

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town Hall

9/23/82

8:03 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Dusanenko
Councilmen Carey, Holbrook, Lettre, Maloney
John J. Costa, Town Attorney
Patricia Sheridan, Town Clerk

PRESENTATION OF 1983 BUDGET

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

Supervisor explained the purpose of this special meeting was to present the Supervisor's Tentative Budget for 1983 to meet legal requirements. He also said that hopefully between now and sometime next week they would be able to set up a schedule which will be mutually convenient for everyone to have Town Board input and also to handle requests from department heads.

Supervisor Dusanenko read the following prepared statement:

"September 23, 1982

SUPERVISOR'S 1983 TENTATIVE BUDGET

THIS SUPERVISOR'S BUDGET IS THE CULMINATION OF MANY MONTHS OF REVIEW AND INVOLVEMENT BY THE DEDICATED STAFFS OF THE SUPERVISOR'S AND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICES. SPECIAL THANKS MUST BE EXTENDED TO OUR TOWN'S COMPTROLLER, DOROTHY ERARD, AND ROBERT HOFFMAN, THE TOWN'S DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. WITH THEIR ASSISTANCE I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INTRODUCE NEW BUDGET MANAGEMENT CONTROLS ON AN ONGOING BASIS. THE STAFF OF THE SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE AND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE HAVE CONSISTENTLY PROVIDED ME WITH THE ESSENTIAL BACKUP NECESSARY FOR PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN JANUARY OF 1980, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE TOWN. MY PHILOSOPHY OF PAY AS YOU GO HAS RESULTED IN AN APPROXIMATE REDUCTION OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN BONDED INDEBTEDNESS. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS AN INCREASED SENSITIVITY THAT HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE TOWN BOARD TO REPLACE AND REPAIR NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS OVERHAUL OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS HAVE RESULTED IN MAXIMIZATION OF REVENUES AND STABILIZATION OF TAXES. OUR UNANIMOUS EFFORTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RATABLES HAS NOT ONLY PROVIDED CONSTRUCTION JOBS BUT HAS ABSORBED MUCH OF OUR UNEMPLOYED AND ADDED TO OUR TAX BASE. MAKING CLARKSTOWN RUN IN A MORE BUSINESSLIKE MANNER IS AN ONGOING EFFORT TO MAKE CLARKSTOWN A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY.

AS WE ARE ALL AWARE, RESPONSIBLE ELECTED OFFICIALS MUST MAKE POLITICALLY UNPOPULAR DECISIONS THAT ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY. MANY OF THESE DECISIONS DEMAND A SACRIFICE ON THE PART OF THE DECISION MAKERS, AS WELL AS THEIR CONSTITUTENTS. IN THIS REGARD, LONG AND SHORT TERM PLANNING FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF A COMMUNITY, ALTHOUGH OFTEN NOT VISIBLE, MUST BE PROVIDED FOR. WITHOUT A WELL MAINTAINED INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMERCE AND SAFETY WOULD DECREASE DRASTICALLY.

THIS SUPERVISOR'S BUDGET IS A PROFESSIONAL NON-POLITICAL DOCUMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR THE ESSENTIAL DAY TO DAY SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN FOR 1983. THIS BUDGET PROVIDES FOR THE DRASTIC INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY, WHICH OUR PUBLIC UTILITIES HAVE PASSED ON TO THE TOWN. THIS SUPERVISOR'S BUDGET ALSO PROVIDES FOR OUR NEW LABOR AGREEMENT WITH THE CLARKSTOWN PBA. THIS

Continued on Next Page

DOCUMENT WILL INCREASE THE TOWN TAX BY 2.5%, WHICH IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE COST OF LIVING AND INFLATION WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING AT OVER 7%. THIS MEANS THAT A HOME IN CLARKSTOWN WHICH IS PAYING ALMOST 92¢ PER HUNDRED COLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUATION, WILL NOW BE PAYING LESS THAN 94¢ PER HUNDRED DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUATION. IN ADDITION, THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OF TOWN TAX AND ALL SPECIAL DISTRICTS, SUCH AS FIRE, LIGHT, WATER, (SEWER AND ROAD) IMPROVEMENTS, WILL INCREASE THE TOTAL TAX BILL ON THIS REPRESENTATIVE HOME BY ABOUT 4.1%.

THE 1982 ADOPTED BUDGET PROVIDED \$22,476,615. FOR TOTAL OPERATION OF TOWN FUNCTIONS AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS. THE 1983 PROPOSED SUPERVISOR'S BUDGET CALL FOR \$24,488,513. FOR THE TOTAL OPERATION OF THE TOWN AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS. ALTHOUGH THE BUDGET PROJECTS THAT SPENDING WILL RISE BY APPROXIMATELY 9.2%, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THE TOWN TAX INCREASE LOW BY EMPLOYING VARIOUS COST-SAVING METHODS. SOME OF THESE METHODS ARE:

1. RIGOROUS SCRUTINIZATION OF FORMER SPENDING POLICIES OF THE TOWN.
2. WE HAVE MAXIMIZED INTEREST INCOME ON TOWN FUNDS.
3. WE HAVE VIROGOUSLY ADUITED CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS SUBMITTED BY UTILITIES, INSURANCE CARRIERS AND OTHER VENDORS.
4. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE WHAT IS NORMALLY CONSIDERED FIXED-COST ITEMS, SUCH AS INSURANCE, by 23%."

(At this point the Supervisor mentioned that there would be presented the Comptroller's Report for figures in the various funds.)

"IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE TOWN BOARD WILL CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE THIS SUPERVISOR'S TENTATIVE BUDGET AND PROVIDE ME AND THE FISCAL STAFF WITH INPUT SO THAT ADJUSTMENTS CAN BE MADE. I WOULD LIKE TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE BUDGET ON THE 27th OF OCTOBER, WHICH IS PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY COLLEAGUES ON THE TOWN BOARD AND EAGERLY AWAIT THEIR INPUT INTO THIS DOCUMENT SO THAT, BY THE END OF OCTOBER, THE RESIDENTS OF CLARKSTOWN WILL KNOW WHAT THE TOWN WILL SPEND FOR 1983.

/s/ THEODORE R. DUSANENKO
THEODORE R. DUSANENKO, Supervisor and
County Legislator"

Supervisor Dusanenko said that this year a different format has been used for the budget which will make it easier for ourselves. This looseleaf folder will make it easier to replace pages later on.

Mrs. Dorothy Erard, Town Comptroller, then read her statement as follows:

1983
TENTATIVE BUDGET
SEPTEMBER 23, 1982.

The 1983 Tentative Budget, as presented, represents a total package of \$24,488,513.

The analysis that follows illustrates the 1983 Budget by appropriations, revenues, a comparison of 1982 and 1983 Budgets and finally Tax Rates.

Within the appropriations a fund breakout will enable the reader to understand the reason for increases and decreases by General Fund, Town Outside Village Fund, etc. Revenues have been combined to ascertain the types of revenues to be received by the Town for 1983.

The comparison of 1982 vs. 1983 combines funds into specific objects to explain that the majority of the expenditures are mandated by contract or law.

The Town Tax Rate based on this Tentative Budget is an increase of 2.5 percent.

Fund	APPROPRIATIONS		
	1983	1982	Difference
General	\$15,234,445	\$13,950,697	+ 9.2%
Town Outside Village	1,050,832	1,003,317	+ 4.7%
Highway	3,392,813	3,073,342	+10.4%
Sewer	2,148,554	2,358,635	- 4.9%
Light	756,000	580,000	+30.3%
Water	800,000	501,500	+59.5%
Fire	1,090,654	1,031,851	+ 5.7%
Special Assessments	15,215	18,273	-16.7%
TOTALS	\$24,488,513	\$22,417,615	+ 9/2%

GENERAL FUND

The increase in the General Fund is attributable primarily to salary increases and employee benefits as mandated by union contracts. A sharp increase in rates imposed by utility companies has also contributed.

Debt service for 1983 has decreased by \$37,049. In 1982 Debt service was 20.1% of the entire budget while for 1983 it has been lowered to 18.4%.

Liability Insurance has been decreased by \$84,015 or 29%.

TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE

An increase of \$47,515 for this fund is mostly due to salaries and benefits. A decrease is also seen in Liability Insurance.

HIGHWAY

An increase of \$319,471 is comprised of the following:

- \$15,141 - Salaries and benefits
- 138,500 - Materials to maintain and improve the town roads
- 26,050 - Outside services
- 60,000 - To repay the Capital Fund as per recent audit report

Liability insurance has been decreased by \$20,220.

SEWER FUND

This fund is comprised of debt service for MBSIA #1 and MBSIA #2 and is paid according to a schedule.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

These are road improvements that have been in existence and no streets have been added for 1983.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

There are three Special Districts Funds.

(1) Lights - This fund services street lighting throughout the entire town. The entire increase is due to a rate increase imposed in 1982 for electric and an anticipated increase for 1983 as projected by Orange & Rockland Utilities.

(2) Water - This Special District Fund provides fire hydrants for specific districts, the largest being the Consolidated Water District. An increase in the Consolidated Water District is due to an increase of 31% in 1982 (which was unanticipated by Spring Valley Water Co.) and an additional 20% for 1983.

(3) Fire - The districts budgets are presented to the town for collection purposes only. The town has no jurisdiction to make any modifications.

REVENUE

The 1983 Revenue is broken out as follows:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Taxes	\$17,657,752	\$16,748,478	+ 5.4%
Landfill	1,187,041	1,267,142	- 6.7%
Departmental Income	681,200	623,743	+ 9.2%
Transfer from Capital Fund (and other)	489,475	385,000	+27.1%
Interest	787,000	523,000	+50.5%
Mortgage Tax	300,000	300,000	0.0%
Transportation	87,000	87,000	0.0%
Surplus	876,000	328,000	+167.1%
Federal Revenue Sharing	415,000	400,000	+ 3.8%
Recreation	674,680	674,230	0.0%
State Aid-Per Capita	953,520	781,516	+22.0%
State Aid-Other	379,845	299,506	+26.8%
TOTALS	\$24,488,513	\$22,417,615	

COMPARISON OF 1982 FINAL BUDGET VS. 1983 TENTATIVE BUDGET

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Salaries	\$ 9,297,905	\$ 8,528,380	+ 9.0%
Benefits	3,156,120	2,979,522	+ 5.9%
Debt Service ¹	4,497,842	4,534,891	- .8%
Equipment	611,045	506,485	+20.6%
Supplies	1,784,510	1,578,685	+13.0%
Contractual (general)	1,799,962	1,548,743	+16.2%
Contractual (Street lights)	738,000	580,000	+27.2%
Contractual (Water)	800,000	501,500	+59.5%
Insurance	355,000	462,558	-23.3%
Taxes & Contingency	168,000	165,000	+ 1.8%
Transfers	189,475	-0-	+100.0%
Fire	1,090,654	1,031,851	+ 5.7%
TOTALS	\$24,488,513	\$22,417,615	+ 9.2%

¹ Sewer \$2,148,554 - 8.8
General 2,334,073 - 9.5
Special
Assessment 15,215 - .1

Continued on Next Page

TAX RATES

Using the 1983 Tentative Budget as presented, the Town tax rate would increase by 2.5%. The largest increases are in the categories of Street lights (28.1%) and Water Districts (85.5%).

The rates for fire districts vary according to the location within the Town. Two of the nine districts will experience a decrease.

The overall tax increase for a home in Clarkstown (New City Fire District) would be 4.1%.

SUMMARY

The 1983 Tentative Budget, as presented, will be a viable budget allowing for all contract salary increases, ongoing services and existing programs. Appropriations have been included to provide a new community center for Clarkstown at the Street School location.

The Revenue accounts in this 1983 Tentative Budget are realistic projections based on the recommendations of both Department Heads and outside agencies. This would include Federal Revenue Sharing, State Revenue Sharing and anticipated grants.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dorothy Erard

Dorothy Erard
Comptroller/Budget Officer

TAX RATE COMPARISON

(Figures computed on a \$50,000 Assessed Valuation in New City)

	1982 RATES	1983 RATES	1982	1983	Difference	Percentage
Town Tax	.918461	.9362416	\$457.22	\$468.12	+ \$10.90	2.5%
Light	.0396516	.0510196	19.91	25.51	+ 5.60	28.1%
Water	.0442895	.0654097	17.63	32.70	+ 15.07	85.5%
Sewer	.0759 A.V. .2278 F.F. 20.07 Unit	.0737564 A.V. .2233 F.F. 19.66 Unit	81.06	78.87	- 2.19	(2.8%)
New City Fire	.05122746	.0417493	<u>25.64</u>	<u>20.87</u>	<u>- 4.77</u>	<u>(18.6%)</u>
TOTALS			\$601.46	\$626.07	+ \$24.61	4.1%

Supervisor Dusaenenko again thanked Mrs. Erard, Mr. Hoffman and the staffs of both the Comptroller's Office and the Supervisor's Office. He approved of the way the budget was printed. He said he would like to work in a spirit of cooperation with the Councilmen to make as few changes as possible. He asked for their input and if they felt that any of the figures had been overestimated we'd like to have that input also.

Supervisor Dusanenko said the policemen were given a 4-1/4% increase yet the cost to the Town is less than 6-3/4% of actual dollars each year. We were able to resolve it without having problems with morale

and utilizing staff in the Town Attorney's office, the Comptroller's Office and my office as has been done in the past for sometimes as much as seventeen prolonged months of agony.

He said that they would discuss later on when they could meet for modifications in the budget.

There followed a distribution of the Audit Report which the Supervisor said could be discussed at the same time as the budget. Mrs. Erard said these had been delayed because the auditor was in the hospital.

There being no further business to come before the Special Town Board Meeting, on motion of Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Carey and unanimously adopted, the Special Town Board Meeting was declared closed, time: 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sheridan
PATRICIA SHERIDAN,
Town Clerk