

Public Hearing for 2012 Budget  
October 26, 2011

At the Public Hearing on the 2012 Budget the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins  
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler  
Councilman Alan Davis  
Councilman Frank Ziehm

Absent from the meeting was Councilman Ted Berndt

Others Present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Town Justice Janet DeCarlo, Rani Bass, Rick Battistoni, Scott Keller, Margaret Waterson, Bruce Rolleston, Robbies McIntosh, Amy Drake, Eric Wilkson from the Eagle, Holly McMurray, Rob McMurray, Marie Drost, Gerald Skiff, Danny Thomas, Jim Buckley Jr

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and immediately led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Hearing called to order at 7:32 PM.

Supervisor Watkins stated that the Budget started out 1.9% less than last year. The Supervisor went over the Proposed Budget that he had created for 2012. This would include a decrease of \$1,400 for the Supervisor, \$2,500 for the Rescue Squad, \$5,000 for the Superintendent of Highway Salary. He raised the following 3% raise for the 3 people left on the Highway, \$2,500 for the Town Clerk, 3% raise for the Secretary. This was presented to the Board and changes were made and now the budget is at 1.5% increase. The Supervisor had said that to start a couple things had to be changed and this was the Attorney Contractual A1420.4 and this was changed from \$2,500 to \$2,000 this was a change that occurred at the Workshop and was missed. It was also requested that the money be added into the Budget for the change of the phone provider from CornerStone to Verizon which would be an increase of \$1080 total and split between 4 contractuales. This change will be done so that if DSL is available in the Town then the possibly of receiving DSL will be better. The amount of \$270 will be added to A1110.4 Town Justice and will change from \$2200 to \$2470, A1410.4, Town Clerk will change from \$5500 to \$5770, A1620.4 Town Hall from \$6500 to \$6700, and A5132.4 Highway Garage \$15,680 to \$15950.

It was mentioned by the Supervisor that the State had mandated a 2% cap on the tax levy and anything over this we must file for an exemption and there must be a public hearing and a vote with at least 60% voting yes.

A email and a call was received from Lillian Herrington a resident of the Town she had a letter that she requested be read. This letter was a voice of concern the board put money back in the budget after the Supervisor had cut. Mrs. Herrington had compared this to the Article that was in the Post Star titled "Board Members Must Get with Program", about Town Boards that increase taxes after their Supervisors have presented tentative budgets with tax cuts.

The Supervisor questioned the public if it would be easier if he went line by line when going over the budget. Amy Drake a resident stated that she thought that this would be best. The budget was reviewed line by line.

Councilwoman Fedler brought up the topic of the change in the salary for the Town Clerk and she said that it was brought up that it would not be fair to the Highway guys because they were only getting a 3% raise. Councilwoman Fedler called the highway guys and talked to them and they said that they did not care they considered the Town Clerk job completely different from their job. The Highway thought she did a good job and thinks that she is entitled to a raise. The proposed Salary for the Town Clerk was \$19500 and a change was made from \$17510 at the Budget Workshop. The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt had compiled a chart of the Salaries of the clerks in the County and whether they are a tax collector, if they have health insurance and how many hours they work. This information was presented to the Town Board with a list of duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk. It was decided to take the \$600 from the Budget Officer under Personal Services and drop it back to \$100. Councilwoman Fedler said this way they would only be shifting the money from the Budget Officer to the Town Clerk without changing the Balance of the Budget. So \$600 was taken from the Budget officer A1340.1 and made \$100. The \$600 was added to the Town Clerks Salary which made Personal Services A1410.1 \$18110.

Councilman Ziehm had a question whether or not they had gone to low on the Highway Superintendent Salary. Superintendent of Highway salary was cut by \$5,000 in the proposed budget because a new Superintendent will be elected in November. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that the former Highway Superintendent said that the salary was usually dropped by \$5,000 to 8,000 when a new Highway Superintendent was elected in. There was discussion whether this was right or not some said that the person that is being elected does not have the experience that the former Highway Superintendent had. It was mentioned that the Town of Cambridge Highway Superintendent was one of the lower paid Superintendents in the County. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that maybe next year it could be looked at for an increase in the Salary this would give the new Superintendent a chance to prove himself. It was also suggested by a resident that the new Highway Superintendent do some research on the salaries of other towns and the mileage of roads maintained. With this information submitted and the consideration of the job that the new Highway Superintendent has done the Board can determine about Salary increase.

There was discussion of whether or not more money should be added to the Highway Reserve. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that \$2,000 could be taken from the Rescue Squad and added to the Highway Reserve which would make it \$40,000. She mentioned that she did not want to cut from the Rescue Squad however the money that was added to the Highway Reserve for equipment would be a great help. The reasoning behind shifting the money over to the Highway from the Rescue Squad was that the Town of Cambridge pays a large amount in comparison to the other towns around us. With this decrease the Town of Cambridge would still be paying more than the other Towns of

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Whitcreek and Jackson. It was decided to move \$2,000 from A4540.4 to DA962 Budgetary Provisions for other uses which would make that the \$40,000.

After all comments were received, the hearing closed at 10:05 PM.

Resolution #99

Resolution by Councilman Ziehm,  
Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler,

Be It Resolved and Determined, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge does hereby adopt the 2012 Preliminary Budget as the Annual Budget for the Town of Cambridge beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012 with budget figures of \$963,998 for total appropriations, less \$297,550 less estimated revenues, less \$78,475 unexpended balance resulting in \$587,973 to be raised by taxes.

Vote: Supervisor Watkins – Noe  
Councilwoman Fedler – Aye  
Councilman Davis – Aye  
Councilman Ziehm - Aye

Respectfully Yours,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk