

At 7:42 p.m. Supervisor Carges called to order a public hearing located at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear all persons interested in the budget, in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget for 2018, or any item therein to include the compensation to be paid to all elected Town Officials, pursuant to the requirements of Section 108 of the Town Law.

Town Board Members present were Supervisor Robert Carges, Councilperson Robert Muesebeck, Councilperson Mary Rich and Councilperson Lori Skoog. Also present were Finance Director Leisa Strabel, Town Attorney Jim Bell, Superintendent of Highways Brian Ingraham, Town Clerk Karen Sweeting and Receiver of Taxes Kathleen Bahr-Seever.

Visitors present were Joan Hamlin, Christine Hamlin, Don Grentzinger, Susan Smith, Sean Cliff, Patricia Hayles, Dottie and Charles Scott, Gary Mault, Pat and Bill Leonard, Aimee Mesiti, Norm GianCursio, Chris Dempsey, Jayne Foose, Yvette Alexander, Jacqueline Davis, Ruby Stettner, David Stettner, Ena L. Farley, Karen and Curt Conklin, Kathleen and Kevin Breiner, Katherine Robertson, Ellen Turrie, Bernie LoBracco, Thomas Mangan, Joseph Murphy, Edward Walker, Carla and Claude Carson, Anita Mault, Cathy White, Joseph Streb, Zach Geiger, Deputy Mayor Bill Andrews, Gail and Colin Martin, Mark Sommer, Sammy Ndiva, Bernice and Jim Lachman, Kevin Johnson, Nancy Harkin, Marla Laney, Betty Jane Laney, Darrell Stuart (?), Village Trustee Katherine Kristansen, Village Trustee Annie Crane, Karen and Ray Gabriel, Sam Simone, Jen Skoog, Hanny Heyen, James Cenci and Kristina Gabalski from the Suburban News. Others were present but did not sign in.

Supervisor Carges waived the reading of the legal notice published in the Town newspaper.

Supervisor Carges presented the 2018 Preliminary Budget. He detailed town services and the changes from 2017. Debt service decreased because bonds were paid off. The tax rate assessed to village parcels is \$2.41 and the tax rate assessed to town outside the village is \$4.73. Mr. Carges shared the tax rate history and felt this budget was right in line with previous years and actually is lower than the rate in 2015. He shared a list of all properties that have exemptions and stated that 47.1% of the total value of property in the Town of Sweden is tax exempt. The presentation included special district tax rates, elected official salaries, bonded indebtedness and the property tax cap formula. The Town of Sweden is \$29,333 under the limit.

Resident Jacqueline Davis, representing the Greater Brockport Development Corporation, pointed out the budget line for culture and recreation and was pleased to live in a place that values services of this type. She asked if a percentage of those funds gets allocated for arts and activities in cooperation with the college and other local municipalities. Supervisor Carges mentioned the Town/Gown meetings where representatives from the college and municipalities get together to plan and promote such events. They are proposing a community calendar.

Resident Tom Mangan read a prepared statement indicating that he felt the PDF version of the budget online was "unusable" and difficult to search. (Full statement on file in the Town Clerk's Office.)

Resident Dave Stettner asked if the budget included the requested increase for the library. Supervisor Carges answered yes – the board agreed with the 2% increase.

Resident Claude Carson noted the tax cap of 1.84% and asked where the Town of Sweden fell within the cap. Finance Director Leisa Strabel explained that the amount is determined by the formula and the Town of Sweden was \$29,333 under the cap.

Resident Bernie LoBracco asked what was included in the Community Center Director Personal Service line of the budget. Supervisor Carges answered several salaries of employees in the recreation department. Finance Director Leisa Strabel added that the youth after-school and lifeguards are paid with funds from a different budget line.

Councilperson Rich stated the Seymour Library had some major repair expenses over the past years – replacement of the roof, windows, AC and heating units, to name a few. They are absorbing these costs themselves. Village Trustee Kathy Kristansen stated that Seymour Library is the only library that is overseen by three municipalities. Supervisor Carges pointed out that the municipalities now have a contract in place and he feels it is an improvement from before. Ms. Kristansen said the formation of a library district should be addressed again.

Resident Jen Skoog asked for an explanation of the budget process and wanted to know if approved at this meeting if the amounts could be changed. Supervisor Carges answered that budget line amounts could be changed by board motion.

No other comments.

Supervisor Carges closed the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk