

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
BUDGET HEARING

Town Hall

11/14/85

8:05 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Dusanenko
Councilmen Carey, Holbrook, Maloney
Lettre arrived 8:15 P.M.
John Costa, Town Attorney
Patricia Sheridan, Town Clerk

Supervisor opened Budget Hearing. Assemblage saluted the Flag.

Supervisor explained that this meeting had originally been scheduled prior to Election Day but due to the unfortunate death of Mr. Eugene Grogan, the then Deputy Supervisor, there were various memorial services held and this meeting was opened and recessed until this evening.

Town Clerk read the legal notice calling Budget Hearing.

Supervisor explained that this was really a hearing on the Preliminary Budget which is actually in fact the Tentative Budget, for the record. Mr. Profenna said is that the one that was filed on September 30, 1985? Supervisor said yes and the one that was delivered to his office this evening designated as 1986 Preliminary Budget with the changes made by the Councilmen last night is really misnamed and that should be potential amendments to the Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor opened the meeting to the public.

Appearance: Mr. David Fromson
139 Brewery Road
New City, New York 10956

Mr. Fromson questioned the use of "Adopted Budget" and Supervisor explained the outline of the budget.

Mr. Tirino, Budget Officer said he took exception to the Town Board presenting a budget to the public at the last minute that was not made available prior to today for the public to examine. He said it was unethical, if not illegal, to call a hearing on a document different from the one that was announced in the newspapers three weeks ago. The budget of three weeks ago should be the starting point for discussion tonight because that is the budget submitted by the Supervisor and the one the public has had the opportunity to examine. He said the numbers in the later budget are different by \$1,200,000.00. He said in his opinion it was not legal or proper.

Councilman Lettre arrived at this point.

Mr. Fromson and the Supervisor then discussed early retirement possibilities and police department figures. The raise in salary for the Supervisor and Councilmen was also discussed.

Appearance: Mr. Eugene Forest
Nanuet, New York 10954

Mr. Forest expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that he did not know what the Town Board was discussing because he or anyone else in the audience did not have the figures. He was told that the budget had been available for inspection in the Town Clerk's office since October 3rd. He wanted a line by line discussion of the changes.

Supervisor said in all other years the Town Supervisor filed a Tentative Budget after which there were changes made with all members of the Town Board and a vote was taken on what was

Continued on Next Page

called the Preliminary Budget. That budget in all previous five years had the benefit of adjustments to the Supervisor's Budget and that was the document which was published. Subsequent to that Budget Hearing whenever it was various other changes were made and further adjustments were made to the budget. This year we are having a legal Public Hearing on the Supervisor's or Tentative Budget without benefit of any updates other than the raising of salaries, the input given by Town Board resolution by the Councilmen. Mr. Forest said he wanted to hear line by line discussion of the changes in the budget.

Councilman Lettre said in the past the Supervisor presented to the public, to the media and to the Town Board a budget prepared by the Supervisor on his own with the Budget Officer and with input from Department Heads known as the Tentative Budget. Supervisor said that was correct. Councilman Lettre said that document was presented to the Town Board. The Town Board subsequently met and had meetings open to the public, to the media and open to anyone else interested. Supervisor said that was correct. People gave their input, Town Board members listened, made comments and recommendations but no formal vote was taken. There was never any formal votes taken in the past. The only thing that was done was for the Supervisor's benefit and you asked if there was a consensus of opinion of people to possibly make changes for a final budget.

Supervisor said previous budget notes show that votes were taken where a majority of councilmen last year had agreed on a particular change. There was a consensus. Some of those budget considerations occurred outside of this building. Councilman Lettre said those votes were informal votes which had absolutely no legal bearing because they were not taken at any legally called meeting. Those votes were taken by the Supervisor so that he could know if there was a consensus of opinion, plain and simple.

Supervisor said whether we differ on whether it was a consensus or a formal vote the document that was eventually published and the legal notice which was eventually published as a requirement of law in the Journal News was never, ever the Supervisor's Tentative Budget or the Supervisor's Budget. It was always that which had the benefit of all of the input of either the consensus or vote of the Councilmen. That is not the case this year for the record.

Councilman Lettre said only because in the past the Supervisor chose to take a consensus of opinion and have that budget printed up and published for the Journal News. This year for whatever reason you chose not to take a consensus, an informal consensus and print that. You chose to print and publish your (the Supervisor's) Tentative Budget for whatever reasons and present it to the public and then have a dialogue on that budget. Councilman Lettre said we are here to hear the public and see if there is anything valid to be said that would enhance this budget to make it something more beneficial to the Town of Clarkstown.

Supervisor said he did not raise the question but a member of the public did and he was only clarifying their question. Councilman Lettre said the Supervisor was clarifying his (the Supervisor's) opinion of the question.

Mr. Forest said he wanted a line by line discussion of the changes and if the Board voted on the changes without the public hearing them it was taxation without representation.

Councilman Holbrook said with regard to the budget as published and the proposed amendments here - if the Budget Hearing had taken place the date originally scheduled all that the public would have had before them is the document the Supervisor published. Tonight, after a workshop session with the Town Council,

we have presented a budget with changes made available to the public. He said it was important for the public to know the proposed changes that a majority of the Town Board felt should be incorporated into the budget. He said they could have had the meeting on the Supervisor's budget which showed a 3% decrease which would not have been realistic. What the majority of the Board felt was published in the paper today and it is a truer picture and a more accurate budget which would correspond to the needs of the Town in 1986.

The Town Board felt it was more honest to do it this way rather than just sit here and listen to a Budget with a 3% decrease and everybody go away thinking there was a decrease and then subsequently having a couple of meetings among the Board and then coming in without a public hearing and making those amendments and adopting a budget. This, in effect, is the public hearing for the adoption of the budget. We have more information tonight and a more realistic picture of where we really are.

Residents yelled comments from the audience without identifying themselves and Councilman Lettre said that there is an implication that something was done in the dark. This was done at a duly convened meeting, open to the public, where four of the five Board members attended. Supervisor was not present but his Financial Director was present and so was the press. We are now here to hear from the public and to continue the normal budgetary process that we have been doing every single year.

Supervisor said early in this meeting he had made a comment to Mr. Profenna that this document, prepared with Council input yesterday, was improperly identified. After a comment from a resident inquiring which document the public hearing was being held on, he had indicated that this meets the legal requirement, however, this would be the document that would probably contain most of the substance of the 1986 budget. Are we addressing the one which is the Tentative Budget or are we discussing this evening the changes that have been made since?

Councilman Lettre said it is all semantics because the public has the right and the opportunity to comment on any document that they choose and this Board has the responsibility to adopt a responsible budget based on the information given to us by the Supervisor, by Department Heads, by the Budget Officer, by the Comptroller and by now the public.

Supervisor said he would read the gross budget figures of what he had presented and what the Councilmen's changes were so that there would be a basis for discussion. He proceeded to do so.

Supervisor said the budget does not show any cuts. He asked for an explanation. Councilman Maloney said there was a workshop meeting after the receipt of the Tentative Budget. Department Heads came and the Supervisor and Budget Director were present. Certain amounts were requested to be reinserted by department heads over and above what was in the Tentative Budget. The Supervisor and Budget Director sat and listened to the department heads and made notations. The total amount which department heads requested came to about \$2,000,000.00 over and above what was here. Supervisor and the Budget Director sat there for the entire meeting. What was done after that was the councilmen looked at what the department heads asked for which was \$2,000,000.00 over and above what your (the Supervisor's) budget called for and that's where we made some of the cuts because where someone asked for \$500,000.00 over and above the Supervisor's Budget we cut them down to \$200,000.00. Where someone asked for \$70,000.00 over the line the Supervisor gave them we gave them \$20,000.00 and that's the million dollars that was cut over and above what the department heads had asked for on top of the Supervisor's Budget which is not realistic because there are many items there where they were given zero and by checking back they had

Continued on Next Page

ABE647

already spent \$12,000.00, or \$14,000.00 or more to date so how could they operate with a zero amount for the coming year? That's where we cut down from the \$2,000,000.00 or so that was requested.

Councilman Lettre said that the Supervisor's budget, so far as salaries go, went on the premise that each and every person eligible for retirement would take retirement. He said the figures the Supervisor read off were the figures if no one retired. Presumably there will be a decrease from these numbers but you can't prepare a budget assuming that people are going to walk away and then not have money to pay them.

Supervisor said those items on salary savings due to early retirement were compensated for because of that amount of money for salary savings which the Councilmen have added back there was approximately \$290,000.00 which was not made public to the Councilmen or anyone else which is extra money in an interest bearing account to offset even if none of those people took early retirement without affecting the gross budget. Councilman Lettre said you took \$290,000.00 and kept it a big secret? He said he could not believe it. Councilman Carey said this is the way things have been going for the last four years and it did not surprise him one bit. Councilman Maloney said he could not believe it either.

Supervisor said he filed the budget on September 30th with the assistance of Mr. Profenna and his staff. We were able to identify on October 8th an additional \$290,000.00 of interest earnings which could be used in addition to what we had already determined to utilize from unappropriated surplus as interest from capital funds which would compensate, in fact, if every employee basically had retired with the information we had available at that time.

Councilman Lettre asked that may be so but why was it kept a secret from the Councilmen? The four Councilmen still do not know to this day (and when we asked your Finance Director last night he did not know the answer) if in fact you budgeted into the 1986 budget monies to pay for a police contract for the Town of Clarkstown. Another well kept secret on the part of the Supervisor.

Supervisor said the answer was asked by him today of Mr. Profenna. The Supervisor said he indicated that there are sufficient funds. He said he did not indicate where because we are in the process of negotiations and that will be shared with the Councilmen prior to that because if he says how much money is in the budget while we are negotiating what employer says how much is on the table before concluding labor agreements? Councilman Lettre asked who is the employer? Councilman Lettre went on to say that this Town Board is entitled to and should know what and how much money is in the budget to be able to settle a contract.

Supervisor asked Mr. DeChristoforo, Deputy Town Attorney, if it would be proper for the Supervisor to identify how much money and where it is in this public forum prior to - - - Councilman Lettre said that no one is saying that. This Board to a man unless someone knows something that he (Councilman Lettre) is not aware of and if you poll them here he said not one Board member other than the Supervisor knows if there is one penny allocated in the 1986 budget to pay for a police contract to pay their salaries in the year 1986. Councilman Maloney said he did not ask for the exact amount but they just wanted to know if there was monies there. Councilman Lettre said no one asked to make it public but this Board should know.

Supervisor said the answer was given - yes. The information was shared with Mr. Profenna. If and when the question was addressed before this, the answer would be the same - yes. If you gentlemen tonight, and before the adoption of this budget, reduce five policeman that he feels are needed in this Town by

everybody regardless of who they like or dislike there will be even more than enough money to cover the police negotiations.

Councilman Lettre said he was confused and puzzled as to why the Supervisor kept this a secret from his fellow Board members. Why did you not notify this Board in Executive Session of the fact that there was money, how much money there was allocated by you in the 1986 budget to pay contractual needs of the police force in the Town of Clarkstown?

Supervisor said the question was never asked. Councilman Lettre said it was asked. The answer is that there is sufficient funds to cover the wishes of a successfully negotiated police contract which we have been giving guidance to our negotiators to in Executive Session.

Councilman Lettre said a good supervisor or administrator does not keep secrets from his fellow board members.

Appearance: Mr. Fred Hager
Valley Cottage, New York 10989

Mr. Hager wanted to know why a professional stenographer was not present to take this meeting. Mrs. Sheridan, Town Clerk, stated that a tape was being made (which is retained for at least one year after the meeting) and that she was taking extensive notes by hand. He made extensive comments regarding the budget, salaries, Highway Department, Town Attorney. He felt there was an inappropriate explanation of the budget and he wanted more detail.

Councilman Lettre said it would better serve the Town to work in unison with the full Town Board in preparing a Tentative Budget which would be a document which would reflect the total sentiment of the governing body of the Town of Clarkstown not just the Supervisor. He expressed the hope that that procedure would be the one followed in the upcoming years.

Supervisor said that Councilman Lettre has respectfully suggested whether we have agreed or not that this type of input should be conducted every year prior to the Supervisor meeting his deadline on September 30th as a requirement of law. There were several departments outstanding to which the Supervisor had written one, two or more requests for data. He said he had ten days in which the data from his political adversaries was delivered from himself and the little bit of staff he has remaining whose salaries were cut last year, even though they were experienced (mainly Mr. Tirino and Mr. Andretta) the only two employees who took cuts in pay - no increases - but cuts in actual salary and yet the new positions cause they are not going to be here I doubt, Mr. Holbrook - the people who are to replace these people with no experience next year are getting salary raises and yet experienced people got salary cuts because they belonged to this gentleman here. He said I almost lost my point on that. Ten days - the Highway Budget was the last budget to come in over \$4,000,000.00 to \$5,000,000.00 of requests out of a \$30,000,000.00 total. He asked the reporter from the Journal News, Mr. DeMarco didn't I haunt you to keep writing stories, where is it, where is it, where is it. Of the ten days remaining after your glorious half truth again, four days were weekends. Does a Civil Service Staff work on weekends? Are the computers rolling on weekends? Four days of the ten days remaining to do that budget were weekends. Two days were Jewish holidays of the remaining six. We had four days in which to go through history inventories, old vouchers and everything else. He said that Mr. Lettre's statement was a total farce regardless of whether this Town Board is three Councilmen to one Supervisor or four or two - it's a total farce. That I could take your input without having the data and the department requests in four whole days when I can't usually get full attendance when I call for cooperation.

Appearance: Ms. Stephanie Bosco
West Nyack, New York

ABE647

Ms. Bosco discussed the Planning Board budget. She asked that if the PA system had been deleted that it be put back in again as it was urgently needed. She also discussed the paramedics as requested by Nyack Hospital. She said that her mother's concern was that if these positions are paid it would take away from the volunteerism in the Town. She said if just the Town is doing this rather than on a County-wide basis it's not quite fair because Clarkstown not only services Clarkstown but according to the ambulance agreement they have to service all over Rockland County.

Supervisor said that was not so. Four volunteer ambulance corps serve Clarkstown - Nanuet, New City, Congers/Valley Cottage and Nyack. Three of those are almost wholly within the Town. One of them serves a portion of Orangetown as well in the Village of Nyack. We gave several hundred thousand dollars to cover the operating costs of the volunteer corps. A proposal came forth about a year or so ago and the ambulance corps wanted paid paramedics in addition to the volunteers. At first there were legal problems as one portion of town would receive the services and another portion would not receive the services but would be paying for it. The leadership of the corps were able to work out a proposal which was unanimously adopted by the Town Board for inclusion in this year's budget which was \$500,000.00. He said that Ms. Bosco was the first resident to relay comments similar to the Supervisor's own feelings. He stated that in addition to salary the money was going for fuel, for operational costs, etc. Those people with the contract with Nyack Hospital will be paid and they will not be volunteers. They will augment the volunteers. One of the problems which should have been addressed months ago is what will happen to the volunteer in one of the other four corps who is doing a similar task out of the total goodness of their hearts when somebody else is receiving paid compensation, insurance, workman's compensation and everything else - what will happen to the number of volunteers. He said he felt that the number of volunteers in the future will decrease. However, it is a foregone conclusion because the Town Board made a unanimous opinion to implement this special contract. But the funds are not all for salary.

Ms. Bosco inquired if other Towns were doing the same thing that we are doing? Supervisor said no. The only other similar service that Nyack has an outreach service of a similar nature in North Rockland. He said he did not believe that Haverstraw or Stony Point is paying any of its taxpayer money. Ms. Bosco felt it should be done on a county level rather than a town level because it would benefit the whole county rather than just a town. Supervisor said that is an excellent suggestion but those policies have been made already.

Appearance: Mr. Jack Cuff

Mr. Cuff wished it noted that in the past three years outside attorneys' fees (attorneys hired to handle cases that cannot be handled by our six or eight attorneys) have risen 320%. He wanted to know if that figure would remain the same, decrease or increase.

Supervisor said one particular case with unanimous Board approval has cost this town approximately \$80,000.00 over a two or three year period. That particular case should be settled shortly and that expense should not be recurring. It was a very unusual case.

There was discussion regarding the Town Attorney's budget among Mr. Cuff, Mr. Hager, Supervisor and Councilmen.

Appearance: Mr. Joseph Pantano
New City, New York

Mr. Pantano discussed transfers of funds, Town Attorneys department, cut-backs in various departments, etc. Supervisor stated that everything that was done last night was in the nature of increase; there were no decreases to the Tentative Budget. There was discussion regarding the entire dollar amount of the proposed budget. There was much discussion between Councilman Holbrook, Mr. Pantano and the Supervisor regarding approximate tax increase to the residents.

Appearance: Mr. Steve Goldman
West Nyack, New York

Mr. Goldman discussed salaries. He thought the new supervisor and the councilmen should refuse to accept increases as a matter of honor. He felt the Supervisor's salary should be raised to \$75,000.00 but only at the end of the two year term which Councilman Holbrook will begin to serve in January of 1986. The job should attract professional people but no professional person will leave a job in the city and come to work up here for \$50,000.00.

Appearance: Cecile Leiberman
West Nyack, New York

Ms. Leiberman said that the salary increases were made public in the newspapers before election and the gentlemen were still elected. The people of Clarkstown knew exactly what was going on and decided that these men were worthwhile and we were going to elect them.

Supervisor and Councilmen discussed Supervisor's salary, the Budget Officer's and the Director of Finance's salaries and past practices with regard to the same. Supervisor said Councilman Lettre's remarks were lies.

Mr. Pantano returned again to discuss salaries and equipment increases in various departments, in particular the Town Attorney's Office.

Mr. Hager returned again to comment on Mr. Pantano's comments regarding Town Attorney's office.

Mr. Profenna, Town Comptroller, explained the contractual expenses referred to in the Town Attorney's office. Much was land appraisal. Law suits against the Town were another factor. Town Attorney does not act on his own. He acts on behalf of the entire Town Board and the money expended is for legitimate legal expenses. Mr. Costa cannot do some of the legal work himself because it would be a conflict of interest. Supervisor explained the salary line in Town Attorney's budget.

Mr. Hager returned again to ask for further clarification regarding the expenditures for the Town Attorney's office.

Councilman Holbrook then gave an explanation of the increase in salaries in the Town Attorney's office. The volume of legal work in the Town has increased greatly.

Mr. Pantano returned again to complain about that increase in the Town Attorney's office.

(Recess was called at this point to change tape.)

Mr. Forest returned again to protest what was in his opinion a lack of preparation and a lack of Town officers to answer some of the questions that the taxpayers had to ask. He suggested in light of this he wondered about the legality of a Town Board vote this evening on a budget presented prematurely. He requested the Town Board postpone voting at this point and reconvene and allow the public to ask further questions and have them answered. He

ABE647

108

requested the total footing figures from both budgets discussed this evening.

Town Attorney said he was unaware of the amount of time which the public has had to review the figures. He said the councilmen have agreed to take the time to review and discuss the areas questioned by the residents. Supervisor asked if there was anyone else wishing to be heard.

Mr. Pantano returned to discuss other budget requests. He said the budget should not be adopted today. In the future the budget should come before the public before the November election. He said he hoped they would adopt a budget closer to the Supervisor's figures which would be approximately a 9% increase in taxes, which is enough.

Supervisor said that a resident from the floor is stating that the budget printed at 6:00 P.M. tonight is not the complete story and what he is saying is that it is just showing expenditures and is not showing revenue. The resident requested the full figures.

Councilman Maloney stated that in all the years he has been here the Budget Officer prepared a fact sheet, a pie chart and a graph and a summary sheet. He did not know why we do not have it this year because if you were basing it on the Supervisor's budget it could have been prepared based on that. If it was based on the additional \$2,000,000.00 that the department heads have requested or the \$1,000,000.00 increase it could have been based on that. At least there would have been a comparison of what it would be.

Mr. Tirino said he did not have enough time to get it prepared. There was only four days from the date of the last submission of our departmental request from the Superintendent of Highways to get this brief summary submitted. Mr. Tirino said this represented a brief summary and comparison between 1986 and 1985 of the effect of the changes in funds and of the effect of the impact on taxes. Supervisor said expense and taxes. Mr. Pantano said do you mean the rate of tax? Supervisor said the amount of extra taxes. Mr. Pantano said then that 4% figure is not complete? Mr. Tirino said it is absolutely complete. If you took all the homeowners you would say they would be paying 4% less but you, individually, may get clobbered as a result of reassessment but in the aggregate they would be paying 4% less which is a lot better than paying 4% more.

Supervisor said then you are really going to get clobbered. Supervisor said Councilman Maloney's comment was well received and it has always been done until this year. But we did not expect Mr. Grogan to die and it has always been done on the preliminary not the tentative. But we did not have a preliminary other than his own with the modifications of salaries of elected officials until basically tonight at 6:00 P.M. We have to spend hours, if not days, making an analysis because if it is wrong everything is really wrong.

Mr. Forest returned to state that his question was a serious question. This is a premature situation. The Board should not vote on a budget which has not been presented in totality to the public. This final figure shows an impact but we don't know what the impact is of the revised figures. We are entitled to this information.

Mr. Hager returned again to discuss variables concerning the Condominium factor, assessment factor, etc. He felt we would be in for a substantial increase next year, never mind about this budget. The Town Board has an obligation to inform the taxpayers of this town now if, in fact, the tax increase is going to be substantial. We are looking at perhaps a \$100.00 or \$200.00 increase in taxes. He said he would appreciate having the Town Board tell the public what their best judgment is.

Councilman Holbrook said with regard to the additional \$1.2 million added over and above the Supervisor's budget the Councilmen feel that is essential to running the Town. It is not excessive, but essential. We have tried to put in money to pave roads. People in Clarkstown pay enough taxes to warrant them having services. You cannot get something for nothing. It does not justify high tax increases. We went back over that budget. We looked at department requests line by line. We eliminated requests which we thought were unreasonable. We tried to put money in there to do specific projects that would provide services to the young and the old and to the general public in Clarkstown. What we have to look at here as members of this board is that we have to tell the truth to the public and the truth is that the budget that was presented back in October did not have adequate funds to run the Town. One of the reasons for that was that the retirement of 46 people was anticipated who obviously were not going to retire. That is just one of the reasons.

ABE647 Councilman Holbrook said they were elected to do a job. They did that job. They sat down last night and put figures in. It was done in public. It was printed in the paper. He said he granted that it might not have been the maximum amount of time we all would have liked to peruse it. It also has to come back here to the Town Board. The buck stops with the leadership in this Town. He said he has tried to sit here and not make political statements but after listening to all of this for three and one half hours now we have to come back to what the real truth of the matter is here. This Town has really been experiencing a total lack of leadership. We have allowed this meeting to drag on. We have allowed cross discussion. We have allowed all sorts of things to go on here. Very few comments have been pertinent to the budget.

We have provided a document. We have indicated here in lines where we have made increases. We've talked about what the amount was going to be over and above what the Supervisor's figures were. With all of that information, the press being informed, etc., the discussions and the answering of questions in a respectful manner we come down to it requires a certain amount of money to run this Town. We have put that money in. We have put into services. We are trying to put it in the roads, into the parks, and these services cost money. The budget which he believed they were prepared to adopt tonight does that. It does not excessively tax but it is realistic.

Mr. Hager returned to state that he must know what his obligations as a homeowner are going to be. He said people like himself because of the economic situation can no longer afford a home in Clarkstown. In 1965 his taxes were \$850.00 total. His taxes now are in excess of \$3,800.00 before he has to absorb this new increase. We have no where to turn. The property tax is unfair and unjust to begin with. He said it seemed to him that he was asking very little of this Town Board to say "We would like you to stay but these are the realities. If you can't live in this town, we're sorry." But, at least, tell me so I can have some advance notice to find a real estate broker to take this house off my hands and let me go someplace where I can afford to live. These are the realities that centers of government are not paying enough attention to. The property tax must be repealed or else it is going to unfairly take people's homes away. That is an area of morality that someone should spend some time thinking about. Something has to change. What measures the ability to pay. It is income. What in effect is being said here is that nothing is going to change and it is going to go along on its merry way and if a lot of people lose their homes in the process, so be it.

Supervisor said that Councilman Holbrook mentioned a lack of leadership in this Town. Supervisor said that on numerous occasions, when he felt the need, as the leader of the Town, he passed memorializing resolutions, not about foreign countries in

this Town but to the state and federal government which did have a positive result on changing state and federal laws. He said, if Mr. Holbrook who agrees with you now as a matter of convenience said yes, you are so correct, it should be based upon ability to pay and income, where in the last ten years has he ever instituted a resolution to suggest such. A leader in any business, in any government in any family has the tools and the clout to do a particular job. Supervisor said Councilman Holbrook had done a wonderful job about fighting and lack of leadership. If people want to believe it we will see the test of time in the next two years. Have my appointments been approved, ladies and gentlemen? Yes or no? If I do not have my choice of appointments and if those few appointments that I have, have been reduced in salary I have had the tools removed to be a more effective leader.

We had unanimous votes on 95% of what we did. We have industrial development that is good in this Town. We have a Youth Court that is a model. We changed state and federal laws together but it has been accentuated by fighting and lack of leadership.

Supervisor said someone had asked what will the impact be and many people are asking and he was going to be suggesting also that we end the Public Hearing and adjourn this meeting until Tuesday evening when we can have the figures which Mr. Maloney requested and we have the impact because even if this budget is increased by 2% or 4% he would say it may kill financially, or clobber, many people. He said it is going to clobber most of the condominium owners. He said the school district - they did not have a 15% tax increase this year? Clarkstown Schools, that is? There were many people in New City - condo owners and homeowners - just in New City, not counting Valley Cottage or Congers that did not get a tax increase in their school taxes of 15%. It was 50%. So, if this budget, which is adopted, increases only 4%, which under normal circumstances was not bad, under normal circumstances, there will be people, and this is not a promise, not a threat, but for those same condominiums in New City, Bardonia and other places and those same people complain to me if all of a sudden that went up - had a tax impact of three and one third times, of 4% then increase, if that's what it is and we don't know, would be in the magnitude of 12% to 13% tax increase to many of our homeowners, especially the ones in Upper Nyack that went up four and five times in assessments instead of two or three times and most condominium owners regardless of where they are in the Town. He said he was putting this Town Board on notice that we do not have sufficient information and from the requests made from these people and from the samples of complaints that he has received that 15% increases really meant 50% tax increases in their school taxes if you have a conscience there is time before the 20th - what is the date on Tuesday? - the 19th, you'll have time to digest, we'll have time to have Mr. Costa present, we'll have time to have Mr. Valenza present, we can take samples to see how the school tax affected people with the new assessment so that we will know for sure what to do. And if it means that you gentlemen want to add whatever for whoever or whatever in this budget at least do it having the knowledge rather than having the impact and then finding - excuse me - making the approval and then finding out what the impact is at a later date. Is that a reasonable request? To adjourn this meeting until Tuesday?

Supervisor made a motion to adjourn this meeting before any deliberations are made until Tuesday evening at 8:00 P.M. There was no second.

RESOLUTION NO. (990-1985)

ADOPTION OF THE 1986 BUDGET
FOR THE TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN

Co. Holbrook offered the following resolution:

Continued on Next Page

RESOLUTION NO. (990-1985) Continued

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Town of Clarkstown's Preliminary Budget for the year 1986 was scheduled for October 31, 1985 at 8:50 P.M. at the Town Hall of the Town of Clarkstown, and

WHEREAS, said hearing was opened and recessed to November 14, 1985 at 8:00 P.M., and

WHEREAS, the Town Board met at the time and place specified in the Notice of Public Hearing on the said Preliminary Budget for the year 1986 and upon the recessed date and heard all persons desiring to be heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that such Preliminary Budget, as amended, a copy of which is attached hereto, be and is hereby adopted as the Annual Budget of the Town of Clarkstown for the fiscal year beginning the 1st day of January, 1986, and that such Budget, as so adopted, be entered in detail in the proceedings of this Town Board, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of Clarkstown shall prepare and certify, in duplicate, copies of such Annual Budget as adopted by this Town Board, together with Assessment Rolls for benefit improvements, if any, adopted pursuant to section 202-a, Subd. 2 and Section 231, Subd. 2 of the Town Law and deliver two copies thereof to the Supervisor of this Town to be presented by him to the Legislature of Rockland County pursuant to Section 115 of the Town Law and other applicable sections of the Town Law.

Seconded by Co. Carey

Before the vote was taken Supervisor said there are going to be some of your friends, neighbors, residents and supporters who are going to be clobbered fiscally by the impact of this budget - - -

There was a heated exchange between the Supervisor and Councilman Holbrook at this point and the Councilmen asked that the roll call vote be taken.

At this point Councilmen called for the roll call on the vote.

Councilman Carey.....	Yes
Councilman Holbrook.....	Yes
Councilman Lettre.....	Yes
Councilman Maloney.....	Yes
Supervisor Dusanenko.....	No

Supervisor said for those nice, decent people, regardless of their political affiliation, who believe in the tooth fairy, time will tell for the impact of this budget on you and your lifestyle and he voted "No."

There being no one further wishing to be heard on motion of Councilman Holbrook, seconded by Councilman Carey and unanimously adopted, the Public Hearing on the Budget for 1986 was declared adjourned, time: 11:50 P.M..

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sheridan
PATRICIA SHERIDAN,
Town Clerk

ABE647