and Regular Meeting  
October 21, 2013  
Draft**

**Present:**

Supervisor: Ric Dietrich  
Councilpersons: Leslie Connors, Kathy Halton, Dan Klein, Dylan Race

**Others Present:**

Town Clerk Pamela Goddard  
Bookkeeper Laura Shawley  
Public Russell Klinger, David Hall, Rebecca M Brenner, Jim Holahan,  
Ronda Roaring, Jack Miller, Joe Freedman

**The Danby Town Board budget meeting was opened at 6:13pm**

**Budget Review**

Bookkeeper Shawley presented the revised preliminary 2014 Town of Danby budget, taking account of a \$91,200 change in the Town assessment value. This budget also shows the revised request from the Court. The revised budget now shows a decrease of \$0.20 per \$100,000 in the general tax bill and a decrease of \$2.30 per \$100,000 assessment for properties in the Fire District. The tax rate will decrease for all properties except those in the West Danby Water District.

Shawley made a suggestion regarding long range budgeting for cemetery restoration and maintenance projects. Rather than creating a dedicated reserve account, Shawley suggested created a cemetery fund (much like the community development fund). This would allow more flexibility in the way funds are used while still maintaining proper accounting procedures. This fund could be created this year. This fund could be used to engage residents through fundraising and other programs.

There was a brief discussion regarding the various reserve accounts currently held by the Town.

There was a discussion regarding the possible addition of late fees to more-than-two-months-overdue dog licenses. Clerk Goddard presented this idea as a way to raise revenue toward dog licensing and animal control, without penalizing responsible dog owners. This could be done by resolution through the municipal dog licensing and control law. The Town Board was agreeable to this idea. More consideration will be made as to the details of this idea. This could be a cumulative fee, increasing per month. Other Towns are looking at doubling the fee for unaltered animals. Danby has roughly 700 licensed dogs.

The Town Board was satisfied with the budget as it now stands. They agreed that the Preliminary Budget is ready for public review and a hearing on November 7 at 6:30pm. The October 29 budget meeting is not needed and is cancelled.

**The Danby Town Board budget meeting was closed at 6:45pm**

## **The Danby Town Board meeting was opened at 6:55pm**

### **Youth Services**

Janice Johnson made a presentation to the board about various Youth Services. The details from her presentation will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for distribution to interested parties.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals Vacancy Interviews**

David Hall and Russell Klinger were interviewed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Board will make this appointment during either its November 7 or November 11 meetings.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals Chair**

Connors reported that she has heard from two of the four seated BZA members. Still needs to hear from two more. This appointment will be made during either the November 7 or November 11 meeting. Connors informed the board that Joe Schwartz has expressed an interest to serve another term after his current term expires at the end of 2013.

### **Town Hall Building Maintenance/Window Treatments**

Halton reported on information gathered regarding flame-retardant fabric for the Town Hall meeting room drapes. It would be prohibitively expensive to make the old drapes flame retardant, and it might not even work on this type of cloth. She has information about a new type of cloth that is inherently flame retardant. Quotes for cost per drape will be gathered.

There was a discussion regarding whether the current drapes should be reinstalled or not. Reinstalling the non-compliant drapes would be a fire hazard and an insurance liability. At this time, the windows will remain without drapery.

### **Highway Department Update**

Shawley presented information on spending related to road work. Several roads were completed at the end of the road work season. The following roads were over budget due to additional maintenance requirements: East Miller Road (received a third coat of oil and stone) had an end cost of \$90,850, over by \$32,000, Fisher Settlement Road (increased amount of gravel, pipe and road fabric for drainage and related labor) went over by approximately \$20,000. The costs for these two roads are being submitted for CHIPS money.

Shawley reported that improvements on Brown Road were under budget by approximately \$29,000. Yapple Road went over by approximately \$2,000. As a result, road improvements the improvements paid for with Town monies are within budget.

## **Code Office Report**

A written Code Enforcement Report was distributed to the board. Code Officer Beeners reported on a report of road segment crash rates. The highest crash rates were recorded along Route 34/96 from the Tioga County line to Station Road and from the Newfield Town line to Station Road. High crash rates were also recorded on Route 96B from Nelson Road to East Miller Road and from South Danby Road to Steam Mill Road.

There was a general discussion about how these statistics may assist with an effort to reduce the speed limit in these areas. A residents' petition is being considered regarding this issue. A preliminary study from the NYS DOT has resulted in a negative determination of a change in speed limit. Legislative pressure may be needed at this time. Water Resources Council Report

Halton reported on recent activities of the Tompkins County Water Resources Council. Arsenic fact sheets for each Town are being released. Some of this data has already been shared with Danby. The person assisting the Town of Caroline with its Aquifer Protection plans will be contacted to review Danby's draft ordinance. Danby is invited to attend a November meeting in Caroline regarding water issues. Information about this meeting will be distributed to the Clerk and Board.

She also reported that the completed Aquifer Study has gone to peer review. The Draft study should be released to the Town soon so that it can be incorporated into the Aquifer Protection Ordinance.

## **Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk