

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
PUBLIC HEARING

Town Hall

11/5/81

9:16 P.M.

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

On motion of Councilman Lettre, seconded by Councilman Longo, and unanimously adopted, the Public Hearing on the Budget was declared open. Town Clerk read notice calling Public Hearing and testified as to proper posting and publication.

Dorothy Erard, Comptroller of the Town of Clarkstown gave an explanation of the 1982 Preliminary Budget which is set forth as follows:

1982 BUDGET FACT SHEET

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The 1982 Budget is appropriated as follows:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
General Government	\$ 6,923,584
Public Safety	3,997,420
Transportation	352,612
Economic Assistance and Development/Social Services	166,932
Culture/Recreation	1,268,788
Employees Benefits	2,979,522
Debt Service	2,253,508
Special Districts-Sewer	2,258,535
Special Districts-Fire, Light & Water	2,106,351
Special Assessments	18,273
TOTAL BUDGET	\$22,325,625

CHART NO. 1:

The TOWN'S portion of your tax bill is only 16.74.

CHART NO. 2:

All expenses of the 1982 Budget are categorized to show that 31.44 is for salaries and benefits and 20.24 for Debt Redemption. The remainder is for allocations of contracts, consultants, utilities and necessary equipment and supplies.

CHART NO. 3:

This chart is a finer breakout of all appropriations by funds; the General Fund being 60.34.

CHART NO. 4:

This chart presents a detail statement of Revenue received by the Town. The principal collection is from taxes at 74.34.

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SALARIES

The employees that will earn over \$32,000 in 1982 are as follows:

Department Heads	2
Police Dept.	*19
CSEA	* 1
	<u>22</u>
SUB TOTAL	22
Over \$31,000:	
Police Dept. & CSEA	* 6
Over \$30,000	* 6
Over \$28,000	*57
	<u>91</u>
TOTAL	91

* All of these employees will also receive overtime.

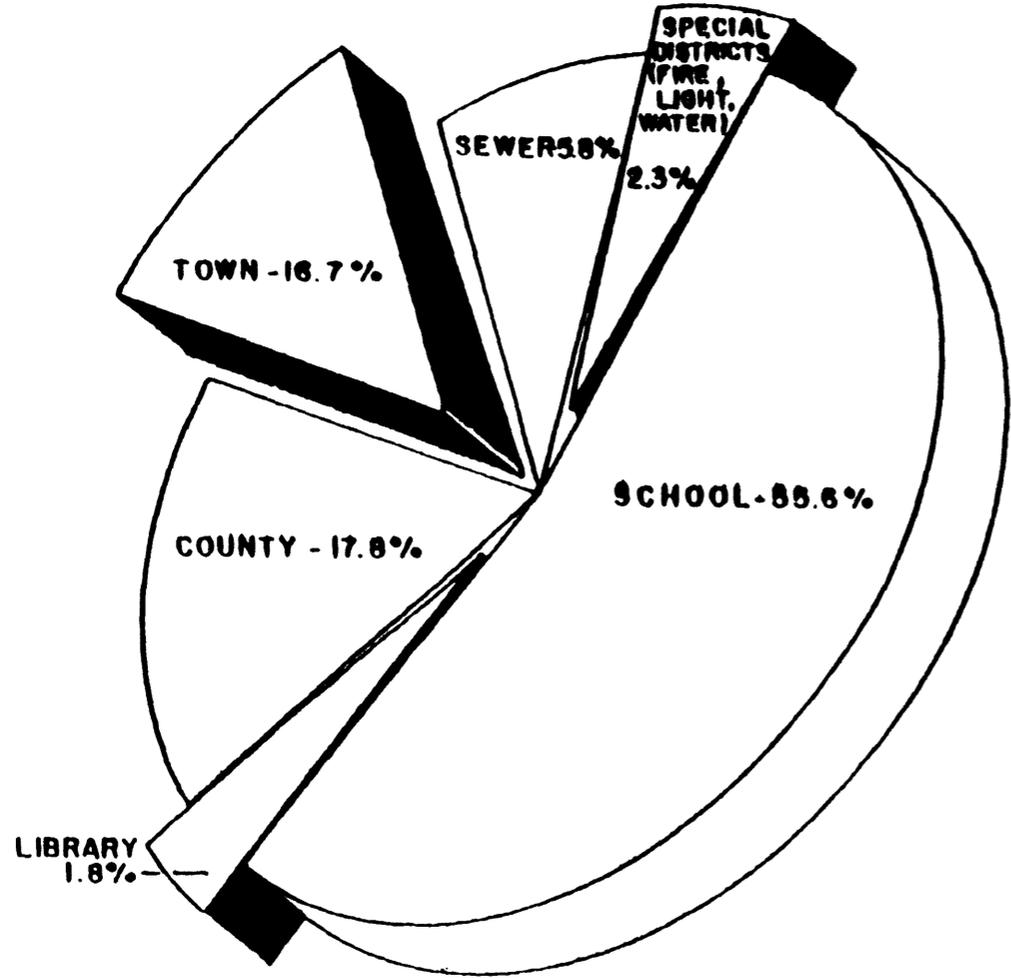
All of the above employees will possibly make more than the Supervisor.

<u>ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
Town Justice	\$18,500	\$18,500
Town Clerk	17,655	24,000
Receiver of Taxes	17,655	19,420
Superintendent of Highways	26,750	30,000
Councilmen	7,500	10,000
Supervisor	32,100	39,900

HOME ASSESSED AT \$50,000 IN NEW CITY

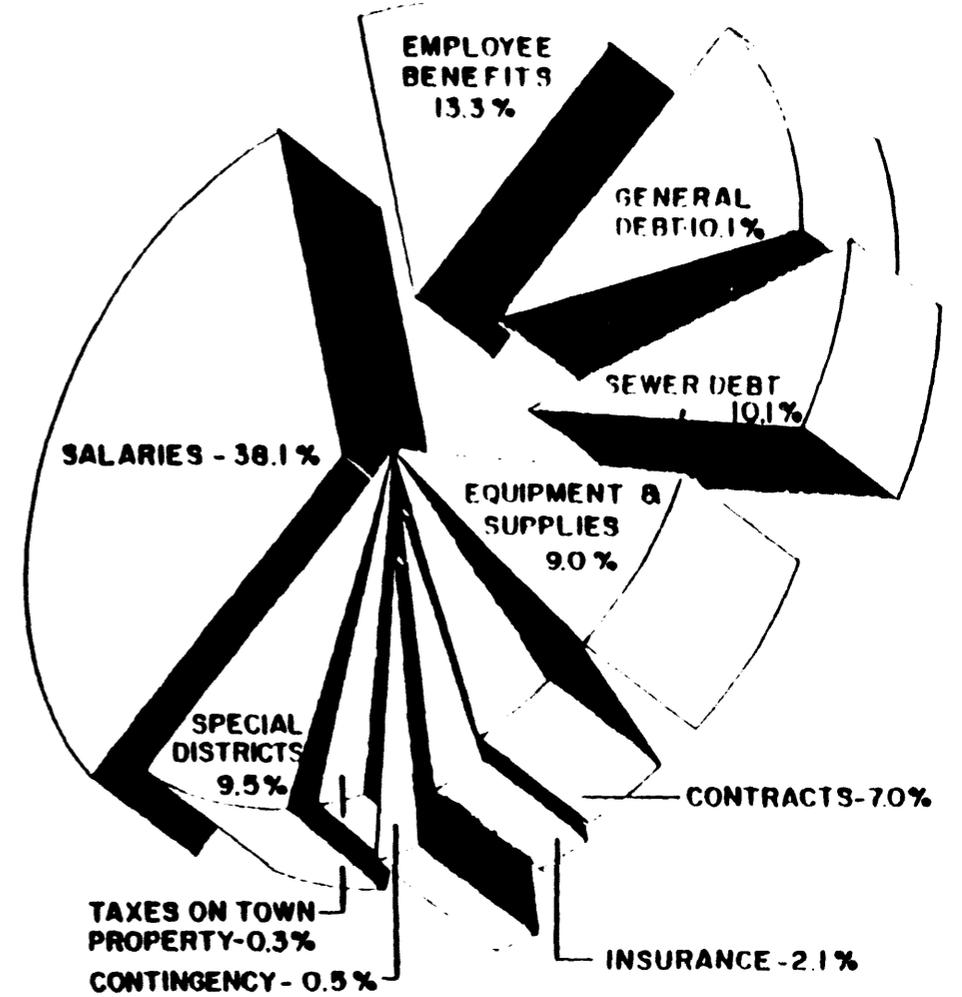
	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
Town Tax	\$435.90	\$457.22
Light	17.50	19.91
Water	20.59	17.63
Sewer	32.93	31.06
Fire	22.32	25.70
	<u>5579.24</u>	<u>5601.52</u>

+ 3.8%

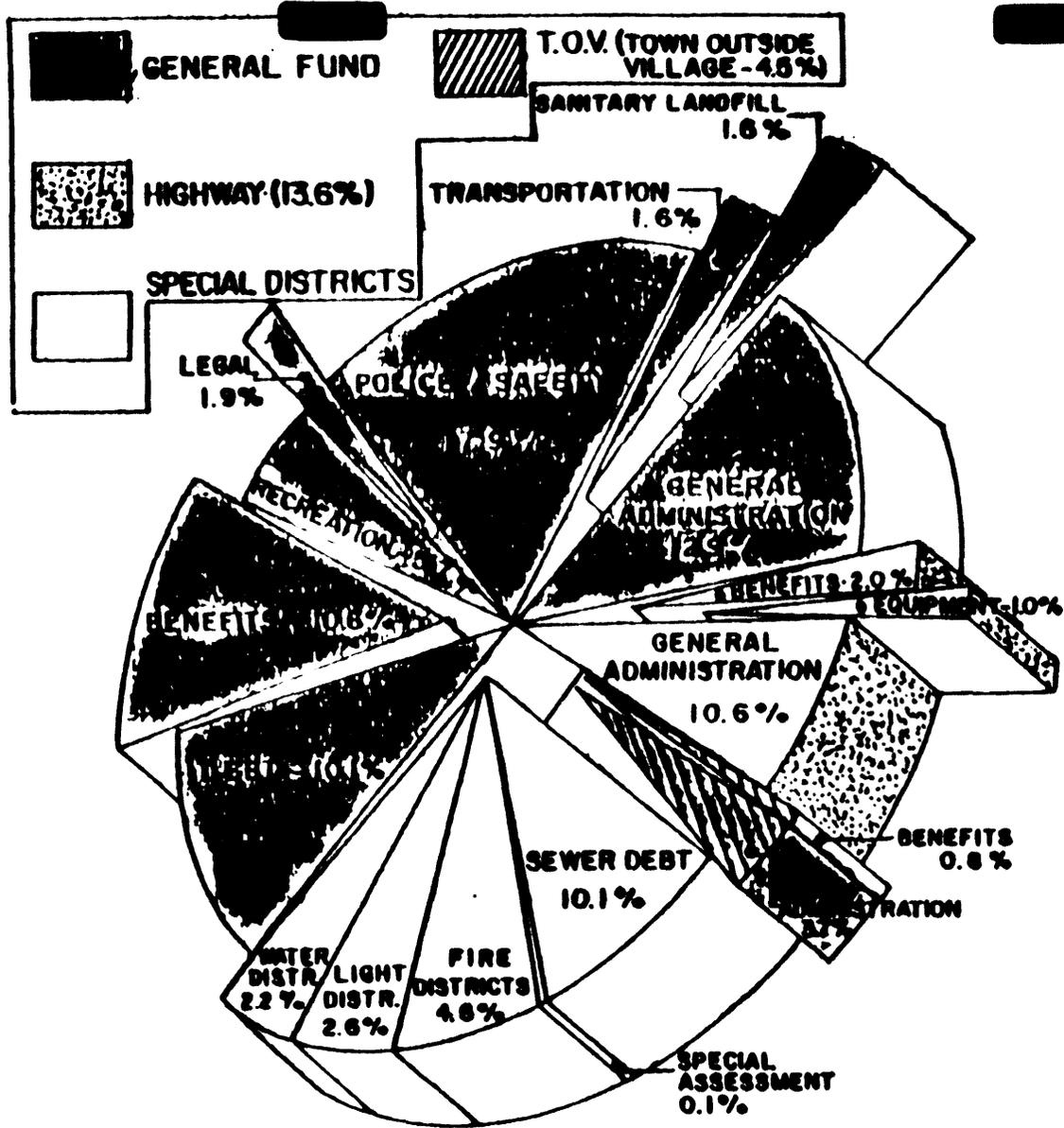


1981 - TOTAL TAXES

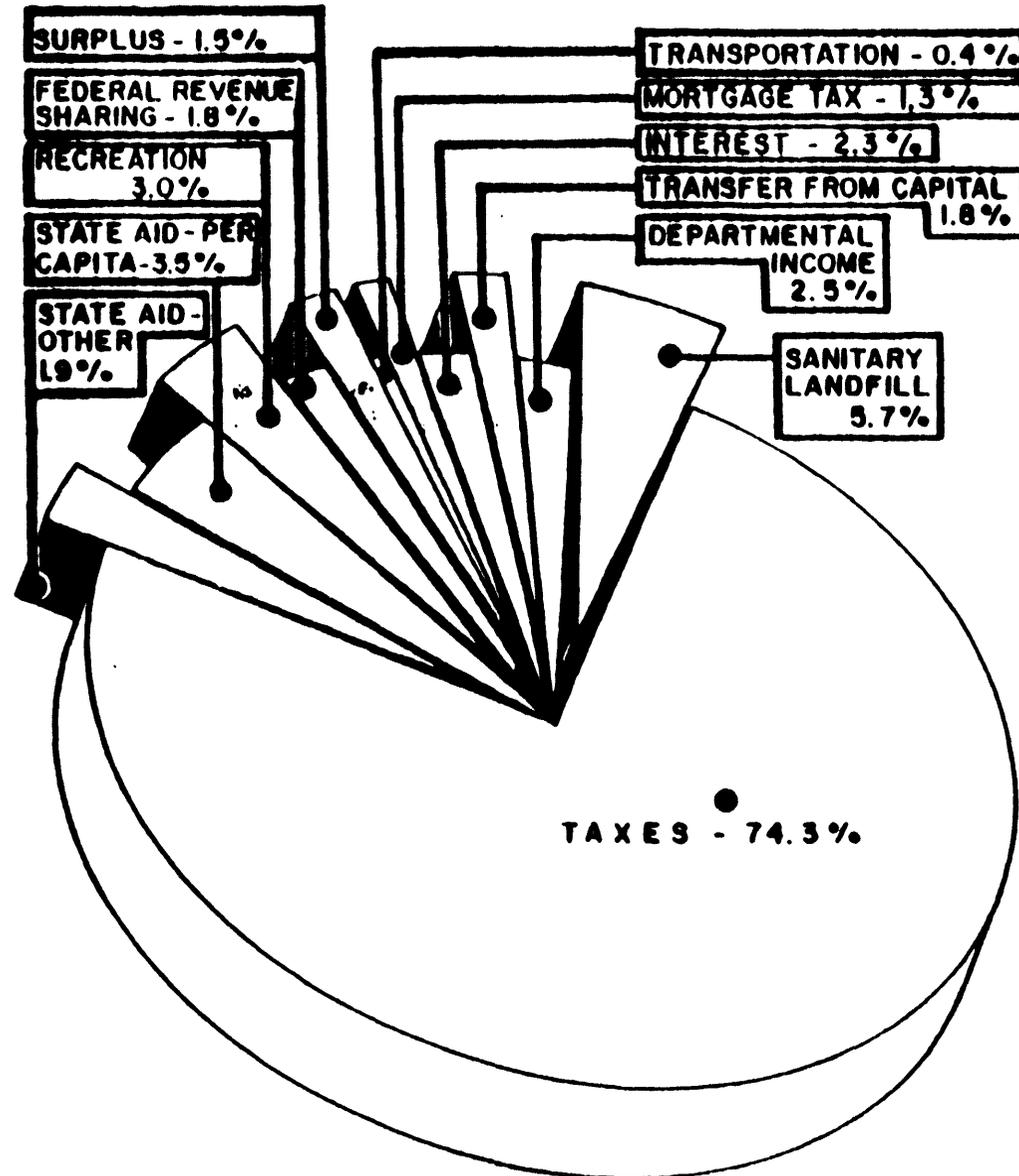
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1982 - APPROPRIATIONS



1982
APPROPRIATIONS · BY · FUND



1982 - REVENUE

Supervisor Dusanenko asked if there was anyone wishing to be heard.

Mr. Fred Hager
Valley Cottage, New York

Mr. Hager spoke regarding crime and vandalism in Clarkstown. Vandalism is tried on a separate level but vandalism is crime. Kings Highway is dark and under the cover of that darkness he has had his gas lamp broken seven or eight times. This time not only the glass but the hardware was broken. Three or four homes have been vandalized recently in the area and he attributes this to the lack of lighting in the area which is totally dark.

The Supervisor said there was \$105,790.00 additional monies in the budget for street lighting and requested that Mr. Hager speak to Les Bollman, Director of Environmental Control regarding the lighting. Supervisor Dusanenko further explained that to have street lights put in would require three out of four of the adjacent homeowners to agree with this request and if that is the case there will be a light put in the area. Mr. Hager also remarked that the safety of the area would be the criteria for putting in lights.

Mrs. Arlene Lundberg

Last year when the Town had a 20% budget the Supervisor stated that this year's budget could not be less than a 9% increase. She said she believed that a surplus existed and that last year's budget was padded in order to come up with such a small increase this year.

Supervisor Dusanenko said that the increase last year was not 20% but 17% and he has no recollection of making any comment, publicly or privately, that there would be a 9% increase.

Councilman Longo said that the 3.8% budget rather than a 9% budget was due to attrition, insurance savings and cars not being taken home.

Michael Kennedy

Off. Kennedy inquired as to whether it was true that there was \$50,000.00 in the 1982 budget for part-time officers. Supervisor Dusanenko said "Yes". Off. Kennedy said that the PBA wanted to go on record as being totally opposed to part-time policemen. The minimum number of required hours necessary to train a policeman is 300 hours. The Clarkstown policemen have 500 hours of training. Police officers in Clarkstown are dedicated to their job and full time policemen are professionals. There are monies for in-service training which is important to the police officers and a part-time officer would be coming from another job and would bring a fatigue factor with him. He wanted to point out to the Board that there would be vicarious liability resulting in law suits being brought against the Town and the officers without proper training. He said the police chief requested an additional 12 men. They have received two. They did need 12 fully trained policemen. He begged the Town Board to rethink this part-time question.

Supervisor Dusanenko said that he has seen full-time policemen on duty as school crossing guards and he felt it was almost criminal to use police officers to handle this when part time police could handle it. He said the chief's request was for five additional officers plus the two who had been appointed - comes to seven not twelve.

Councilman Holbrook said that he thought this should be discussed by the entire Town Board.

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Brian Healy

Off. Healy said that the regular policemen did not want part-time policemen. He questioned where the cars would come from that the part-time policemen would use.

Supervisor Dusanenko said that the Department of Environmental Control and the Building Inspector had cars that would be available in the evenings. Brian Healy said that part-time officers do not belong with professional officers.

James Kfourri

Inquired as to whether there would be a separate frequency on the cars used by those part-time policeman as opposed to the regular officers.

Supervisor Dusanenko said "Yes" but that both regular and part-time police would be able to contact police headquarters in New City.

Charles Barone

Off. Barone stated that those who would be answering the radios could not answer both bands at the same time.

Timothy O'Neill

Off. O'Neill inquired as to whether part-time men would be considered full fledged officers with guns, badges, etc. working less than forty (40) hours per week.

Supervisor Dusanenko said that this had not yet been determined. These positions have not been created by the County Personnel as yet.

John Cuff

Mr. Cuff stated that he was a member of the Organized Taxpayers. He said that during 1980-1981 school year \$90,000.00 was used to correct vandalism in our schools. He also said that the Preliminary Budget was 107 pages and he found it difficult to understand as he felt most average citizens would. He suggested that the Town Board look into creating a Citizens' Advisory Committee as it had worked well on the school level. He commented that there were healthy increases for elected officials. He felt the percentage was way out of line. He requested that the increases asked for be cut in half.

John Lodico

Mr. Lodico spoke with regard to Officer Kennedy's statement about part-time officers being fatigued if they were to come from their jobs to work as part-time officers but, he said, how many policeman now have two jobs? He suggested that the \$50,000.00 in the budget for part-time officers be spent on equipment and training and commented that the Clarkstown Police were the second highest paid in the United States. He recommended no raises for the next two or three years.

Mr. Lodico said he did feel that they should have more sophisticated equipment and training and the regular policemen should not be used as crossing guards. They should be taken out of the offices and put back on the streets. He questioned just what is a professional police officer - they go from 5th class to 1st class but they do not have to pass any qualifying tests. Standards should be set up which would make them qualify before they go from one level to the next. The Town should pay for their college training.

Mr. Lodico also said that the buying back of sick time must end or it will bankrupt the Town. The sick time accrued each year should be kept track of and they should be paid at the rate for that year and not the current rate as long as the practice is being continued.

Mr. Lodico said that as far as objections to the salary increases he did not object but we are gagging on a gnat and swallowing an elephant.

Supervisor Dusanenko explained that the County was picking up the training costs and that the Town had to pay the salary of an officer for fourteen weeks while he was in training. He felt it was for this reason it was an advantage to hire from other areas because the men were already trained.

Jerry Flemming

Off. Flemming spoke regarding firearm training and said that it was inadequate.

Rita Sakowitz

Mrs. Sakowitz stated that she remembers that Recreation's budget was about \$700.00 twenty-one years ago when she moved to this Town.

Councilman Holbrook said that in the 19th century the Town Board met only once in each year. You cannot compare years ago to today.

Councilman Lettre said that he used to think the way Mrs. Sakowitz does but that Mr. Ghiazza is a top administrator and provides wonderful services for our old and our young in the Town.

Mrs. Sakowitz said that there are ninety-one employees earning over \$28,000.00 and she wanted a list of those employees.

The Comptroller said she would provide a list of the positions without names for her.

Councilman Holbrook stated that in order to keep qualified people you have to pay them.

Mrs. Sakowitz stated that Recreation should be a self-sustaining program and that employees should use their own cars as opposed to Town cars.

Councilman Longo explained that Recreation cannot be self-sustaining since we accept Federal funds and we must meet those funds.

Tony Cea

Mr. Cea inquired as to the salary received by the Superintendent of Recreation and his associate. He further stated that School Board Members serve without compensation and questioned the increases requested by the elected officials. He recommended building in a certain percentage as an annual increase.

Dr. Arthur Lipovsky

Dr. Lipovsky said that he had served on the Vandalism Committee and he is happy to see that at least on the Town's part some of the recommendations are being implemented. He also urged spending more money

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where human beings are involved and questioned why when budgets are cut and money is taken away it seems always to be taken away from children. He said more support services are needed and praised the Town Board for its efforts. He questioned why the newspapers had failed to make any mention of the Youth Court in Clarkstown. He said he was in favor of more services for senior citizens and children.

Bill Stein

Mr. Stein said that Resolution #333 calling for a Public Hearing was a masterpiece in deception. He supported the salary increase for the Supervisor because he felt the position called for at least that much. He was in favor of \$10,000.00 for the Councilmen and recommended \$22,000.00 for the Town Clerk. Mr. Stein also made further recommendations regarding bid contracts.

Martin Bernstein

The budget is prepared in advance and the Public Hearing really should be held before election. In this way the people could act as the negotiating committee for the elected officials running for office.

Martus Granirer

Mr. Granirer spoke to using a \$50,000.00 house to explain the tax base when an \$80,000.00 house would be more realistic. He felt this should be revised upward.

There being no one further wishing to be heard on motion of Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Longo and unanimously adopted, the Public Hearing was declared closed, DECISION RESERVED, time: 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sheridan
PATRICIA SHERIDAN,
Town Clerk