

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN

Town Hall

9/30/80

8:10 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Dusanenko  
Councilmen Holbrook, Lettre, Longo, Maloney  
Everett J. Johns, Town Attorney  
Patricia Sheridan, Town Clerk

Supervisor Dusanenko declared the Special Town Board Meeting open; assemblage saluted the Flag.

Supervisor Dusanenko read the following statement:

"COMMENTS RELATING TO THE 1981 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The proposed 1981 Town of Clarkstown budget is a true and accurate picture of the town's past spending habits. Even with severe staff reductions, elimination of programs and reduced service levels, we face a tax increase of 29.2%.

The 1981 budget will reflect salary and benefit increases for all employees. This proposed budget already provides for the elimination of 50 full-time jobs and many more part-time positions and, to restore these cuts would increase taxes to at least 44%.

This administration has and is dedicated to open government and timely payment of debts incurred. Inflation, contract obligations, negotiated increases, debt payments and increased benefit costs have been further aggravated by a reduction of more than 100 federally funded full-time employees, an estimated 10% decrease in per capita federal aid and a New York State decrease of 8%.

About 25% of each of our town tax dollars goes to pay past town debts. To reverse spending policies of the past we need tough policies now. We must make sacrifices and face the realities of cuts in services and streamline government. In some cases we must reduce some of our demands and in others, postpone them. Some may feel that this is too high a sacrifice but I believe there is no alternative. I have reduced many expenses of necessary items yet find some other expenses escalating by 60%.

For example, our highway department plow trucks which are essential to clear our roads of snow this winter has one vehicle in service for 22 years and the average age of all plow vehicles is over 11 years. Previous contract benefits have been bonded rather than placed in operating budgets.

The Town Board will meet throughout October to finalize a budget which must pay for fiscal errors of the past and assume the fiscal responsibilities and needs of the future."

Supervisor Dusanenko then read comments received from John McLaughlin as follows:

"In light of the drastic increases due to bonded indebtedness, contract obligations and employee benefits compounded by reduction of state and federal aid, I feel you should present the following plan at the same time as the budget on Sept. 30, 1980.

Proposed Austerity Plan:

1. Extend Resolution 788-1980 Sept. 23, 1980 into 1981. All requisitions from a 200 Account must be countersigned by the Comptroller and all requisitions from a 300 Account over \$25.00 must be countersigned by the Comptroller. In the absence of the Comptroller, the Director of Finance is authorized to countersign these requisitions.

## 2. Personnel Attrition Plan

Rescind all hiring powers of any town department or agency. This can be accomplished by passing a resolution that once a position is vacant, that job title is considered abolished unless re-created by the Town Board prior to an appointment.

## 3. 1982 Budget Preparation

The 1982 Budget will reflect a 5% reduction in the amount of municipal tax revenues for each department. To maintain or expand services for 1982, each department must increase grant revenues or fees paid for services.

## 4. Spending Limits

Town Comptroller will research and propose caps for Town's bonded indebtedness and taxing limit in January, 1981.

5. Supervisor's Office will conduct an informal taxpayers survey prior to adoption of 1981 Budget to determine which areas of town service the taxpayer would least likely be able to do without in 1981.

## 6. Recommendations for Consolidation of Town Agencies.

- a) Assume Purchasing and Payroll Duties into Comptroller's Dept. Mr. Kohler will become the Town's Purchasing Agent rather than Director of his own department. The Purchasing Dept. will move across the hall from its present location to the Youth Commission Office. Mrs. De Julius should be transferred from Personnel to the Comptroller's office to work on payroll. Mrs. Loeffler and Mrs. Secora will remain in the Personnel Office to continue all present functions. From time to time, Mrs. Secora will be called upon to do payroll in the Comptroller's Department. Mrs. Ceresnak should be transferred to the Comptroller's Department to continue her present duties and help aid the assumption of new duties by the Comptroller's Department.

## 7. Consolidation of Building and Planning into one Department.

## 8. Creation of Dept. of Public Works to assume the following agencies:

Highway Department  
Department of Environmental Control  
Sewer Department  
Sanitary Landfill  
Town Hall Maintenance  
Public Works Administration  
Town Warehouse  
Safety Compliance  
Central Communications  
Mail and Copy  
Mini-Trans  
Town Garage

## 9. Abolish Condominium Information Board.

10. Authorize Supervisor to negotiate for private firm to assume Mini-Trans Service.

11. Install Personnel and Financial Management Information System to obtain accurate information quickly by replacing out-dated manual files with data processing equipment in 1981.

12. Install energy management system on all gasoline pumps the Town operates; at a cost of \$51,300.00.

13. Eliminate Xerox copier and install offset printer and IBM III copier in Mail and Copy office. Recreation Dept. will be responsible for running offset printer.

14. Make Director of Finance and Director of Personnel one position so that the town's ability to pay for added personnel can be analyzed together with Personnel Audit of job duties prior to hiring of more personnel.

15. Supervisor will conduct confidential survey of staffing priorities by department heads.

16. Any overtime with exceptions of situations of emergency nature, affecting health and safety, must be authorized by the Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor in advance."

Supervisor Dusanenko stated that there would be two regularly scheduled meetings of the Town Board in October on October 14, 1980 and October 28, 1980. The Thursday evenings prior to those Town Board meetings will be workshop meetings on October 9, 1980 and October 23, 1980. Two Thursday evenings, the 2nd and 16th of October will be used for budget meetings. The 30th of October will be reserved in case there is need for an additional budget meeting.

Supervisor Dusanenko noted that the picture is one of gloom and there was a 44% increase in the presented budget before the cuts were made. The cuts will not necessarily stay but will be discussed with other Town Board members and department heads. The budget presented this evening represents a 29.2% actual increase and this reflects cuts in personnel in all departments.

Councilman Longo stated that in the past they have always had copies of the budgets which were worked on to bring the budget down to the Tentative Budget. He also stated that a 29.2% budget cannot be presented to the people of the Clarkstown.

Councilman Lettre asked where the department budgets were and said that he wanted them made available.

Councilman Holbrook stated that he felt this was the Supervisor's budget and not the Town Board's budget since there had not been any input from the rest of the Board.

Supervisor Dusanenko noted that all back-up would be available to the councilmen to help them prepare the Preliminary Budget. He again noted that the 2nd and 16th of October would be budget workshops and that the 30th of October would be open in case another budget meeting was necessary.

Department heads will be brought in to explain and discuss their budgets and they will do this on a schedule so it will be handled in an orderly fashion.

Councilman Longo said he will only vote for a 0% increase in the budget. He wanted a copy of the line-by-line, month-by-month budgets for various departments.

Councilman Holbrook suggested that the department heads be scheduled with those requesting the heaviest increases coming in first.

Supervisor Dusanenko said that Highway and Recreation would be in for discussion of their budgets first.

AAJ375

The meeting was adjourned on motion of Councilman Longo,  
seconded by Councilman Maloney and unanimously adopted, time: 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia Sheridan*  
PATRICIA SHERIDAN,  
Town Clerk