

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
BUDGET HEARING

305

Town Hall

10/19/89

8:30 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Holbrook
Council Members Carey, Kunis, Maloney and Smith
Murray N. Jacobson, Town Attorney
Patricia Sheridan, Town Clerk

Supervisor declared Budget Hearing open. Assemblage saluted the Flag. Town Clerk read notice calling Budget Hearing and testified as to proper posting and publication.

Supervisor stated that before the budget matter was taken up there was a gentlemen who wished to address the Board.

Appearance: Mr. Jerry Jankowitz, Pres.
Dellwood Park Civic Assn.
New City, New York 10956

Mr. Jankowitz wanted to call attention to the serious ongoing problem of drainage in the Dellwood Park vicinity. He particularly mentioned the intersection of Windgate and Dunmore as having treacherous icing conditions in the winter as a result of improper drainage. This is in an area where school children wait for the bus. He stated that this must be attended to prior to the forthcoming winter.

Supervisor said he had spoken to Mr. Bollman, Director of Environmental Control, who had indicated that there have been plans drawn. Mr. D'Antoni, Superintendent of Highways, should be able to schedule that work shortly.

Mr. D'Antoni stated that he got the plans from Mr. Bollman earlier this week and we are scheduling the drainage project and will have it taken care of before winter sets in.

Mr. Jankowitz stated that one of the members of his association called Mr. D'Antoni's office and spoke to a foreman who said it was not as yet scheduled and the reason was that no budget allocation had been made for the work to be done. Mr. D'Antoni stated that this would be covered under the drainage bond. Supervisor said he believed that was correct and Mr. D'Antoni said it would not be a problem.

Appearance: Mr. Dale Brunner
3 Beaumont Drive
New City, New York

Mr. Brunner said he was also a member of the Dellwood Civic Association Board. He appreciated what has been done so far but he has some concerns. He said the reason they have shown up at this Budget Hearing is because they understood it was a funding problem. He wanted to be sure it would be taken care of. Supervisor stated it would be done this year.

Councilman Kunis asked what was being taken care of this year and the Supervisor said Dellwood Park Drainage. Councilman Kunis asked Mr. D'Antoni if that was on his schedule for this year and Mr. D'Antoni said yes it is. Councilman Kunis asked how about the paving for next year? Supervisor said that will be on for next year. He said as soon as the settlement takes place in the trenches we dig we have made that commitment to pave the roads. Councilman Kunis asked if there was money in the budget for the paving also? Mr. D'Antoni said he believed we have enough money to do it. Councilman Maloney said yes it is there.

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Appearance: Mr. Stuart Hazan

Mr. Hazan stated that he was also from the Dellwood area. He said that in the past they have been doing a patch job in an attempt to hold the road together which everyone is aware of. He said it appears that some of the work that has been done in the patching is not up to par which is one reason why the repairs are constantly falling apart. He said Belgian blocks were inserted at different levels. He found that hard to understand. Mr. D'Antoni said he was up there to inspect that and he found only one spot where he found that to be true and we are going to take them out and replace them. He said Belgian block has a tendency no matter what subdivision has it, to vary in the height.

Supervisor said with regard to the call for the Preliminary Budget hearing he said this was a preliminary budget and the Town Board is here to listen to comments and suggestions from the public and the Town Board will take those into their deliberations before making any final determinations on budget amounts and figures, etc. He called upon the first speaker to come forward.

Appearance: Mrs. Dorothy Erard

Mrs. Erard said she wanted to discuss the proposed 1990 Budget as well as some other facts. She said 1988 closed with a surplus of approximately \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00. She said we don't know what it is yet since we don't have an audited annual financial report. In addition, she said, we had to borrow for a tax anticipation note just to pay the salaries in December, 1988. In 1989 we were told that our tax increase was going to be 7%. If you got your tax bill it was 12%. The General Fund for 1989 as it currently stands has a revenue in there of \$3.1 million dollars as revenue from the Town of Ramapo. We have realized \$700,000.00 of that revenue. The General Fund is short approximately \$2,000,000.00. Keeping the \$500,000.00 surplus at a deficit of \$2,000,000.00 we are going to start 1990 with a deficit of \$1.5 million, approximately. She said she estimates that we are also going to need a tax anticipation note again this year to be able to pay salaries in December, 1989.

Mrs. Erard went on to talk about 1990 and Homestead.

Appearance: Mr. Charles Borgman
10 Tudor Court
Bardonia, New York 10954

Mr. Borgman stated that he deals with budgets all the time. They have top summaries, department by department, expense by expense and one or two pages comparing this year and the budgeted year showing the expense increase or decrease and showing in one paragraph if its a major increase or decrease or change so you can quickly understand what is going on.

Mr. Borgman said he would like to know exactly what tax increase we are talking about for next year. He said the Landfill problem developed ten years ago. We should have been anticipating since then to put money away each year little by little in a special reserve fund so that we wouldn't have massive tax problems when the problem did show up.

Mr. Borgman asked about the transfer station and the Supervisor explained.

Mr. Borgman said if we took out all the expenses regarding the Landfill, what is the increase in spending for the rest of the Budget? Supervisor said the problem in regard to the General Fund is the absence of the landfill revenues that has been

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used in past years to offset the amount that had to be raised on the tax levy. In that amount is roughly \$4,000,000.00 which relates to the tax increase on the Town's side which is what was reported at 11.6%. Mr. Borgman said then spending other than Landfill items - 11.6% - spending increases? Supervisor said that is the amount that has to be levied to make up the deficit of the Landfill revenue. Essentially, most of the lines in the Budget in terms of the departments and everything else is roughly the same, except for the normal salary increases that were figured in for the Town employees.

Supervisor said you have to understand that the income from the Landfill was used to offset taxes so that if you don't have \$4,000,000.00 of that revenue you have to make that up. Basically, if we had the \$4,000,000.00, the increase would not be there but we don't have it so we have to make that up. Mr. Borgman said he is not talking about the tax increase. He is talking about spending dollars, not tax raised dollars, so the revenue raised from the Landfill is not the issue. It is how much are we increasing spending of this government in 1990 if we say okay, all the related Landfill expenditures put off to the side.

Supervisor asked Mr. Schofield if he had a figure on that? Mr. Schofield said the total appropriations last year was \$43,000,000.00. This year it is \$53,000,000.00. That is taking into consideration the Landfill. Mr. Borgman asked what is the number of expenditures then out of the \$53,000,000.00. Mr. Schofield said it is about \$10,000,000.00 - the SR Fund. Mr. Borgman said are you saying there is no spending increase in the rest of the budget. Mr. Schofield said you could say basically about 5% to 6% and that is stuff you cannot do away with. Mr. Schofield said the bulk of the cost involved in local government is salaries. Mr. Borgman said you are saying 5% to 6% for other things? Mr. Schofield said that involves a number of calculations but that is a reasonable number to go with.

Councilman Kunis asked Mr. Schofield about the \$6,405,000.00 in revenue which is the Sanitation District - Refuse and Garbage - other governments. Then there is \$1,060,000.00 for Refuse - other governments - transfer station. Councilman Kunis then referred to 16002130 and 16002130-1 which he asked did one figure represent Clarkstown and the other Orangetown? Mr. Schofield said the \$1,060,000.00 represents the difference Orangetown would have to pick up to pay Clarkstown - the difference between the \$80.00 tipping fee involved and the \$50.00 fee that is anticipated that Orangetown will raise their licensed carters up to. So either they will pay directly to the Town based on tonnage of 53,000 tons.

Councilman Kunis said then there is another \$2,620,000.00 coming in from Refuse and Garbage? What is that? Mr. Schofield said that is the combined of Orangetown and Clarkstown garbage. Councilman Kunis asked - prior to the transfer station? Mr. Schofield said yes. That is the revenue generated from the Landfill. Councilman Kunis said if you take these figures and you work them out - the \$80.00 per ton and \$50.00 per ton is \$2,620,000.00? Mr. Schofield said the composition of the \$2.6 million figure basically consists of garbage of 115,200 tons at \$50.00 per ton times one third plus debris of 30,000 tons at \$70.00 per tons times one third and that would get you the \$2.6 million.

Appearance: Mr. Jack Cuff,
Organized Taxpayers
Pheasant Drive
West Nyack, New York

Mr. Cuff asked if he was correct that the Town Board had not met to work on this budget? Supervisor said the decision was made to hold a public hearing and get input from the public and then after that with the suggestions made from the public to make

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amendments to the budget which can be made up or down and it can be adopted by the Town Board at any time from this point on until November 20th.

Mr. Cuff asked the Supervisor if he had a target date as to when the budget would be adopted. Supervisor said the Town Board has until November 20th but he was prepared to vote on it.

Mr. Cuff said the budget information that has been provided to the public is a confusing and disorganized, with no cover letter to address any of the items in the budget as to increases or decreases. There is no information for the average citizen whatsoever.

Mr. Cuff said he noticed that we are buying back vacations. He said we are talking about salaries of fifty, sixty, sixty-five thousand dollars a year and rather than these people taking their vacations we're going to pay them their regular salaries plus we're going to pay them not to take vacations.

Supervisor Holbrook said this was a recommendation of Supervisor Dusanenko for one of the budgets so that we wouldn't have to hire additional people.

Mr. Cuff also spoke regarding salaries and a second composting facility and accepting sewer sludge in our landfill. Supervisor said with the permission of the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Cuff said they shouldn't open up a second composting facility. He said that he believed the County has a composting facility.

Supervisor said the County doesn't have a composting facility. They have a pile of bags and leaves in a heap.

Mr. Cuff commented on computer equipment and computer consultants, bulk pick-ups for 1990, emergency medical services and insurance pay back for that service.

Supervisor said we took up your suggestion and it has taken almost a year for Nyack Hospital to get the provider number. We will this year on the A.L.S. service not the B.L.S. (the Basic Life Support) we will be providing a billing service and we believe that will help offset some of the cost.

Appearance: Steve Goldman
West Nyack
Organized Taxpayers Assoc.

Mr. Goldman said the tax increase will be 30.8%. Now I only have certain questions on this 30.8%. For instance, if we make the assumption that that kind of a tax raise is high and painful it would be reasonable to assume maybe that we should go into something equivalent to what the school board has in their austerity budget when it is voted down. He spoke about salaries and what the non-Homestead tax rate was?

The Supervisor said he would have to check with the Assessor but the non-homestead tax rate as with the school taxes would be substantial because they would be picking up the shift of the burden from the home owners and condominiums. The Supervisor said the Homestead is designed to give property owners tax relief and that's exactly what it is doing.

Mr. Goldman questioned computer purchases, Highway Dept. rentals, communication equipment purchases. Mr. Goldman said he thought it was important that when you create a budget that you have a valid audit report to see where

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things are wrong and where things need to be repaired and then you go from there.

Appearance: Ralph Mandia
 West Nyack

Mr. Mandia said that the candidates should not be fooled into thinking that just a few people that come here regularly are the only ones that are concerned about the budget. He said it is increasingly difficult to live here. He said yesterday it was announced and he believed that it was Mr. Holbrook who talked about the 75% that is coming from the State which was expected. It was also said that 20 or 30 or \$40,000,000 was required to close that landfill. He said lets take the smallest amount - \$20,000,000. If 75% is coming from outside sources, the State, at least \$5,000,000. He said he heard there was \$1,000,000 left in a slush fund. If that is correct there is \$4,000,000 shortfall. To aggravate the situation that we now have there is an additional \$4,000,000 which equates something like 8 or 10% for 1991 compounded above what Mr. Goldman and others have said over the past two years.

The Supervisor said we have to do a study of the Landfill which will take an excess of a year to find out what contaminants are there. Depending upon what contaminants there are, will determine the course of work that needs to be done to remediate the site. He said hopefully the contaminants are not too great. He said the worst case scenario would be that we determine the work to be close to \$40,000,000. The Consent Order that we signed would make us eligible for \$30,000,000 of that. He said even so that process would take a number of years to do and we are just not sure of the final amount but we do know that we are in the super fund and we are eligible for that money and the Town Board did the right thing by not gambling. It is like hunting on Long Island which is now up to a half million dollars worth of fines fighting the DEC.

Mr. Mandia said whether it is super funds or whether it comes out of a hunting issue or whether it comes in a one or two year tax increase, the point is that it is only going to compound the problem. He said the issue is not just one of a group of five or ten or fifteen people but it is thousands of people that are caring about this and it is more important than it ever was.

Appearance: Thomas Morahan
 New City, New York

Mr. Morahan strongly urged not to adopt this budget prior to election day. He said he thought the Board has to study the Budget and tear it apart. He said we have a tax crisis in Clarkstown. He said he could not recall a time when the property taxes in the Town have escalated a total of 54%. He believed the cost of closing the Landfill would be about \$50,000,000. He said all this hype that is going on about the 75% is the absolute max. If all the conditions are met and if the DEC recommends the absolute max to a Town that didn't husband its resources; that put nothing aside for the closing and opens this year virtually with a zero reserve, I don't know if you are going to get the 75%. He stated that he would do everything in his power to join with this Board to get that 75% because he and his family will have to pay the taxes here.

Mr. Morahan said you can't have affordable housing if there is not affordable taxes. He said if you do not take the tax base and drive it down, you're going to drive the cost of doing business in this Town so high that people will not be able to operate here. He said you are driving down with this tax rate and this escalation of over four years the value of peoples homes. You cannot sell a home in an area that is notorious for high taxes and if you cannot sell your home and the market is glutted, you have to continually reduce the price to market the house. As you do that,

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you take away from people the equity that they have in their house. He then said he charged the Board with the responsibility of zero based budgeting. He felt that no public official should take a salary increase this year. He said he had been given two reports from the Town Comptroller written to this Board dated 1988 and 1989 where he has admonished this Board on its spending habits; where he has stated that the department are circumventing the purchasing procedures in this Town; things that ought be going to bid are not going to bid because of circumvention of the rules. He said the Comptroller asked that you support that Director of Purchasing so that we can marshall and husband the resources of this Town. He warns you against overspending because he points out that last year you had to bond a million seven to meet a payroll expense.

Supervisor said if the County had given them the money on time they would not have had to do that.

Mr. Morahan said that same report indicates that you only budgeted for twenty-six pay periods when there were twenty-seven pay periods in the year and each pay period is \$625,000 and, therefore, you were short. He said while we haven't received the last audit for last year, we have received the management letter. Every recommendation made to this Board and to the Chief Fiscal Officer of this Town, the person who is responsible for the administration of the day to day operations, every recommendation in the '89 management letter from your outside auditing firm that the taxpayers pay for was written in 1986. The criticisms were rewritten in 1987; they were rewritten in 1988 and the same recommendations are written in 1989 which indicates that every recommendation to tighten the ship, to save money, to increase accountability, to improve responsibility, has been totally ignored by department heads and the person in charge of those department heads. In 1986 there were comments that the outside firm said the Town is now putting together a committee of department heads and a professional computing firm to address the issue of computerization. In 1989 they said that the Town is putting together its department heads and outside consultant to computerize and make the Town less labor intensive. It's interesting that they get paid because all they would have to do is Xerox the 1986 report and mail it to you in 1989. It is basically a verbatim report in your Purchasing Department and in your Personnel Department. He said that no one is responsible for the time sheets. Department heads don't sign it. There is no way to correct error. People are taking more absence and sick leave than they are entitled and they are taking more vacations than is contracted for. He said the report makes a plea that someone in the Personnel Department ought to be given that responsibility.

Supervisor said we have someone in the Personnel Department who has that responsibility.

Mr. Morahan said there is a 24% increase this year in Town taxes. He said that in 1986 we put out \$21,000,000 in taxes and this year we will propose \$33,000,000. An increase of over \$11,000,000 and that equates the 54%. He asked the Town Board to do something with the Budget.

Appearance: Ken Voorhis
West Nyack, New York

He said you look at this budget, tear it apart, freeze all salaries at last years levels except for the contractual salary increases that have to be given.

Supervisor asked him what he would do about garbage.

He said he would like to see private industry get involved with getting rid of the garbage. He said he would like to see all conferences and travel eliminated and all purchasing of new

equipment eliminated unless it was needed for the absolute safety and protection of the people in the community. He said he would like to see a complete evaluation of all non-contractual salaries and possibly even a freeze of those salaries. He said on one hand you hear the politicians talking about affordable housing and we must do something to keep our seniors in the community and on the other hand we come up with budgets and tax increases that just contradict what we are trying to do. He felt that government should tighten its belt. He said maybe we could turn the landfill negative into a positive by pooling all your department heads in Town and make them understand the problem that we are in. As a leader and as an executive of this Town by bringing your people in, we can demonstrate that leadership quality by saying to them we have a tax crisis and this is what you can expect to spend this year.

Appearance: William Vines
West Nyack

He said he could not believe what he saw when he looked at the budget. He said when he was Supervisor he prepared four budgets but he did not prepare them alone. They were prepared on the advise and with the assistance of the Town Board members starting in July and every department head had to prove everything he said he needed. He said he wondered where the mind is that put this budget together. He said he wondered where the press is because it doesn't reflect in the newspaper. He said there is no one to speak out for the people of this community. He asked the Board why they didn't know that the Landfill was the most valuable natural asset this Town has ever had. He said take a page out of Rotella's book. He doesn't take everybody's garbage. He looks out for Haverstraw. He said we have been using that dump for thirty-five years. At the end of 1973 only two Towns were using it Orangetown and Clarkstown and we weren't losing money. He said he looked at the Police Budget (and I wondered where it was; where you were putting it) you received \$133,000 for jail transfers from the County and I don't find it in your budget.

Supervisor said it was in there.

He said you hired two people in the Building Department and then you got part-time help in there. The number of Building Permits has gone down 30%. If the number of Building Permits has gone down 30%, I would think that you would need 30% less people. He said you have a Comptroller with a budget of \$278,000 and they want part-time help. He felt that the Highway Department should buy the machine to spread the black top. He said you have a Purchasing Agent - \$137,000 to run a Purchasing Office and now they want to build up a supply of goods. He said you have a warehouse on 303 that you are paying \$58,000 a year rent, for a metal building, and we own 800 acres in the Town. Why don't you put a metal building up and in one year you could pay for it with \$58,000. He said he did not understand something in the Sanitation District Fees for Service - \$100,000. We could have the bulk picked up which is running now \$975,000 a year done by the Highway Department. That's what Highway Departments are for. He asked why the Town appropriated \$20,000 for gas and electric at the Landfill for next year when this year it was \$10,000 and you are only going to be here for five months. He said you could take two to three million dollars off this budget. He said he didn't recognize the budget as a line item budget. It lumps everything in together. He said he didn't know why the Town Attorney needed all the assistants and paralegals and then goes out and hires special counsel. He said if the budget is passed he would send letters to the people of this Town showing what is going on.

The comptroller noted that the \$133,000 was in the Budget on page twelve and gave the information to Mr. Vines as to where he could find it.

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Appearance: Steve Ippelito
6 Baylor Road
Spring Valley, New York

Mr. Ippelito said he could not understand if we were losing \$4,000,000.00 in revenue from the Landfill, and if you don't have it anymore and you don't spend it and just to say okay here's \$4,000,000.00 we don't have we're going to raise your taxes to make up for it. It is just not done that way.

Supervisor said you need to provide the necessary services and you have to raise money to do that and the Town Board is cognizant of the fact that the services are necessary and therefore, would support that money being in there. He said we need to have a full complement of police available to fight the drug problem.

Mr. Ippelito suggested building a Resource Recovery Plant.

Supervisor said that would cost \$200,000,000. Supervisor said that what they are trying to reflect is that they are in a garbage crisis in Rockland County and they have to get rid of garbage.

Appearance: Rosemary Seery
15 Flitt Street
West Nyack, New York

She said there seemed to be a lot of new faces in the audience this year. There are a lot of people like Ralph Mandia, Tom Morahan, and Ken Voorhis getting up to speak tonight and I wonder where they are the rest of the year and I wonder next year if they lose the election if they will be here again to speak on the budget and if the Supervisor's office were not up for grabs this year, if any of these people would be here tonight. She said she believed in accountability. She said that between 1983 and 1986 we had a Republican majority on this Town Board. She said that was the time we had Ramapo, Orangetown and Westchester coming into our Landfill. She said they were paying six dollars a ton. In 1987 it was increased to twenty-one dollars a ton. Now the figures are much higher than that. She said we have had, since the Republican majority left this Board in 1987, three years for what they have dumped in our laps and that is the Clarkstown dump. Not Landfill but dump.

Ms Seery read from the Waste Management Services report and it is in reference to the garbage disposal of Clarkstown and Orangetown. "As you know the two Townships of Orangetown and Clarkstown have for several months been actively debating the merits and disadvantages of establishing a joint Township incinerator or continuing with the present Sanitary Landfill operation. It appears, however, that other Budgetary problems facing them in the County make them reluctant to undertake any additional studies and in our opinion this project is now stalemated." She said this could be this year. This happens to be March 20, 1969 - twenty years ago.

She said under Mr. Vines's time as Supervisor we have a reference that says "Our prime concern in this matter is that we periodically hear that the Town is negotiating for land adjacent to the present Sanitary Landfill and we do not wish to see the Town invest any appreciable amount of money until it has definitely been determined that the land is approvable for a properly operated Sanitary Landfill." He said this is from George O'Keefe, Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Health for our Health Department. The date is October 18, 1971 - eighteen years ago. She said we have a resolution adopted at the Town Board Meeting and it says: "Resolved that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute a lease agreement with Homer B. Dexter for use of the aforesaid

premises at the Sanitary Fill area for a time of three years." This is dated November 28, 1973, Bill Vines, Republican Supervisor. She said as you are probably aware the Clarkstown Sanitary Landfill is at a site being leased from Mr. Ned Besso - January 20, 1972, Bill Vines, Republican Supervisor.

We then have on May 23, 1972 a letter from the Rockland County Department of Health that says: "The Town of Clarkstown has purchased contiguous lands to our Landfill area. Said lands were previously used under contract with the Town as Landfill area." She said it seems to me that what happened there was we leased land from Ned Besso and Homer Lydecker and then turned around and bought the land. She said what we call the Sanitary Landfill, in 1980 Mr. Dusanenko who was the Republican Supervisor at the time, wrote to the DEC asking for a classification as to whether it was an open dump or a Sanitary Landfill because he wanted a permit to continue to operate it. She said basically the letter says: "based upon the noncompliance with the Federal criteria, Clarkstown Landfill has been classified as an open dump." She said they rejected the permit. She said what we have to look at and ask ourselves is where the accountability started. This dump didn't start yesterday. This dump started over forty years ago. It was regulated under the State in 1969. We have had a lot of Supervisors, we have had a lot of Town Boards and we've had a majority of Republican Town Boards. All of whom could have done something. They knew it was imminent. The County knew it was imminent. She said she would like to propose to the Board that we all meet again here, Mr. Mandia, Mr. Voorhis, Mr. Morahan and any of the other Republicans that are sitting in the audience, and come back here after November 8th and discuss this Budget again.

Appearance: Joseph Pantano
New City

He said this is the twenty-sixth Budget Hearing he has been to. He said there are places you can make reductions in the Budget. You can make reductions in the Recreation Department, Justice Department, Town Attorney's Department and your Police Department and many Departments. He said you can also raise fees in your Recreation Department. He said you should listen to the Accounting Department that the Town hired. He said if no official got a raise it wouldn't change the tax situation much but it would be an example. He felt that there are equipment charges and many things in the Budget that does not have to be bought this year. He said the Supervisor said it would cost three or four or five million to close the Landfill. Now it is fifty million and you claim that twelve and a half million or twenty-five percent is going to come from the Town or if it is forty million, ten million is going to come before the Town. He said everybody on the Board knew they were going to lose the revenue from Ramapo and Orangetown but you didn't prepare. He suggested they bring the Budget in under 5%. He said the volunteers for the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps in this Town and this County will not be here anymore and you are going to have to pay people good money for these services.

Appearance: John Lodico
2 Birch Lane
New City, New York

He said we should have a Capital Projects Program rather than continuing to each year saddle us with a new Bonding Program. He said we developed the concept back in 1972. He said he has been concerned with the Landfill for over twenty-five years. He said that he was very proud of the land acquisition program under Supervisor Vines and the Conservative majority because when we were first operating we were operating with approximately forty acres and the acquisition of our Landfill program and its property we have saved this Town untold millions of dollars because it is a low level, high water table area, and it is a swamp. Before 1972 they

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were called dumps. Under the new regulations they are called Sanitary Landfill. The acquisition of that Landfill property which is now 140 acres owned by the Town. He said there is only one little part that bothers him and that is the 32.6 acres and he would like each member of this Board to find out why we don't own it right now. He asked the Town to finish that contract so that it is our land legally. We don't own it yet. It is in litigation.

The Town Attorney said we own it. The condemnation was done in 1987.

Mr. Lodico asked how much has the Town paid for this land to date?

The Town Attorney said about \$200,000.

Mr. Lodico asked if we own it free and clear now?

The Town Attorney said the cost is in litigation.

Mr. Lodico said he supported the Police Department and said it is the first highest paid Police Department in the United States and if not first, second. He said he is in support of the equipment modernization. He said we were the first to bring in 357 magnums and now our police are less armed than criminals.

Supervisor said that would be corrected.

He said we can't continue to be the highest paid Police Department in the country. He said give them all the tools they need. He said the Town could save \$20,000 to \$23,000 in the Wellness Program. He felt it was a duplication of what you are already paying, approximately \$100 per week, for each employee on the hospitalization. If they have the opportunity to be concerned with their health, it should be a twenty-four hour program and if they have the opportunity that it is paid for already, why should we pay a second time for it to be done on working hours? He said now we are not only talking about additional money for the taxpayer, we are talking about down time for the government employees who take advantage of it for the convenience of this particular program.

He said he would not discount what the gentleman said about Resource Recovery. Most of you members went to Philadelphia. Remember everyone of you are talking about the Transfer Station and where you are going to send it. He said I think your first obligation is to contact your local senators and assemblymen and collar Governor Cuomo and petition the State that they should be responsible for a New York State Landfill. The two proposals for the Transfer Station are not the best to consider. He said you have open trucking and you have a bailing system. He said open trucking may be outlawed by the Federal DOT. You might want to consider compactor transfer trucks in deference to open which is in your proposal and or bailing which has been a total failure all around the country in his opinion. He said that Mr. Vines had indicated the Recreation building on 303 which he had raised that issue with the members of the Board and the Assessor's Office. Whenever the Town contracts somebody's property they get a fee for the rental. As part of that fee they get a tax dismissal in addition to the fee that they get. So they are paying no taxes. He said he thought it is only appropriate inasmuch as we have land in many places in the Town centrally located one you use for the composting property which is centrally located in our Town would be the ideal location for a Center as well as convenience for the truck.

He said the point he is getting at is the assessment of that building that they are renting on a compounded basis of 5%, 10% going into a ten year contract. You have the option each two years to end it. It is only assessed at \$100,000. He said Route 303 commercial piece of property the value of that property commercial

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should be brought up to at least \$250 or \$450,000 value even though they are not paying taxes as an abatement to the contract because if you should discontinue the contract in two years then you go back and say this property is worth \$350,000. He said we have in this building 3,000 more square feet than the County Office building that was built fourteen years before it and we brought it in at a lesser cost.

Appearance: Kathleen Beverage
7 Victoria Drive
Nanuet

She said she was here at the Town Board as a young home owner and wanted them to consider the struggle of young home owners in Clarkstown when you consider approving the tax increase and that they can't afford to live in Clarkstown with an increase.

Appearance: Richard Cornits
45 Sturbridge Court
Nanuet, New York

He said he disapproved of the Budget.

Supervisor said what they put out and made available to the public was the Budget that was submitted on the 29th of September and in past years that was how the Budget was presented and that it is a working Budget and not the final Budget and it is working for the Councilmen as well as the public. He said their purpose tonight was to illicit suggestions from the public in regard to the Budget. He said it has been available for three weeks.

Mr. Cornits suggested that he would like to see some sort of a summary so that he could easily grasp the concept. He said he would recommend a one page summary of revenues in, expected cost, deficit or surplus and percent increase or decrease.

Appearance: Vincent Reda
New City, New York
Chairman of the Clarkstown Republican
Committee

He said he believed the Supervisor owed all the Republicans an apology. He said to answer Mrs. Seery's questions when there were Republican Administrations in the past never once was there a Budget put up that ran between 20 and 30%.

Councilwoman Smith thanked all the people who came tonight and said all their input would be seriously undertaken.

On motion of Councilman Carey, seconded by Councilman Maloney and unanimously adopted, the Budget Hearing was declared closed, time: 1035 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA SHERIDAN,
Town Clerk