

At 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Lester called to order a public hearing located at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York on October 25, 2005. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear all persons interested in the budget, in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget for 2006, 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 Buddy Lester, Councilperson Rob Carges, Councilperson Patricia Connors, Councilperson Tom Ferris, and Councilperson Danielle Windus-Cook. Also present were Finance Director Leisa Strabel, Building Inspector Bill Weber, Highway Superintendent Fred Perrine, and Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitors present were Walter Uhrman from 52 Centennial Avenue, Frank Lapinski from 4016 Sweden Walker Road, Ken Moore from 18 Timber Trail, and George Lloyd from 5490 Redman Road.

Supervisor Lester asked Town Clerk Karen Sweeting to read the legal notice published in the Town newspapers. Notice was read.

Supervisor Lester, assisted by Councilperson Rob Carges, presented the Preliminary Budget for 2006. Highlights of the Budget for 2006 as stated by Mr. Lester and Mr. Carges as follows:

- Town of Sweden's fifth year of having a tax base that is assessed at 100 percent of full value, ensuring that every taxpayer is paying their fair share
- Tax base increase is about one half of one percent
- Town is facing several major cost increases, for example, fuel costs, health insurance, and liability insurance
- Revenues virtually unchanged from 2005
- Proposed tax levy is \$1,830,307 – projected tax rate is \$2.32 per thousand in the village and \$4.47 per thousand in the town outside the village
 - Average taxpayer with a \$100,000 house in the village will pay \$9 more in town taxes in 2006 than in 2005
 - Average taxpayer with a \$100,000 house in the town outside the village will pay \$17 more in town taxes in 2006 than in 2005
- Tax rate history over the past five years
 - For someone with a \$100,000 house in the village they will have only paid \$42 more in town taxes in 2006 than in 2002 - \$42 over five years, or an average of \$8.40 per year, or \$.02 per day
 - For someone with a \$100,000 house in the town outside the village they will have only paid \$97 more in town taxes in 2006 than in 2002 - \$97 over five years, or an average of \$19.40 per year, or \$.05 per day
- Smallest share of property tax dollars goes to the Town of Sweden
 - In the village, only 4.9 percent of taxes are for town taxes
 - In the town outside the village, only 11.6 percent of taxes are for town taxes
- New York State Comptrollers Office sets limit on how much a municipality can borrow
 - Towns are allowed to borrow 7 percent of their total assessed valuation.
 - The Town of Sweden is 94 percent **below** what is allowed.
- Financial position of the Town of Sweden is strong

Supervisor Lester asked if anyone would like to place a comment on the record.

George Lloyd from 5490 Redman Road asked about the water district that he applied for several years ago. He stated he only had a ballpark figure of the cost of the district and would like an accurate estimate so he knew the costs they were facing. Mr. Lloyd stated that his neighbors were asking him about the status of the water district. The numbers he had obtained from the file were from years ago and wondered if the Town would consider giving him a "bonafide" estimate.

Supervisor Lester stated that the Town must pay the cost of the engineer, the surveyor, and legal costs to determine whether an area is below the state threshold for formation of a water district extension. If the proposed district is too costly, the money is lost. Mr. Lester stated that the developer for The Woods at Sable Ridge might be able to help out with looping the water district in Mr. Lloyd's area.

Mr. Lloyd stated that he has attended some of the meetings for the development and got the idea that the developer would not complete the water loop for several years.

Supervisor Lester stated that the Town would like to bring water to all areas that want it, but the state sets the limits. The Town has done a study to determine the areas and costs associated with forming water district extensions. The area that Mr. Lloyd is referring to was not one that would be under the state threshold unless an outside source provided some funding.

Mr. Lloyd stated that he would like to get more current numbers for the water district.

Supervisor Lester stated that the developer has mentioned paying for part of the costs for the loop, and with that source of funding, the district may eventually be affordable.

Mr. Lloyd expressed his concern with the time frame in which the developer would be willing to complete the loop.

Supervisor Lester stated that this was an issue outside of the budget. The developer would begin construction at the point closest to a water district for purposes of cost savings. Mr. Lester stated that he would review the numbers with the Highway Superintendent and the Town Engineer to determine if Mr. Lloyd's area would be within the threshold. Mr. Lester asked if there were any other comments relative to the budget for 2006.

Mr. Lloyd asked about the revenues and expenses for the Sweden Clarkson Community Center. He stated that the expenses were more than the revenues and that it costs the taxpayers to run the center.

Councilperson Ferris stated that with the Community Center revenues, it costs less to run than the Senior Center and the Seymour Library.

Frank Lapinski from 4016 Sweden Walker Road commented on the legal notice. He stated that it was misleading because the notice stated "all elected Town Officials" and the three justices salaries were not included.

Finance Director Leisa Strabel stated that by law, the justices' salaries do not have to be published in the notice.

Mr. Lapinski suggested changing the wording of the legal notice.

Supervisor Lester stated that the phrase, "as required by Law" would be considered.

George Lloyd asked how many water districts were outstanding.

Supervisor Lester stated there were none.

Mr. Lloyd asked about the district on Sweden Walker Road, the north section.

Supervisor Lester stated that portion of Sweden Walker Road was not below the threshold, therefore, is not outstanding.

Mr. Lloyd asked about grants to assist with water district formation.

Councilperson Connors stated that, unfortunately, the Town of Sweden has not qualified for any grants to assist in that area.

Supervisor Lester asked Mr. Lloyd if he had any further comments relative to the budget.

Mr. Lloyd stated he did not have any at this time.

Supervisor Lester offered to meet with Mr. Lloyd to discuss any future questions or concerns with the budget.

Ken Moore from 18 Timber Trail wanted to commend and praise the Town Board for their work on the budget. He felt they should be commended for the recreation programs and general frugality. He noted the average cost in tax per house is only approximately \$430 per year. Mr. Moore stated that the town saves him money, for example he saves approximately \$200 per year for refuse/recycling by using the Town's facility over an outside company. Mr. Moore stated that families could use the Community Center for a much lower cost than an athletic club. He feels that the recreation programs are underestimated. The previous recreation organization had problems with facility availability and field availability. Mr. Moore stated that those problems have been solved. He noticed that the revenues are increasing at a higher percentage than the costs. Mr. Moore added that his parents have been able to utilize the facility for a program offered through Preferred Care. This program has improved their health. Mr. Moore also mentioned that the Town has met a need of the younger generation with the construction of the skate park. Mr. Moore requested that the Board continue the good work.

Supervisor Lester, in reference to recreation, wanted to mention that the Town is now taking on the portion of the Village. The tax has shifted from the Village tax bill to the Town tax bill. Mr. Lester thanked Mr. Moore for the kind words.

Supervisor Lester asked if there were any further comments. There were none. Mr. Lester thanked Finance Director Leisa Strabel for all her hard work on the budget. Mr. Lester stated that people don't necessarily welcome change; some tend to get upset at any tax increase, but do not want to give up any services. Mr. Lester thanked the members of the board for their dedication and hard work over the past few months.

Councilperson Carges stated that all members of the Board worked very hard on this budget. Mr. Carges wanted to suggest that the Board consider increasing the budget line for fuel due to the rising costs. He stated that in the past few days the price of fuel has come down a little, but the Town should be prepared for any future increases.

Supervisor Lester thanked the visitors for attending the meeting. The public hearing was closed at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk