

Minutes
Town of Richford Public Hearing November 5, 2015

The Public Hearing relating to Public Law No. 1 Tax Override Law was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Holcomb, and Supervisor Wilcox, were present. Approximately 3 townspeople were present.

Charlie Davis asked about the final tap cap figure that the budget cannot exceed. Supervisor Wilcox indicated that he would have to go on the internet to determine the correct number.

Town collected \$647,388 in revenue from taxes. At this time with the preliminary budget the amount from tax collection for the town would be \$698,300.

Supervisor Wilcox made it clear that this is a preliminary budget it is not final.

Ed Evenson made a statement to the Board and it will be attached to these minutes.

Supervisor Wilcox indicated the tax levy in 2015 went up 13%. Ed Evenson told the board that his tax bill indicated it increased 13.3%. Supervisor Wilcox stressed that the Town Board does its best not to raise taxes. In the past taxes were not increased and reserve funds were depleted and this hurt the town.

Supervisor Wilcox explained that the tentative budget and preliminary budget are different because the Board reviewed the accounts and made some adjustments.

Bill Stell calculated that if the budget was increased the amount of the tax cap the budget would increase approximately \$27,000 each year which is substantial when each year this increase occurs. People can absorb 2-3% each year but it's difficult to absorb 13% each year. He also brought up that there are many properties for sale in Richford and this could be because of taxes.

Bill Stell inquired about the increase in the Medical Insurance. He thought those numbers should be readily available and not an estimate.

Some calculations were attempted to determine the amount of the budget without going over the cap and the number could be \$692,706.

If the Town does not pass the tax cap and the budget is over any amount over the cap will be taken from the town and put into an account for next year.

In 2015 the budget was over the tax cap to help put the town in a better financial position.

Charlie Davis is in favor of the tax cap override as a safety mechanism for the Town not to be penalized.

The increase in the Highway budget was a concern. Councilwoman Holcomb explained that Mike Hunt would like to rent a crusher to crush stone which would help with expenses. The CHIPS money should offset that expense.

Bill Stell asked what percent can be rolled over into next year. Supervisor Wilcox indicated that any surplus can be rolled over to the next year.

Discussed the mortgage and sales tax income estimates.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Velvet Lyke
Town Clerk

Town of Richford Public Special Town Board Meeting Related to
the Preliminary Budget
November 5, 2015

The Special Board Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm. Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Holcomb, and Supervisor Wilcox, were present. Approximately 3 townspeople were present.

Additional discussions related to the preliminary budget were discussed.

The reserve funds were discussed in depth. Ed Evenson was extremely concerned regarding the equipment reserve fund.

Bill Stell brought up the idea that fuel bills for the highway should be tax exempt. Supervisor Wilcox will have Mike Hunt look into this.

More discussion on tax cap number that the town should be trying to hit. It is unknown at this time.

Discussion on the employee benefits and this number comes from the county. We are in a pool.

Emilie Stuehlmler commented that any extra money should be kept for making the roads better.

Councilman Miller noticed an error in Pg 8 of the budget. This will be corrected.

The town's people were upset that the budget wasn't more steadfast.

Supervisor Wilcox will ask Board to review again.
The public hearing was closed at 8:27pm.

Velvet Lyke
Town Clerk

