

**PUBLIC HEARING  
NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

**2018 SEWER ASSESSMENT ROLLS (5:00PM) AND 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET (5:05 PM)**

Minutes of a Public Hearing held on the above date beginning at 5:00 pm in the meeting room of the North Elba Town Hall, 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York.

**Members Present:** Supervisor Politi, Councilman Favro, Councilman Miller, Councilman Doty, Councilman Rand, Laurie Dudley

**Others Present:** Attorney Ron Briggs, Superintendent Larry Straight, Roseland Dietz

**DISCUSSION BETWEEN COUNCILMAN DOTY AND ROSELAND DIETZ**

Mrs. Dietz stated she is concerned about Ray Brook Water and fire hydrants on the McKenzie Pond Road stretch.

Councilman Doty - There are new hydrants there now which was a huge improvement. The problem is that we do not have a continuous loop on the waterline. If there was a major fire and the engines have to hook up the 3-4 of the hydrants, they are on a single line and they will deplete the pressure. We need to add a loop which are some of the improvements.

Mrs. Dietz asked about the prisons and Councilman Doty explained they are on their own system and have a million gallon reservoir with a filtration plant. They filter 350 thousand gallons of water a day for the Federal and State prisons. We are talking with the State to join forces to supply water to the prison and hook in our two systems. They want to get out of the filtration business. We bought property from Dana Peryea to add on to our wells. We have the potential for more water.

**CALL PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER**

Supervisor Politi opened the Public Hearing to order at 5:00 pm by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town Clerk read the Public Notices for the 2017 Benefit Water and Sewer Assessment Rolls which was properly published and posted.

Pursuant to Section 239 of the Town Law, notice is hereby given of Public Hearings for the purpose of reviewing the assessment rolls of the Water and Sewer Districts in order that the Town Board of North Elba may hear and consider any objections. The hearings will be scheduled as follows in the Meeting Room of the North Elba Town Hall, 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York on Wednesday, November 8 2017.

Benefit Water and Benefit Sewer Districts

5:00 p.m.

**WATER DISTRICT #1 AND #2**

Supervisor Politi – There are no budget appropriations for either of the water districts so therefore there is no tax levy.

**CONSOLIDATED SEWER DISTRICT**

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Supervisor Politi - There are 2,146 parcels in the Consolidated Sewer District at \$2.88/per parcel. Last year there were 2,144 parcels with \$2.89/per parcel. The total 2018 benefit amount raised \$6,180.48.

**ADJOURNMENT**

No one came for the public hearing in objection to the 2017 Benefit Water and Sewer Assessment Rolls. On the Supervisor Politi closed the public hearing at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Dudley, Town Clerk

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**Members Present:** Supervisor Politi, Councilman Favro, Councilman Miller, Councilman Doty, Councilman Rand, Laurie Dudley

**Others Present:** Attorney Ron Briggs, Superintendent Larry Straight, Roseland Dietz

**2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Supervisor Politi called the Public Hearing for the 2018 Preliminary Budget to order at 5:05 pm and asked the Town Clerk to read the Public Notices which was properly published and posted.

Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of North Elba for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York, where it is available for inspection by any interested parties during regular business hours.

Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board of North Elba will meet and review said Preliminary Budget and hold a Public Hearing in the Meeting Rooms of the North Elba Town Hall at 5:05 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 and that at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget as compiled or any item or items contained therein. Senior Citizens and minority groups are welcome to participate.

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following Town Officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor	\$30,000.10
Councilman-Each	\$ 7,423.42
Town Clerk/Collector	\$48,426.74
Superintendent of Highways	\$56,676.31

Supervisor Politi reviewed the 2018 Budget Summary provided by Cathy Edman on 10/20/2017

Tax Levy Limit met: \$4,342,755 represents 2.21%, \$93,754, increase over 2017 tax levy

Taxable assessed values for 2018 tax roll increased for all districts between 1.2% and 2.5%

The following summary represents selected items from the budget and the change compared to the 2017 adopted budget.

**GENERAL FUND**

➤ **General Fund budgeted revenues increased \$67,210**

Highlights:

Tax levy increased \$23,480

Transfer station revenues increased \$6,400

Rental income increased \$19,000 (projected spectrum franchise fee-based on 2017 actuals)

Fines & Forfeited Bail decreased \$10,000

Gas & Diesel sales revenue increased \$15,250

Sharing of services for Building dept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Code Enforcement Official added for \$50,000

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State aid decreased \$65,000 (*moved 50% (\$125,000) of ORDA grant to park district*); added \$50,000 DASNY grant for Newman Park; *inc. mortgage tax by \$10,000*)

➤ **General Fund budgeted expenditures increased \$214,800**

Highlights:

Personal Services increased \$66,000 (*3% raise for (non-union) employees; health insurance buyout of \$21,000 from employee benefits*)

New accounting and payroll software budgeted for \$16,000

Planned Emergency Alert email notification system funding \$5,000

Addition of funding for constable position \$10,000

Town funding of Newman Park project \$75,000

Gas & Diesel purchases increased \$15,000

New signage for North Elba cemetery entrance \$3,500

➤ Planned Debt service issuance of \$117,000  
New loader for Transfer Station

➤ General Fund appropriated fund balance to offset tax levy \$273,546

**TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGES FUNDS**

➤ **TOV & Highway Fund budgeted revenues increased \$48,520**

Highlights:

Tax levy increased \$55,916

Sales & Use tax decreased \$20,000

Village share of Mirror Lake Beach operational expenses increased \$13,000

➤ **TOV & Highway Fund budgeted expenditures increased \$72,900**

Highlights:

Personal Services increased \$37,000 (*average 4% (\$11,000) increase in union hwy wages; moved proj. health ins. buyout of \$4,200.00 from hwy employee benefits; \$8,000 inc. in hwy overtime budget; \$3,000 dec. in hwy budgeted vac buyout and longevity; \$17,000 inc. in lifeguard wages*)

Planned equipment purchases increased \$20,000 (*approx. \$7,000 for new floats at beach; \$12,500 hwy for new sweeping broom*)

Improvements increased \$25,000

Debt services increased \$8,500

➤ Planned Debt service issuance of \$143,000 (tandem truck)

➤ TOV & Highway Fund appropriated fund balance to offset tax levy \$11,767

**PARK DISTRICT FUND**

➤ **Park district budgeted revenues increased \$82,508**

Highlights:

Tax levy increased \$45,448

Craig Wood Golf Course decreased \$74,000

Airport T Hangar rent decreased \$7,500

State aid increased \$125,000 (*moved 50% of ORDA grant from general fund*)

➤ **Park district budgeted expenditures increased \$69,668**

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Highlights:

Planned equipment and capital upgrades (carried over from 2017): *installation of dry wells at athletic fields \$6,000; water cannon for athletic fields \$8,500*

Personal Services increased \$19,500 (3% (\$10,500 raise for (non-union) employees); *health ins. buyout of \$4,200.00 from employee benefits; \$6,000 inc. in seasonal and of wages*)

Employee benefits increased \$17,000 (*medical ins. & contribution to health savings accounts inc. \$11,000; state retirement inc. \$5,000*)

Building repair expense increased \$2,500

Capital Project local share of airport projects increased \$23,000

COMMENTS

Supervisor Politi - The increase in taxes is as follows; Village of Lake Placid increased .01¢/\$1000, Village of Saranac Lake did not increase, Town Outside in Fire District #1 increased .02¢/\$1,000, Town Outside Fire District #3 increased .01¢/\$1,000, Ray Brook Fire District #2 increase in taxes is .01¢/\$1,000. The change represents \$1 increase per \$100,000 assessment.

Mrs. Dietz –I have a couple of questions; I do not understand why North Elba and Lake Placid pay with our money for the beach and the sidewalk around Mirror Lake. Our taxes should not have to pay for that.

Supervisor Politi – Let me explain the first question about the beach. The Park District takes care of the parks in the Village of Lake Placid and we get compensated. The people who live in the Village of Lake Placid also pay Town taxes. They are entitled to the same services that the people outside the Village are entitled to. In regards to the sidewalk around Mirror Lake, the majority of the sidewalk around the lake is owned by the Village of Lake Placid and is being paid for by the Village of Lake Placid. Seven tenths of a mile of sidewalk is outside of the Village and is in the Town of North Elba. The Town would be paying for that sidewalk just as we would have to replace any sidewalk in the Town that needs replacing because we are put on notice that there is a health and safety risk. We are not heating it!

Mrs. Dietz asked what if there were sidewalks in Ray Brook that needed to be replaced and Supervisor Politi responded stating that the Town would repair those sidewalks. We are not repairing or replacing the sidewalks in Saranac Lake because we eliminated the Highway Tax for all Village of Saranac Lake residents because they no longer pay Highway tax. Way tax. The Village of Saranac Lake takes care of that.

Mrs. Dietz – Will our taxes go up because of the parking garage?

Supervisor Politi – The garage in the Village of Lake Placid is being paid for by the residents of the Village of Lake Placid.

Mrs. Dietz – Why don't they do a partial parking lot in the Olympic Parking area? If they do, will our taxes go up?

Supervisor Politi – The Town of North Elba owns half of the parking lot located across from the post office. We have had negotiations with the Lussi family, who owns the other half, for them to

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give their portion of the property to the Town and to form an authority and to build a parking garage there. . We are not going to do that until such time we receive grant money or funding to do that. Your taxes will not be effected if we can get a grant. This is a number of years down the road. The Village is expanding the parking lot across from the bank and that cost is to be absorbed by the Village tax payers or a special Parking District on Main Street.

Mrs. Dietz – Ray Brook is mostly retired people and raising taxes will put them out of their homes.

Supervisor Politi – The only reason taxes would increase in Ray Brook has to do with the Water District. We are hoping to sell the water and generate a positive revenue to lower taxes substantially.

Mrs. Dietz – It has been proposed that Lake Placid Village and North Elba combine. If that happens, our taxes would really go up.

Supervisor Politi- Lake Placid Village would have to dissolve and the Town would have to absorb those costs. The Town has no say in that. Villages can dissolve by a vote. Saranac Lake closed their court and we did not have a choice. We must take over that Court system because Town Government is involuntary and Village government is not. I don't foresee it happening. The Assessments would not change, and Ray Brook assessments are not comparable to Lake Placid.

The Board thanked Mr. Dietz for coming to the public hearing. It is nice to have someone interested.

**ADJOURNMENT**

No one came for the public hearing in objection to the 2018 Budget. Supervisor Politi closed the public hearing at 5:30 pm and is accepting public comment through the regular Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Dudley, Town Clerk