

**TOWN OF DELHI
NOVEMBER 13, 2018
PUBLIC HEARING
PRELIMINARY 2019 BUDGET**

The Public Hearing was called to order by Town Supervisor Mark Tuthill at 7:15pm.

Those present:

Councilmember's: Janet Tweed, William Cairns, Matt Krzyston, and Al Perkins.

Highway Superintendent Daren Evans

Town residents: Richard Gumo, Katherine Mario, Susan McLellan, Don Harris, Christina Viafore, Sean Leddy, Rich Roberts, Marie VanValkenburgh

Supervisor Tuthill gave some highlights of this year's budget prior to allowing privilege of the floor to audience members. He stated the budget total for 2019 will be \$2,378,599.59 which is up \$69,454.89 or roughly 3%. The increase to the tax levy is going to be from \$1,601,250.09 to \$1,633,594.32, which is an increase of \$32,344.23 which equates to 2%. Having said that he assumed everyone has heard that the cap this year is 2% and with the formula the state uses the town does not make the cap; the town would have to cut another \$33,000.00 from the budget. Which would make it actually \$2,000.00 lower in tax levy allowed this year over last year, that's because of PILOT Programs we have that are bringing in more revenue next year.

Supervisor Tuthill then opened the public hearing for public comment. Town resident Marie VanValkenburgh came forward and read a letter to the board. She stated she was a shop steward for over 20 years and was on the state board of letter carriers in New Jersey for 18 years; she learned in that time unless something is in writing as in a contract or MOU it might as well have been written in water. The Town Pool was supposed to have been constructed with donations, grants and fundraising; Councilmember Perkins interjected stating that's exactly how it was done, stating he has done this since 2002. Ms. VanValkenburgh said the town's pool is becoming more of an expense to taxpayer's then the original proposal. She further stated many towns have pools but not up here in the Catskills, that's not the great draw to our community. What brings people up here besides the great scenery are the fairs, festivals, parades, the events (programs) and the caring people whom volunteer their time with love, compassion and passion for their projects. Whether it be the Fair on the Square, a Holiday of the Heart, Farmer's Market, a Fair at the Legion, Tour of the Farms or Gardens, or many of the other programs, it's the people to people relationships that drew people to this area, not a structure. She went on to say just because "taxes are not raised" does not justify giving more money to the pool and taking it away from vital services. Raising the Parks and Recreation budget from \$20,000.00 to \$60,000.00 is wrong, after increasing the Parks and Recreation budget 200% and another \$300.00 is requested for a Fire Tower.

Furthermore, VanValkenburgh asked why is the Town of Delhi involved in a project recommended by a hiking club on property this is owned by NYC, once the Town pays insurance, they become responsible for the Fire Tower. That's a big responsibility. When it was dismantled the structure was removed by a truck. Even if the structure is in pristine condition after several decades, how are the pieces going to be taken safely back up the mountain? Who is going to supervise and reassemble it? Who is going to inspect it? Who is going to police it? And once the Town insures it, aren't they responsible for all this? What differentiates our Town from others is that we are a college town. We've had accidents because of students' foolishness right in the Village of Delhi with police a few blocks away. Students will climb the tower. They always have (even high school students), a sign closing the trail or tower December 1st through April 30th will not be honored or policed. She then quoted to excerpts from Councilmember Krzyston's social media posting:

1. "Used it to have parties there in the early 70's...they had taken down the first two levels of stairs so people couldn't climb it, but we just climbed the girders up to where the stairs were and climbed to the top... saw the best Northern Lights I ever saw one night up there."
2. "Awesome, I can use it as a tree stand for hunting."

VanValkenburgh closed her statements with she came from the New York Metro area, and it is a "sue happy area," our college students come from that area. A million dollar policy will mean nothing if someone gets injured on an icy fire tower, how many have hiked up there or will volunteer your time to work on this worthwhile project, she hiked for many years in NJ and NY always taking her own provisions and never once went to the town and went to a restaurant or went shopping after a day in the woods. She went on to say let the club that wants it take all the responsibility for in; install, maintain, insure and police it. If it is such a "great" tourist draw the fact that it is located in Delhi won't change, it will still be in Delhi no matter whom insuring it. Taking responsibility for the fire tower is not something the Town of Delhi should be involved in, it's another potentially costly liability we can't afford. She then thanked the Council for allowing her to read her letter.

Supervisor Tuthill wanted it know that the town has not made any agreements, it is just in discussions and that is part of the reason our town attorney is present tonight. He asked if anyone else wanted to address the budget.

Town resident and Town Justice Richard Gumo stated on the similar line, the increased cost of the pool. What is the actual cost for the season for the pool, by surveys he has taken from surrounding municipalities with pools; they operate from the last week of June through the first week of September, and total days are 76 to 80 days, as he looks at the increase in the pool budget of 200% to \$60,000 he questioned is that based on the daily cost of the pool, \$60,000 at 80 days, you are looking at \$750.00 a day for the season. He asked is that the cost per day to operate the pool? Supervisor Tuthill stated that he has spoken to other town supervisors and they state that the cost is anywhere from \$50,000 to \$90,000 a year to maintain and operate per year. He then questioned if the board understood this going into the pool. Councilmember Perkins

stated yes, the pool has to be maintained all year long, it isn't just for the time it is opened. It is heated, the mechanical room has to be heated to that things don't freeze in there, security concerns, electricity it is not just that small period time that the pool is opened. When opened we must employ lifeguards, everything was taken into consideration when it was planned to do this. Mr. Gumo questioned if it is \$90,000 a year, where Councilmember Perkins said it will not be \$90,000 per year for this pool, Mr. Gumo then questioned what will it be? Councilmember Perkins stated around \$60,000, we have that pretty much laid out, this pool uses fewer lifeguards because of the way it is setup, and we still have chemicals the heat and so one that have to go into it.

Mr. Gumo then stated he had another question on the budget and was hoping it was a mistake. As Town Justice he questioned the Judiciary Budget line for Court Clerk. He stated by his count the budget the way he has read it every town employee has given a cost of living increase of 2.5%, the only person that he could see not given this was his new court clerk and he gave the account number. Councilmember Perkins stated that she just started working here five minutes ago, she has not even been here six months, that's how it works. Mr. Gumo stated he attended the budget workshops and Councilmember Perkins stated you don't start a job and not even here through the six month probation and get an increase; it just doesn't happen. Mr. Gumo stated it was a cost of living increase and not a raise. Councilmember Perkins disagreed. Mr. Gumo stated if you look up the definition of "cost of living increase" has traditionally been and understood to make an employees take home pay to be constant with the increase of expenses they are getting, so what he is hearing is his clerk's expenses are not going to go up like other employees of the town next year. It has nothing to do with this year it has to do with next year. Councilmember Perkins then said "you are calling a raise that we gave a "cost of living," I am calling it a raise. That is two different things. She doesn't get a raise, she just started working here." Supervisor Tuthill stated not all employees got a raise this year. Mr. Gumo questioned if there was any other woman who did not get a raise this year. Councilmember Perkins stated the board did not get a raise this year. Supervisor Tuthill stated the assessors did not get a raise. Gumo asked again what other woman did not get a raise this year, Councilmember Perkins stated "are we now calling this a sexist thing," to where Mr. Gumo stated yes. Councilmember Perkins stated if she had been a male, she just started working here; you don't get a raise when you first start working. Mr. Gumo stated she started in September and her expenses in January 2019 will be increased like everyone employee, Councilmember Perkins again stated she has not been here six months yet and is still on probationary period. Mr. Gumo again stated he felt it was a sexist, Councilmember Perkins said he took offense to the comment. Mr. Gumo asked if anyone would make a motion to amend the budget to give the court clerk the same 2.5%. Supervisor Tuthill stated this was not the time, this time was for taking comments from the public on the budget, and we have not gotten to the point of making any changes or adopting the budget. Mr. Gumo asked if that would be tonight where Supervisor Tuthill stated yes, during the regular meeting.

Supervisor Tuthill again asked if anyone else wanted to comment on the budget. No other audience members came forward; he closed the public hearing at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elsa Schmitz

Elsa Schmitz
Town Clerk, Town of Delhi

**TOWN OF DELHI
BOARD MEETING
November 13, 2018
7:30PM**

Supervisor Tuthill called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Those present:

Councilmember's: Janet Tweed, Matt Krzyston, Al Perkins, Bill Cairns

Highway Superintendent: Daren Evans

Resident(s): Richard Gumo, Kathrine Mario, Susan McLennan, Don Harris, Christina Viafore, Sean Leddy, Marie VanValkenburgh, Rick Roberts, David Truscott, John Kolodziej

Reporter: Lillian Browne

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Perkins.

Privilege of the Floor:

Supervisor Tuthill announced that if those in attendance were here to address the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower or the All Hazard Mitigation Plan it would be handled under old business. They would have the ability to speak during those discussions. He opened the floor for other discussions.

David Truscott addressed the board and requested that the supervisor address the updates on the Delaware County DPW when the Supervisor discussed his Supervisors Report.

John Kolodziej introduced himself as the Aquatics Coordinator at SUNY Delhi; Mr. Kolodziej stated he was in the process of setting up the Spring 2019 Swim Programs for the spring semester, for over 20 years and more the summer community swim lessons were held at the SUNY Delhi pool, and when the village still had the pool the last years lessons were held at the college he wanted to know if the town of Delhi would continue doing such as he is trying to plan his summer staff and any updated information regarding swim lessons would be appreciated, as this impacts the staffing for the summer swim programs. Supervisor Tuthill asked Councilmember Perkins to speak as he is on the Pool Committee. Councilmember Perkins stated