

# Draft

## Minutes

Town of Richford Public Hearing October 13, 2015

The Public Hearing relating to Public Law No. 1 Tax Override Law was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Holcomb, and Supervisor Wilcox, were present. Approximately 15 town members and 3 High School students were present.

Ed Evenson brought, to the Board's attention, the fact that the Public Meeting announcement did not appear in the County Courier paper prior to the meeting. Supervisor Wilcox reviewed the Courier and did not find that notice. Town Clerk had emailed the notice to the Courier at the end of September. Since the announcement was not published the board cannot act on the Public Law until the notice is officially in the paper.

Supervisor Wilcox asked Town Clerk to determine what happened with the notice.

Supervisor Wilcox asked those in attendance to still make their comments even though the Public Law would not be voted on.

Discussion occurred related to how to get notices to the paper. Charlie Davis always uses email to contact Courier for Planning Board business. The Board asked that we get confirmation from the Courier to ensure they receive the email.

The Local Law can be passed up until November 20, 2015.

Town members asked why we need to raise taxes. Supervisor Wilcox explained to those present that the Board doesn't want to raise taxes. The process of the local law is a contingency in case the tax increase is above the state increase of 2%. If the law is not in place and the budget goes above the tax cap the town is penalized. This is a way to safeguard the town.

It is the Boards hope to keep the budget at the same level as last year.

Councilwoman Holcomb explained that if the Law is not in place before the budget is completed, and there is a valid reason to raise taxes, the board would not be able to make the increase.

Concern of town members is that a large amount of the budget is expended in the first part of the year and then at the end of the year there is no money left. Councilwoman Holcomb tried to explain how the board reviews the town accounts each month and makes modification to specific accounts if necessary. The town accounts are provided at each Town Board Meeting.

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Supervisor Wilcox made copies of the tentative budget and passed out to those in attendance. Supervisor Wilcox made the statement that when he developed the tentative budget he tried to keep it as close to last year as possible.

Town members suggested finding a fuel company that allows for cap on fuel prices or to prepay for fuel. One company suggested was Superior Energy.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Velvet Lyke  
Town Clerk