

**TOWN OF WESTERLO
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING OF
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a Special Town Board meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2022 at the Richard H. Rapp Municipal Building located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY 12193. Supervisor Kryzak opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were:	Supervisor Matthew Kryzak
	Councilman Joshua Beers
	Councilman Peter Mahan
	Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside
	Councilwoman Lorraine Pecylak

Absent:	None
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Also attending were: Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander and employees Salvatore Spinnato and Joshua Austin, Museum President Palma Schloer and Vice President Betty Filkins, Hometown Heroes Committee Members Lisa DeGroff and Rick Haley, Library President Maureen Sikule, Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. President Chris Allen, Altamont Enterprise reporter Noah Zweifel, Deputy Town Clerk's Marta Pongo and Kathleen Spinnato, Town Clerk Karla Weaver and approximately two interested residents.

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to open the Special Town Board meeting. Councilman Mahan seconded; all in favor motion carried.

2023 TENTATIVE BUDGET DISCUSSION

Supervisor Kryzak advised that the 2023 Tentative Budget was a rough draft, he has already made several corrections which he will review this evening. This version before everyone shows the Town at 2% for the tax cap however, after corrections were made, the Town is only at 1.92%. Numbers can be massaged this evening. He advised that the proposed budget at this point is \$3,608,896 which is \$147,327 less than last year.

On the tweaked version of the estimated revenues, the total budgeted for 2023 is \$1,567,000.

Supervisor Kryzak reviewed the Tentative Budget line by line. Some discussion was as follows:

GENERAL FUND

Supervisor Kryzak proposed increasing the Town Board's salaries to \$4,000 each a year to become more enticing.

The court requested an increase in salaries for the judges and clerk. It was believed the increase for the court clerk was a combination of an increase in hours and raise due to more foot traffic in the court.

The Supervisor's budget has dropped from \$121,330 to \$104,350. There was a typo, the Confidential Administrator will be at \$64,600.

The Assessor has a small increase in salary.

Supervisor Kryzak expressed that the document wasn't perfect, some items were calculated incorrectly. It has already been massaged and will be massaged again after discussions this evening. He also indicated most employers are doing somewhere between a 3% and 5% raise.

Mr. Kryzak mentioned like everyone else, the Town Clerk's office has some salary increases. Discussion ensued regarding the salaries. Mr. Kryzak mentioned the Town does not have a recreation department and justified that some of the hours spent is for that. Councilman Beers indicated the Town doesn't have to do events; Mr. Kryzak responded; it is something the Town should be doing. When comparing other towns, Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that Westerlo residents only have a transfer station and get their roads plowed, there needs to be a sense of community and invest in activities in the town. It was suggested to have a Community Activity Committee (CAC) consisting of volunteers; Mr. Ostrander responded that the Town had a CAC once and it didn't work. Mr. Kryzak advised that the Town Clerk's office is also now doing a newsletter and will soon be taking on the water billing. Mr. Kryzak mentioned whether the Town Clerk's office does the job or the Town hires a recreation department, the dollar at the end of the day is not going to change. Mr. Kryzak also advised that when you look at the budget amount for an hourly employee, it's not dictating a person's hourly rate or what the pay increase is, it's an estimate of what you think you are going to spend. The Town Clerk will review her budget for the next meeting.

The Town Attorney's salary is proposed to increase by \$4,000. He is now doing the training for the Planning and Zoning Boards. Councilman Beers would like the raise to be on par with everyone else, Mr. Kryzak advised that if the Town goes with the proposed budget for the Attorney, the negotiated contract rates will not increase. Mr. Beers proposed a salary of \$26,400 for the attorney. Discussion ensued; no decision was made.

Councilman Mahan questioned the need for an engineer. Mr. Kryzak advised that any time the Town does any alterations such as with Planning, they are all reviewed by the engineer. The budget amount is for a contracted professional service, it's not a salary, it's an hourly rate which is out of the Town's control.

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned the exact number for election fees is unknown at this time however figured on \$15,500.

Mr. Kryzak advised that Mohawk and Hudson will no longer contract with the Town of Westerlo after this year, he is working to find an alternative. The Town Board would like the Dog Warden and Deputy Dog Warden's salaries to be increased by \$500 each.

The Ambulance budget is a best estimate.

Supervisor Kryzak indicated he increased the Highway Superintendent to \$67,000 and proposed mild increases for Highway Contractual.

There are proposed salary increases for the Zoning and Planning Boards as well as the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Kryzak mentioned there will be mild increases for State Retirement, Social Security, Workers Compensation and Hospital/Medical.

The total General Fund Budget is \$1,587,805 which remains the same on the revised budget.

HIGHWAY FUND

Mr. Kryzak mentioned that the total estimated revenues will be adjusted on the new budget to \$1,565,563.00.

There are some increases to the Highway budget which is for mild increases overall, including costs for equipment, salaries, State Retirement and Hospital/Medical.

The principal on debt will decrease significantly. Supervisor Kryzak intends to pay off all debt this year.

LIBRARY FUND

Mr. Kryzak announced there was an error for the Total Estimated Revenues, it should be \$127,584.00.

The Library Director is proposed to get a \$0.25 raise and the clerks are proposed to get a \$0.50 raise.

WATER FUND

Mr. Kryzak indicated he intends to help water district customers with their debt next year.

MUSEUM FUND

Minimal increase to Museum budget.

LIGHTING FUND

No change over last year.

VOL FIRE CO.

There is roughly a \$6,500 increase over this year's budget.

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned the Board previously discussed the purchase of a side-by-side utility vehicle for the Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo has had an unforeseen expenditure in the following account; and
- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo will transfer \$20,000.00 to the Fire Company for the purchase of a side-by-side UTV to assist the Town of Westerlo in the rescue operation within the Town; and
- WHEREAS:** the Chief Fiscal Officer has determined that in order to maintain proper balances within various accounts, a budget amendment is necessary; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** that the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo does hereby authorize Town Supervisor Matthew Kryzak to make the following amendment to the 2022 Budget.

Increase Appropriations

(A)599-Appropriated fund Balance	\$20,000.00
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Increase Revenue

(A)3410.4 Fire Protection Contractual	\$20,000.00
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Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Mahan,
Councilman Beers, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 110 – 2022 was thereby duly adopted.

Fire Company President Chris Allen thanked the Town Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Mahan made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:58 pm for the purpose of conducting interviews for the house cleaning position and to discuss the vacancy for the Clerk to the Boards/Assessor/CEO. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

Councilman Mahan made a motion to close executive session at 8:32 pm. Councilman Beers seconded; all in favor motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

HOUSE CLEANING POSITION

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: There is a vacancy for the housekeeping position, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board appoints Kathleen Spinnato to the housekeeping position at the rate of \$21.75/hour.

Councilman Beers seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilman Mahan, Councilman Beers,
Councilwoman Burnside, Councilwoman Pecylak

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 111 – 2022 was thereby duly adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE BOARDS/ASSESSOR/CEO

The position of Clerk to the Planning Board, Clerk to the Zoning, Clerk to the Assessor and Clerk to the CEO is currently vacant. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: There is a vacancy for the positions of Clerk to the Planning Board, Clerk to the Zoning Board, Clerk to the Assessor and Clerk to the CEO, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board appoints Claire Marshall to fill the vacancies at the rate of \$21.75/hour.

Councilman Mahan seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilman Mahan, Councilman Beers,
Councilwoman Burnside, Councilwoman Pecylak

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 112 – 2022 was thereby duly adopted.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Councilman Mahan made a motion to close the Special Town Board meeting. Councilman Beers seconded; all in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Weaver

Town Clerk