

At 7:15 P.M. Supervisor Lester called to order a public hearing at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York on October 22, 2002. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear all persons in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2003

Present: Town of Sweden Supervisor Lester, Councilman Carges, Councilwoman Connors, Councilman Wheat and Councilwoman Windus-Cook.

Also present: Finance Director Elaine Jones, Assessor Alan Bader, Highway Superintendent Fred Perrine and Town Attorney James Bell.

Also present: Frank Lapinski, 4016 Sweden Walker Rd., Jim Hamlin, 50 Park Ave., Richard Lingg, 8 Candlewick Dr., Randy Sweazy, 799 Salmon Creek Rd., Dale and Peg Wohler, 355 Gallup Rd., Rob Sweeting, 40 Crestview Dr., Herb McCauley, 7 Sweden Hill Rd, Scott Warthman, 2869 Colby St., Matt Fister, 54 Sherwood Dr., Cheryl Bates, 69 Royal Garden Way, Brenda and Brad Mutton, 7216 4th Section rd., Dan D'Angiolillo, 3 Oak Dr., Scott Snyder, 1328 Covell Road, Therese Parker, 351 Lincoln St., Jeff Parker, 4 Ogee Trail, Dave F. Cook, 9367 Ridge Rd. W., Thomas Talley, 301 Beadle Rd., Mary Battisti, 2730 Colby St.

At 7:15 PM Supervisor Lester called the Public Hearing to order. The Town Clerk read the legal notice of the hearing.

Supervisor Lester read a prepared statement about the 2003 preliminary budget.

Councilman Carges said that for many years the Board held the tax rate flat. The Town of Sweden has had very little growth, which is generally liked by the residents. The residents indicate that they do not want to give up services. Revenues in the Town are down and interest rates are low. The annual tax increase would average about \$33.00 per household.

David Stettner of 46 Beadle Rd. said that residents are being tied to a certain standard of living by the increases in taxes. Taxes must increase because growth is stagnant. He asks that the Board seriously reconsider an increase in the tax rate.

At 7:30 PM the Supervisor called to order the regular meeting by asking all to rise and salute the flag. The Public Hearing was then continued.

Richard Lingg of 8 Candlewick Drive expressed his concerns about the recreation budget. He said there is a \$174,000 shortfall in some area. Where is the Seniors' budget? And where is the line item for maintenance and other expenses? He is in support of community services. He feels the increase in fees for programs will eliminate some participants. Are all the full time employees really needed? Has the Board considered ways of raising revenue such as a capital recreation fund that charges all new homebuilders.

Bob Jones of 41 South Ave. He would like to second what Dick Lingg said. Has the Board looked at using other facilities such as the college? Maintenance, insurance and upkeep will be a large expense.

Tim Bates 69 Royal Garden Way quoted the Finance Director's reasons for the increase in the tax rate. These would be the decline in interest on investments, a decline in revenues,

increased payments to the NYS Retirement System and the increased cost in benefits, especially insurance. The Board fails to mention the construction of a 156-acre park with a budget of \$110,000. The community center and recreation program has an estimated budget of \$400,000. The third addition to the budget is the Lakeview Cemetery with a \$65,000 budget. Where are the figures for the labor to maintain, and the equipment necessary to maintain and construct? Mr. Bates suggests a referendum regarding these additional items in the budget.

As there were no further questions to come before the Board, the Supervisor closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail A. DeToy
Town Clerk