

TOWN BOARD
Special Meeting
October 2, 2017

A special meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on October 2, 2017 with the following members present:

Supervisor: Robert T. Wood
Councilman: Randal Mowers
Councilman: Brett Holleran
Councilwoman: Patricia Jacob
Town Clerk: Cheryl L. Shackelton

Absent: Councilwoman Patricia Riddell Kent

2018 TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION

A special meeting was called to order for the purpose of presenting the 2018 tentative budget.

Following is Supervisor Wood's 2018 budget message:

This budget year the tax cap limit is 1.84% as the rate of inflation is less than 2%. The tax cap challenges all communities to improve the way services are provided and ensure that services are provided in the most cost effective way. This budget as presented continues the fiscally responsible path the town has been on. This budget is \$10,882 under the tax cap. The Town of Oneonta has not exceeded that tax cap in any year since its inception.

General Fund

This budget, as proposed, has an increase in the general fund levy of \$15,000. This equates to a change of two cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Highlights include a modest increase in wages for our employees, funding for an audit required due to the funding of the Southside Water District, a new OPT contract, and continued support for the Huntington Library. We are also planning to design a new highway garage as the current building is overflowing and does not conform to modern safety standards. We will continue to offer the town residents the services they expect.

Highway Fund

The highway budget also includes a modest increase in the levy of \$10,000 resulting in a similar increase of two cents per thousand. The cost of the equipment and tools that keep our town roads clear and safe continues to increase. Items to be replaced this year include: replacing our excavator and the purchase of a new 4x4 pickup. This budget continues adequate funding to keep our equipment current and up to date. There is also an increase in the paving budget. While we have been able to keep up with road conditions we must continue to fund road repairs adequately. The highway department has begun to do much more work in house saving town tax payer's money.

Water & Sewer

Next year will be a transitional one, as long time Water and Sewer operator Peter Andrews has announced his retirement. Jim Hurtubise has requested that he be allowed to take over the duties. Should the board decide to do this there would be savings in operation of all districts.

Capital Projects

The Southside Water District is proceeding on schedule with a late 2019 date to have water available to residents and businesses.

Funding agencies include EFC, ESD, and others. Nearly half of the project will be funded with grants.

Supervisor Wood concluded saying he wrestled with the 0% tax increase. He added that if the 2017 budget had had a 4 cent/thousand increase, as proposed in the 2018 budget, the new highway building would already be 50% funded.

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Holleran to adjourn the meeting (3:40pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton
Town Clerk