

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
PUBLIC HEARING

263

Town Hall

11/9/78

7:47 P.M.

Present: Co. Holbrook, Longo, Maloney, Piacentile
Supervisor Gerber
Murray Jacobson, Town Attorney
Harold Peterson, Comptroller
Stanley Burns, Director of Finance
Patricia Sheridan, Town Clerk

Supervisor Gerber declared the Public Hearing open;
assemblage saluted the Flag.

Supervisor Gerber gave an explanation of the purpose of
the Hearing:

"Ladies and Gentlemen. The purpose of this Public
Hearing is to consider the proposed budget for the fiscal year
1979. The proposed preliminary budget in appropriations is
\$16,903,357.00. This covers all accounts and represents in
appropriations an increase for all accounts of 3.7% over the
final adopted 1978 budget, which total for all accounts
\$16,296,079.00. The budget is made up of a number of accounts.
The general account which covers most town services is approxi-
mately 2.7% over the 1978 budget."

1979 BUDGET

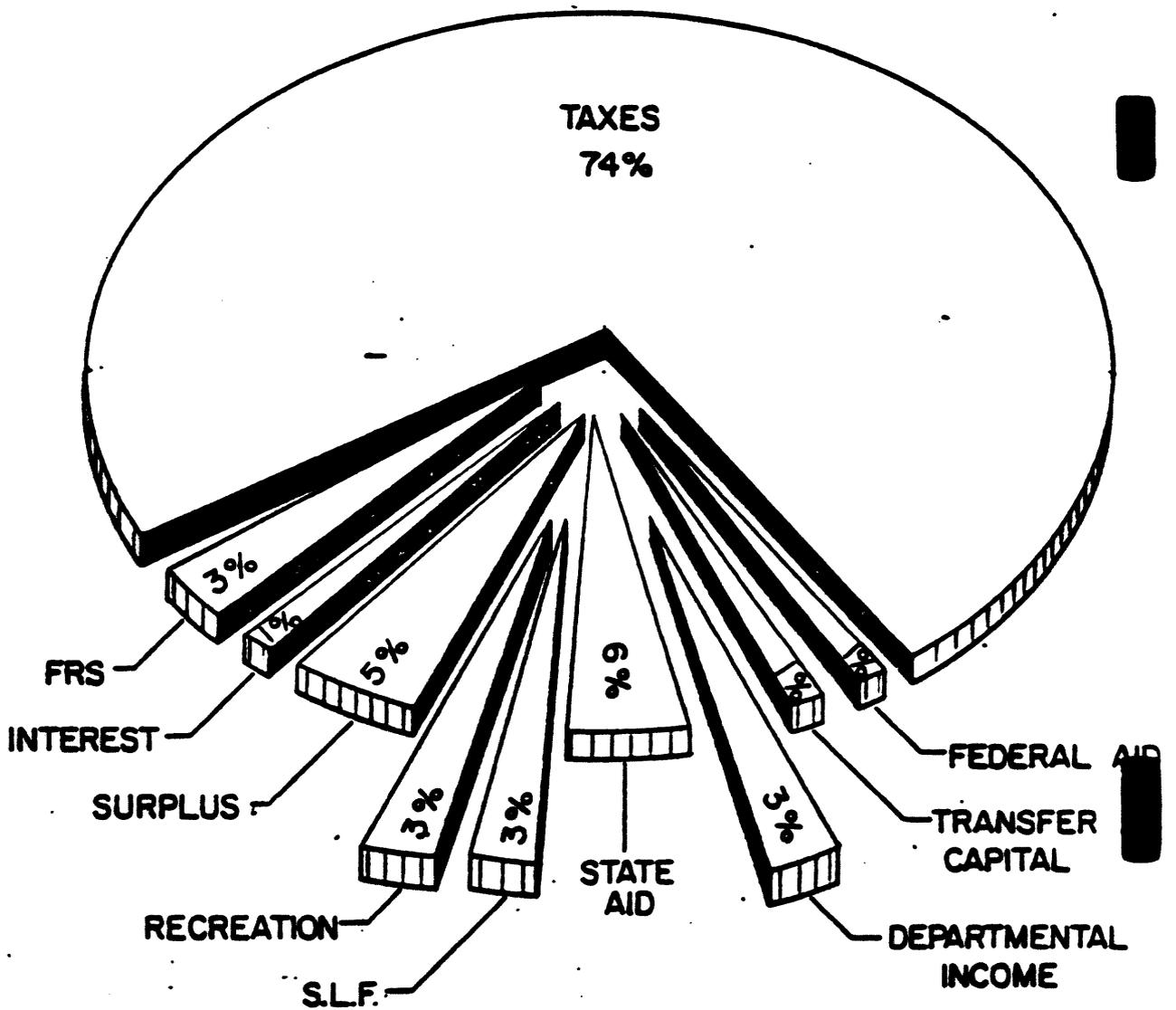
TAXES TO COLLECT

<u>FUND</u>	<u>INCREASE IN \$</u>	<u>FINAL 1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>% INCREASE</u>
A	421,163	6,579,556	7,000,719	6.4%
B	26,725	309,964	336,689	8.6%
D #1	(133,528)	1,593,547	1,460,019	(8.4%)
D #3	15,000	80,000	95,000	18.7%
D #4	30,000	243,000	273,000	12.3%
SEWER #1	326,868	1,302,489	1,629,357	25.1%
SEWER #2	45,000	-0-	45,000	- - -
FIRE	59,750	689,294	749,044	8.7%
LIGHT	170,000	290,000	460,000	58.6%
WATER	75,600	316,000	391,600	23.9%
SPECIAL	216	12,026	12,242	1.8%
	<u>1,036,794</u>	<u>11,415,876</u>	<u>12,452,670</u>	<u>9.1%</u>
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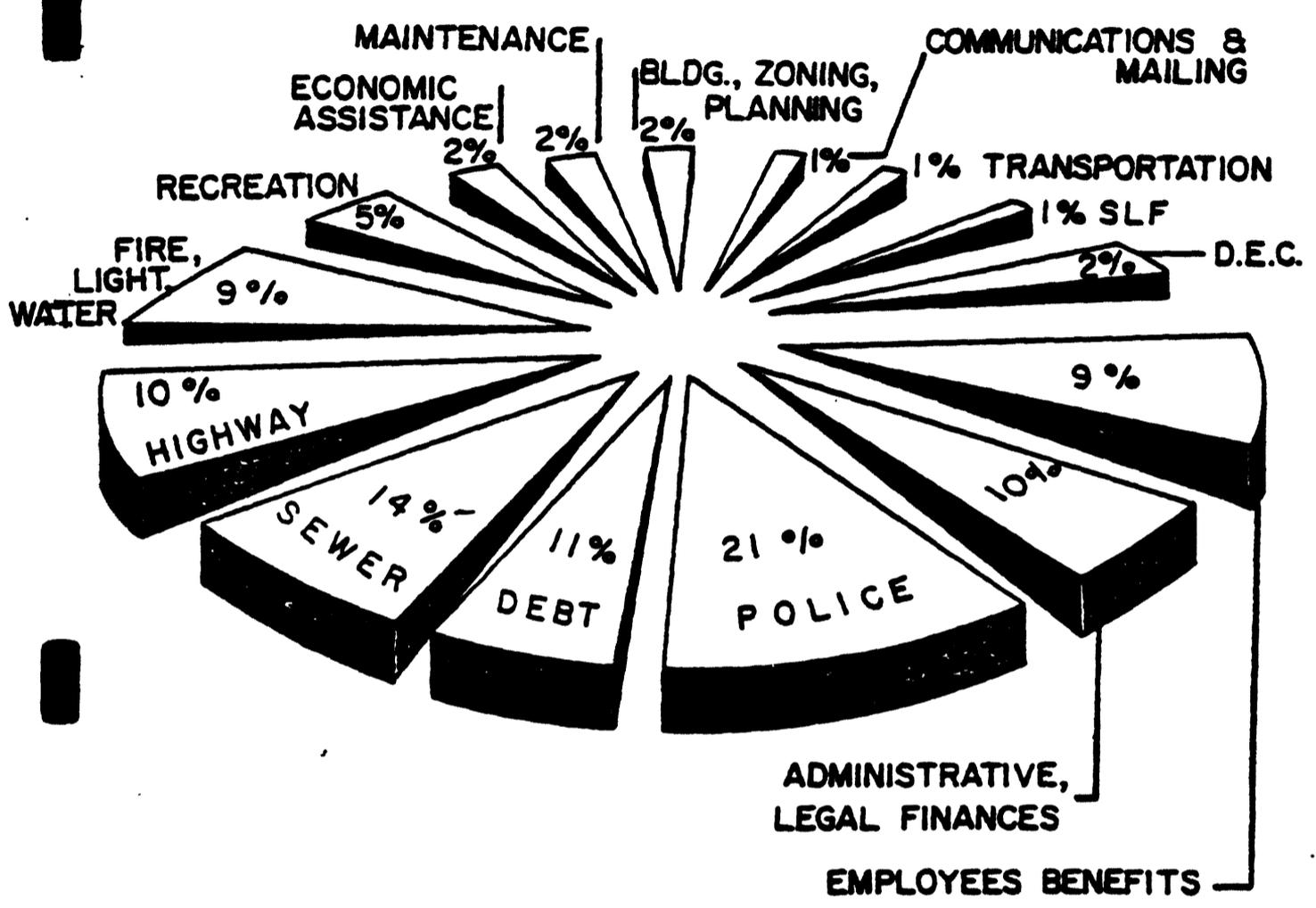
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APPROPRIATIONS

<u>FUND</u>	<u>1978 FINAL</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1979 PROPOSED</u>
A - GENERAL	\$ 10,235,958	2.7%	\$ 10,510,737
B - BLDG., ZONING, PLANNING	533,654	.6%	536,961
D - HIGHWAY	2,110,237	.06%	2,111,563
G - SEWER	2,102,849	1.0%	2,124,357
P - ROAD IMPROVE- MENTS	18,087	5.6%	19,095
S - FIRE, LIGHT, WATER	1,295,294	23.6%	1,600,644
	<u>\$ 16,296,079</u>	<u>3.7%</u>	<u>\$ 16,903,357</u>



REVENUE - 1979



APPROPRIATIONS - 1979

1979 - PER CAPITA APPROPRIATIONS

	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COST PER CAPITA</u>
TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN	73,870	\$15,743,618.00	\$ 213.00
TOWN OF RAMAPO	49,540	13,474,440.00	272.00
TOWN OF ORANGETOWN	38,575	9,567,000.00	248.00

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
PARKS BOARD & RECREATION COMMISSION
1979 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	
7020 ADMINISTRATION	108,472.	22,474.	STATE AID
7141 COMMUNITY CENTERS(2)	155,568.	29,569.	STATE AID
		32,000.	PROGRAM REVENUES
	264,040.	84,043.	
7140 PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS (MAINTENANCE)	158,344.	3,900.	REFRESHMENTS
7180 SWIMMING FACILITIES(3)	193,500.	240,000.	POOLS
	351,844.	243,900.	
7210 REFRESHMENT STANDS(3)	40,100.	40,100.	
7310 YOUTH PROGRAMS	174,500.	160,000.	
7620 ADULT ACTIVITIES	16,119.	17,000.	
	190,619.	177,000.	PROGRAM REVENUES
7610 PROGRAMS FOR AGING (8 CLUBS)	64,400.	2,575.	STATE AID
	911,003.	547,618.	
NET COST	\$363,385.		
SELF SUSTAINING	60.11%		

Mr. Gerber presented a representative tax roll for the fiscal year 1978 using as a basis for the figures, a house assessed at \$64,800.00:

SCHOOL	\$ 1,793.02	57.9%
COUNTY	583.96	18.9%
TOWN	405.00	13.1%
FIRE	73.29	2.4%

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WATER(HYDRANTS)	18.73	.6%
SEWERS	210.18	6.7%
LIGHT	<u>13.67</u>	.4%
	\$ 3,097.85	

Supervisor Gerber mentioned that cards had been given out and starting with Number 1 these people would be heard. All people wishing to be heard will be heard as is their right and privilege. It is the intention of this Board to recognize the right of everyone.

APPEARANCE: Diane Cioffi
22 Kohler Court
Congers, New York

She asked the Board about federal aid with regard to Congers Park. There was no explanation for the item listed as other expense in the Town budget and she wanted to know what these other items were.

Mr. Gerber replied that there was no resolution on the federal grant by this Town Board. Harold Peterson explained that other expenses were broken down in the line by line budget.

Arlene Lundberg
7 First Street
Congers, New York

She wanted an explanation of other expenses in the Police Department Budget, Page 28 and Police Chief George Schnakenberg explained in detail exactly what this encompassed.

Teresa M. Higgins
61 Rolling Ridge Road
New City, New York

She was from the New City Senior Citizens Group, #1. She wanted to thank the Board and Recreation Department for the support the senior citizens have received and hopes it continues.

Dave Fromson
139 Brewery Road
New City, New York

He had a delinquent mortgage notice for two months on his house. People cannot afford to pay the tax anymore and the Town Board should bring in a budget that is 0% increase.

James Lundberg
7 First Street
Congers

The Board was not getting the feeling of the people. There is no more money to pay the tax. There should be a 0% increase in the budget. People should not pay their taxes. He would be the first not to pay.

Mrs. Audrey Davidson
West Street Day Care Center
Spring Valley, New York

She is the Director of the West Street Day Care Center. She said that the Day Care Center serves thirty families from Clarkstown

and they are presently receiving \$1,500.00 from the Town and she would like to see this increased.

Joe Molino
2 Aura Drive
Valley Cottage, New York

He questioned the per capita figure amount of \$213.00 and said it was more like \$350.00. There has to be a cut-off point. People cannot afford to be squeezed anymore and people are being forced out of their homes which they were once able to afford. There should be a 0% budget increase.

J. Cuff
West Nyack, New York

The taxes have kept going up under Mundt, Vines and Gerber. He felt the Senior Citizens were frightened to death to speak out. He remarked that the young people were standing in the back acting like animals because they don't know where the money is coming from. He said that people like himself who are at the top of their level have to speak for those who can't speak for themselves. His message to the Town Board is "Turn things around and make us happy."

John Lodico
2 Birch Lane
New City, New York

If people want services they have to pay for them. There are many special interest groups and they all want their needs attended to. He spoke extensively on the Sanitary Landfill. Federal revenue sharing regarding Congers Lake is a bad idea. It should be supported by local taxes. Government personnel should receive a salary commensurate with their responsibilities.

Shirley Thormann
Gateway
Valley Cottage, New York

She said there should be constructive suggestions for cutting taxes. She had not heard anything about cutting taxes so far and suggested putting out the lights in Clarkstown.

Mary Riley
Nanuet, New York

She said that she appreciated the funds that the Senior Citizens had received in the past and she hoped that they would increase the budget for Senior Citizens.

Clint Toms
3 Campbell Avenue
Suffern, New York

He said that there are thirty children presently being serviced by the West Street Day Care Center at \$50.00 per child and he hoped that the Town would increase their budget to \$2,500.00. He said that the Center serves many by providing services so that parents can work.

G. M. Keating, President
New City Senior Citizens Club, #2
142 North Little Tor Road
New City, New York

He said he wanted to compliment the Board for the Senior Citizens Program and ask them not to cut the budget.

Gertrude Phillips, President
Middlewood Senior Citizens Housing
Middlewood Court
Nanuet, New York

She thanked Mr. Gerber and the Board for all their support for Senior Citizens.

Ruth M. Miller
20 Garrett Avenue
Congers, New York

She is President of the Congers Senior Citizens. She wanted to thank Mr. Gerber and the Board for all that had been done for them and to tell them that she needed more money for a second Senior Citizens Club or else they would have to start turning people away.

Fred Haeger
Valley Cottage, New York

He spoke regarding Camp Venture and requested the budget for that agency not be cut. He requested the Town Board to take the initiative and voice its objections to the increase in utilities and they should let their objections be known to the Governor, the Assembly and the Public Service Commission. He said the budget should be cut only if you are willing to cut services. What is really needed is a new method of taxation. Repeal of property taxes should be accomplished and go to the income tax instead. The salary increase for the Town officials is "peanuts" and elected officials should not be treated differently than other people. He asked the citizens to be fair and just. Salaries should be structured into the system. He was opposed to the percentage increase. He felt each and every employee should be given a set amount not a percentage.

Daniel Cea
132 Congers Road
Congers, New York

He said that Town employees should not use Town cars but should use their own cars and be paid mileage. Town employees are using Town cars for personal use and this should be done away with. He felt that the tax charge should have been based per house not on a per capita basis. He also complained about the Sanitation pick-up and felt it could be run more economically.

Bernard Kleinert
Crab Apple Lane
Nanuet, New York

He spoke in opposition to the Architectural Review Board.

Joseph M. Lang
44 Forest Brook Road
Spring Valley, New York

He said "The Town Board has all your names and addresses and you will be as popular as a skunk at a garden party." The well is dry and the politician is a thick skinned individual. If you haven't gotten the message you're not going to get it. He did not like the answers regarding Congers Lake and the Architectural Review Board. There will be no taxes paid if you don't get the message.

Walter Plotnik
Valley Cottage, New York

He suggested that the Town Board be creative. He said that was why the people elected them and they chose to be elected officials. They are now on the line and it is up to them to come up with something creative. He wants a 0% increase in the budget and is sure it can be done by the Town Board. Clarkstown should show other towns that it can be done. There is always a way to solve a problem.

Rita Feinberg
4 Bob White Lane
West Nyack, New York

She had a question regarding federal funding for our park lands and if the Town has to raise matching funds how will these matching funds be raised?

Grace Braley

She is the Director of the Senior Nutrition Program. She said that the audience was vindictive and rude when the Senior Citizens were speaking. She remarked that Senior Citizens are on a fixed income and need assistance.

Phillip Bosco
2 Short Street
West Nyack, New York

He said it was out of order for Councilmen to take a raise. They have turned over their responsibilities to non-elected boards. He could support a raise for the Supervisor but he objected to his being on the Real Property Tax Commission. The Comptroller's Office should take over the computer service. If the Annual Audit costs \$17,000.00 they should find a new firm. Purchasing Department was a waste of time because departments were running way over their budgets. They should not put on a new Assessor as Mr. D'Antoni should continue to run the Assessor's Office. We should return the data processing service to the County or State instead of having it with an outside firm. He felt switchboard could be incorporated into another department with that department making use of the operator's time when not answering calls. We should be able to get by without contractual fees incurred by the Town Attorney's Office. The Town Attorney should be able to handle all legal matters pertaining to the Town. He felt we should get rid of the in-house cleaners and have a contract for outside cleaning service. We should no longer rent the building on Route 303. The Town should get out of it and put it back on the tax rolls and reassess the building back to its proper assessment. We should put small copy machines in each office instead of having one large xerox room. He suggested cutting the contingency fund. There is a \$400,000.00 surplus in the general fund and it should be used now to lower taxes. Police officers who are out on disability should be brought back on light duty, if possible, or retired to save overtime.

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John McLoughlin
New City, New York

He said that he was twenty-two years old and he wanted to be able to live in Clarkstown when he was fifty-two or sixty-two and not be forced out because of high taxes. Salaries and fees are going up but services are going down.

Ken Weiss
539 North Broadway
Upper Nyack, New York

He discussed waste in Town spending. He questioned why there was not a unanimous vote on raises for the elected officials.

Roy C. Camhi
Valley Cottage, New York

Costs should be held this year and permanently. We all want taxes held. Debt that we have now the elderly created but we must not cut out the elderly from the budget. Cut out Town cars. He does not feel the elected officials deserve a raise. There should be a budget freeze. He wants a 0% budget increase. He said the County is made up of parkland and we should sell it and increase our tax base and get in additional revenues. We should invite light industry in giving them a five to ten year tax abatement.

Edward Lettre
Gail Drive
Nyack, New York

He questioned the federal grants for three park facilities and said that Mr. Longo would not accept federal grants and questioned where the matching funds were coming from. He questioned the Parks Board and Recreation budget and said there should be a 2% cut in the salary account and that the meal account should be cut.

Joseph Pantano
New City, New York

He objected to the budget, salary increases, Recreation as it is now run, feeling it should be put in the hands of private industry. He further objected to taxes and said people should stop paying their taxes because you can't put 30-40% of the Town in jail.

Kevin Dillon
253 Old Haverstraw Road
Congers, New York

He said the Police Department gets \$2.8 million and why do we have park rangers in white cars? He questioned the \$200,000.00 in CETA funds.

Mr. Gerber explained that the Federal Government reimburses the Town for the funds spent for CETA workers.

Warren Marshall
Nanuet, New York

He said that he felt there was a great deal in the budget that could be cut and questioned the pools being only 3-1/2 feet deep because shallow pools cause accidents and we wouldn't need so many lifeguards if the pools were deeper.

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Lou Sangalli
22 Will Rogers Lane
Nanuet, New York

He asked the Supervisor if he had been promised a job by Governor Carey. The Supervisor replied that he had no promise of any job.

Unidentified Speaker

He said he was working two jobs and took the night off in order to attend the Budget Hearing. He is going to continue to take nights off in order to attend more School Board meetings and Town Board meetings and he wants a 0% budget increase.

There being no one further wishing to be heard a motion to close the meeting was made by Councilman Maloney and seconded by Councilman Piacentile. All voted Aye. The meeting was closed at 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sheridan
PATRICIA SHERIDAN,
Town Clerk