

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
BUDGET HEARING

Town Hall

10/18/90

8:07 P.M.

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

Supervisor Holbrook declared Budget Hearing open. Assemblage saluted the Flag. It was noted that the Notice of this Budget Hearing was on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Holbrook noted that this hearing relates to the Preliminary Budget. He stated that the Town Board members intended this evening to take questions from the public and afterwards to schedule a series of meetings to review specific items in the budget before adoption, probably sometime in the first week of November. He said the adoption of the budget has to be done by November 20, 1990. This public hearing, by Town Law, has to be held at the Town Hall prior to the first Thursday after Election Day which is why they chose the 18th.

Supervisor said basically what the Town Board has attempted to do in the past two years is to slowly move ourselves away from reliance on the landfill for revenue to offset taxes. Last year we were only able to rely upon a little over \$2,000,000.00 in landfill revenue as opposed to the over \$4,000,000.00 that we had in 1989. Next year we have no money budgeted for landfill revenue. That accounts for the increase in the amount to be raised in the General Fund of the Town or at least a portion thereof.

Supervisor said at this point we also do not have any MTA funds from the County for the operation of Mini Trans. He said in all of the years of its existence it was supported by town funds and offset to a degree by state funds. Last year we were able to receive \$316,000.00 of MTA funds which are not being made available to the Town of Clarkstown this year and to the Village of Spring Valley. We will be lobbying next week to see that these funds are restored. Councilman Mandia has been very active in attempting to convince some of our legislators in Clarkstown. The Town Board will adopt a resolution next Tuesday to request that operating funds be restored.

Supervisor said additionally we have for next year the inclusion of six additional police officers to complement the town force of 135. These six additional police officers are due in large part to the dismemberment of the Nyack Police Force and its assimilation by both the Towns of Clarkstown and Orangetown. He said as you know a portion of the Village of Nyack is in the Town of Clarkstown. In order to do the job that is necessary these officers need to be included or added to our present police force. The district that will be created will also include the new Nyack High School, which is fully within the Town of Clarkstown, and the area of Upper Nyack. That will become another police sector. There is no miraculous way to provide police protection except to provide police and essentially that is what we are doing there.

Supervisor said aside from increases relating to salaries which are contractual, he thought department by department budgets are reflective of restrictive spending lines.

Supervisor stated that in regard to the Landfill/Sanitation District, the Town will have the use of the Landfill for the entire portion of 1990 through December 31st. Last year we had put into the Sanitation District approximately \$1.2 million dollars in anticipation of having to transport garbage out of state for two thirds of the year. Since we did not have to do that we used those funds to directly decrease the amount to be raised in taxes through the Sanitation District which would include leaf composting, etc. and the salaries of the individuals from the

Continued on Next Page

Highway as well as any other equipment, which is needed to deal with that program. That helped reduce the sanitation tax from the \$83.00 it was last year to the \$30+ it will be this year on the average home assessed at \$135,000.00. He also pointed out that it is still under discussion by the Town Board as to whether or not to include the entire garbage cost next year on the tax bill. Right now it is approximately \$19.12 per month for garbage pickup. Next year, if we were to include the entire bill on the tax bill, it would probably go to about \$24.00. You would be looking at approximately \$288.00. People would pay that directly to their carter or if the Town Board so desires include it on the tax bill which would enable people to use it as a tax deduction, if they choose to.

In regard to the Sanitation District, the bulk and recycling charges which are user charges and not subject to evaluation taxation will also be reflected on the tax bill.

Supervisor said he would like to thank the staff of Town Comptroller, Paul Schofield and his Finance Director, Betty Squillace, for helping put this together. He said he wanted to emphasize that this in no way, shape or form is a final document. It is subject to change and revision by the Town Board and he certainly welcomes that and suggestions by the public. He said the budget process is just that - it is a process - and it should be a fiscal process not a political one. He said fortunately, in the years we have been doing budgets here that we have managed to keep it that way. We do have until November 20th but he said he would imagine that on our first Town Board Meeting in November which will be November 13th, since we won't be having a meeting on Election Day, that we will be able to adopt the budget, if not before.

Supervisor asked if there was anyone present wishing to make a comment or ask a question?

Appearance: Mr. John Cuff
 West Nyack, New York

He spoke regarding the closing of the Landfill. He felt if the Town is taking over payment for garbage pickup, cost to the carter for bookkeeping, postage, payment books, etc., would go down in price since they would not have to provide these services. That should be reflected in their costs and our costs.

Mr. Cuff discussed town roads versus county roads. Several years ago then Supervisor Dusanenko mentioned that perhaps we should turn over some roads to the county. He said in travelling through Haverstraw he sees County Highway trucks widening the roads, paving the roads, plowing the roads, cleaning the storm drains, etc. He said perhaps Clarkstown could have more roads made County roads and make more use of the County Highway Department also.

Supervisor Holbrook said since Mr. DaCunha has been the County Highway Superintendent there have been quite a few improvements on the county roads. He said most of the major roads in the town are county roads. New Hempstead Road is now being improved. Middletown Road is being paved. Residents there were concerned that it wasn't big enough for four lanes. The county has striped it three lanes in some places so that you have a turning situation. He said the county finally replaced the culvert on Old Route 304 which has helped alleviate the flooding that posed a threat to Cranford Road and the New City Condominiums.

Supervisor said that although we sometimes might be critical of the improvements that Mr. DaCunha has presented he thought since he has been the Highway Superintendent of the County, Clarkstown has gotten a lot more attention from the county. He noted that we have almost 400 miles of roads in Clarkstown.

Continued on Next Page

Mr. Cuff said he hoped that if the town is going to build the new police building he hoped good judgment would be used regarding bonding and putting us further into debt.

Mr. Cuff said he hoped recreation continues here in Clarkstown but he does not want to subsidize any athletes unless they are 18 years of age or younger. If adults are taking advantage of our recreation facilities they should pay for it. He said he did not mind paying for the parks but he did not want to subsidize individual programs.

Supervisor noted with regard to bonding that every month Comptroller Schofield sends to the Supervisor and the Board Members the debt statement of the town. He said the last time he looked it was about \$36 million. Mr. Schofield said when we recently applied we received a AAA insurance.

Supervisor said about \$18,000,000.00 of our debt is sewer debt. Sewer debt is not subject to the bonding limitations. The assessed valuation of the town is \$3.1 billion. Not that we should go out and bond indiscriminately but he wanted to state that when we go forward with our police improvements that you are asking not just this generation to pay which is not fair but you are asking the generations in the future, who will benefit from the improved police services, parks, etc., to pay as well. He said we have been able to manage our town debt pretty well and particularly the last bond reinvestment has helped us. He commended the Comptroller for that.

Mr. Cuff spoke regarding vehicles being used in the town. He said smaller vehicles stand up just as well as bigger vehicles. Tires are cheaper, gasoline is twice as good mileage wise, maintenance is very economical. He noted that purchase of a car for \$14,000.00 was recently approved. His research turned up that we can buy two comparable cars for the same price that we are paying for one car.

Mr. Cuff congratulated the Comptroller on a very clear budget package this year.

Appearance: Mr. Gergory Schultz

He questioned the revenue for leaf composting. Supervisor said there is no question that we could do more in terms of recycling and we will be doing more in terms of revenue. There is no question about that. He said we are only beginning to scratch the surface of that. Mr. Schultz said since we have been operating on recycling we haven't really taken in much money. He thought the Board should look at incineration in place of transfer stations and carrying all this bulk out of state. He questioned trying to sell newspapers to processors who really don't have the capacity to take it.

Mr. Schultz said he would like to see our highway department phased out as such because it can be replaced cheaper and more effectively and with a greater quality of work by transferring most of the activities to a series of outside agencies. He mentioned phase 1 - bulk handling; phase 2 - possibly with leaves; phase 3 - possibly with snow plowing; phase 4 - possibly with road repair and repaving, etc. He said these tasks can be done by private individuals or companies at a cost of one half or even better than what we are paying right now. He said at a recent meeting we were putting out bids to buy new trucks. He felt we did not need new trucks. We have so many trucks in the highway department now that almost everyone has their own. Travelling around the Town of Clarkstown you can see one person per truck quite frequently just driving around. We don't need that. These trucks have a capacity of carrying three, four or five people depending upon which truck and certainly if we were going to do anything we could sell trucks rather than buy trucks or even replace them.

Continued on Next Page

Mr. Schultz said one thing about having a private contractor is that he tends to have up to date modern equipment and he assumes the risk and the problems of keeping that equipment in top notch condition and the selection of that equipment so that it is always the state of the art rather than a 1980 vehicle doing the job in 1990. He certainly would hope the town would think about what was done in the previous meeting of putting out to bids purchase orders or anticipated purchase orders for more trucks.

Mr. Schultz said the people in the highway department as a work crew do about ten houses a day in picking up the leaves. In talking with private individuals (kids from 18 to 35 years old) they can do four houses an hour. With a seven hour day that is 28 as compared to ten for the town.

Mr. Schultz said perhaps we should stop and test our leaves and test our snow plowing and allow road repair and road paving to be a private contractor project for 1992 budget.

Councilwoman Smith said to Mr. Schultz that she knew that he had sent in literature and that they had spoken over the past week. She said she called the City of Middletown and the Town of Middletown from Delaware County, neither of whom are the ones that privatize either their leaf pickup or the snow plowing. She said she also called Highland Falls and the Village of Highland. It is not them either although they did say they are only a population of about 3,000 people. Many of them if they don't take it directly to their transfer station they will have their private landscaper take it. She said of the four names, she could not find any that have private contracts. She said she still has the Village of Highland and Highland Mills and she will research it.

She said Mr. Schultz has raised a good point when he speaks about equipment and capital expense. But that is something that should be looked at when we have our Supervisor speak to the other town supervisors because today all of us in Rockland County, regardless of the town you live in, are paying excessive property taxes and if there were some way to minimize that capital expense where we could at least share the lease of equipment or use of equipment then it might benefit all of us. At the present time, she said she has taken Mr. Schultz' suggestion and have tried to follow it through but she hasn't been successful yet.

Mr. Schultz said he was aware of that. He stated that he did speak to the individual about Middletown this afternoon. He still affirms the fact that Middletown has started. Councilwoman Smith asked if this was the Town of Middletown in Delaware County? Mr. Schultz said he did not know. Councilwoman Smith said there is a Middletown in New Jersey. Mr. Schultz said this is in Orange County, New York. Supervisor said there is a Town of Middletown and a City of Middletown.

Councilwoman Smith said maybe on a test basis in some areas they are doing this and it is not common knowledge in their municipal offices but nobody could give her any details or costs or what's happening. Mr. Schultz said normally in this sort of thing and he was not suggesting that it happened, this whole subject would be funded by a \$90,000.00 engineering project. He said since he is only spending xerox and pen and ink on this he is not phoning people around the area but if it is a subject of serious interest he does have certain contacts that do a research project and probably for nothing and give some examples (not necessarily in New York) of the pros and cons, the savings, the benefits, the shortcomings, the blunders, etc.

Councilwoman Smith said she did not think anyone would turn down such an offer. It is incumbent upon us in these times as the economic climate is not good anywhere so we are certainly not

Continued on Next Page

going to waste or spend any extra money than we have to. She said if Mr. Schultz has more information they would be glad to have it.

Mr. Schultz asked Councilwoman Smith if she had called Eric Bender? Councilwoman Smith replied that she had not called him yet. Mr. Schultz said Eric Bender has at least twice on WRKL Hot Line talked about Highland or Highland Falls up near West Point as completely switching over. Supervisor said he calls him at least once a week and he will ask him about this. Councilwoman Smith asked that the Supervisor ask Mr. Bender which one it is. She also noted that it has to be like circumstances. If you are talking about a population of 3,000 it is very different from a population of 85,000. Councilman Maloney said also a factor is the amount of trees involved.

Councilwoman Smith said all areas of government are hard pressed at this point not to spend an extra cent so if Mr. Schultz has information that will help the Board is open to it.

Mr. Schultz said he will see if he can get some information within ten days.

Mr. Schultz said he would like to sum up by coming back to an earlier remark by the Supervisor. It has been suggested that the town take over the collection of garbage? Supervisor said no, not the town. We would go out to bid with private contractors to collect town refuse for a price depending upon various factors and then put that figure on the tax bill which would enable people to use that as a deduction if they chose as opposed to doing what they do now which is simply pay the carter directly. He said he is suggesting when the Landfill closes that figure would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$288.00 per year. Right now it is about \$228.00. Since it has become significant in the past few years it would seem that we should give people that option. The Town Board has not decided that definitively yet but we are discussing it. We would have to be bid out before we could do that.

Councilwoman Smith added on that point that with the tax reform laws over the last few years there is so very little left that people can take off their income tax. She said she firmly believes that garbage collection today is as much a part of your town taxes as is police protection or road protection. She said she did not think there was a question of whether or not it is legal to deduct this. She believes it is. She said there are a few good reasons to consider it. First of all, on the Town's behalf if we were to receive the money on the first of the year based on a study we had done by an audit firm, Goldstein and Halpern, about a year and half ago, they based their figure on approximately \$14.00 per house and on 21,000+ homes and at that point a 7-1/2% interest rate. The town would realize approximately \$180,000.00 to \$200,000.00 of interest that we would make on that. What we would hope to do with that interest is to offer a reduction to the seniors who live in Clarkstown and own their own homes so that would make that bill a little easier on them. Hopefully, we would say currently you are paying \$225.00 per year. We'd like to bring the seniors' fee down to under \$200.00. She said she did not know what the age was in Clarkstown to be considered a senior but maybe you pay 60% rather than 100%.

Councilwoman Smith went on to say that in the future she thought it would be very important to have negotiating control on the escalating garbage costs because it is just rising out of sight and she thinks a municipality negotiating with a contracting firm has more power than just the town through a sanitation department negotiating with individual carters. She said that is a plus side for the town. The plus side for the residents is that because there are so little left for them to deduct at least they could take this off their income tax plus they are not sending a quarterly or a monthly bill to a carter. She said for the carters

Continued on Next Page

they are assured of an advance cash flow because they would get it by every tenth or fifteenth of the month and they are not billing, whatever. It is not more fair to one than to the other. She said she thinks it is equally distributed and that is the reason we are even considering even putting it on the tax bill. If it just solely raises taxes we're not interested in doing that. It has to be a benefit to the residents. In order to do that we have to realize that we can't put an additional percentage on this tax bill. We are trying to save it from other areas. Whether or not we will be able to do it this year we don't know yet.

Supervisor stated that we have moved in the direction that Councilwoman Smith has been talking about in the last two years. First with the recycling, then with the bulk, sanitation district charges and now this is the last piece really whether or not to put the fees that people have been paying carters on the bill. It has become significant in the last couple of years and that is why it is now an important decision to make. He said he would support that as long as we would be able to give the seniors a reduction.

Mr. Schultz said he understands the tax angles but as one who has watched the Town over the years and of late he has noticed that half the garbageman's work was taken away and assigned to a different day and on that day a garbage man with a different hat comes around and he picks up the papers and he picks up the cans and he picks up the glass bottles. He said he looks at his tax bill and now he has doubled. The \$12.00+ that he used to pay when the garbageman took everything is now 10% more. Supervisor said that is because the tipping fees have gone up. He said you could make the analogy directly if the tipping fees hadn't gone up as much. He said just remember two or three years ago the tipping fee was approximatey \$6.00. From \$6.00 to \$12.00 to \$25.00 to \$50.00 to \$81.00. Councilwoman Smith said maybe we could make the same analogy with purchasing a car too. Ten years ago you could have purchased it for \$8,000.00 or \$10,000.00; and today, of course, it is double that.

Supervisor said the problem is that it costs them more to get rid of less and that is what it comes down to.

Mr. Schultz said what concerns him is the garbageman is doing less and he is getting more money than before. The customer is being taxed almost \$48.00 per year and if we multiply this by 30,000 houses in Clarkstown that is \$1.4+ million. Supervisor said the bulk is about \$969,000.00. It is 21,000 houses times the \$47.00. Mr. Schultz said let's round it off to \$1,000,000.00 The town is collecting \$1,000,000.00. The town hasn't turned around and said to John Mauro (Superintendent of Highways) we are taking \$1,000,000.00 out of your budget. No, this is a new bonanza for the town. They have taken the \$1,000,000.00 and kept it in his budget and collected it also over here and so he (Mr. Schultz) winds up paying more than once.

Supervisor said the reason for that is that the Highway Department spent half a year picking up junk which costs about \$2,500,000.00. Mr. Schultz said either way he ends up paying twice for it. Councilwoman Smith said with regard to the Highway Department we have paved more roads in the last two years than probably in the prior five years because we have had the manpower to do it. We have cleaned out streams. The entire drainage system, at this point, catch basins and whatever need attention.

Mr. Schultz said that is what concerns him. If everytime you turn around we are going to make an improvement, we are going to make a savings it doesn't net out as such, it means we have devised a new surreptitious system to do something else that you people wanted to do. Supervisor said the Highway Department budget would be the same basically, if we didn't have the bulk pickup. The

only difference would be instead of doing what they are doing they would be spending half the year picking up junk. If the Highway Department budget is \$5 million plus and they are spending half the year picking up junk which they started in June and then it became a million on demand pickups what results is that you are talking about \$1,500,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00 to pick it up as opposed to \$1,000,000.00. Theoretically, that is one pickup per year as opposed to twelve pickups per year for \$1,000,000.00. We have improved the service albeit there are a few blemishes. He said he thinks we have given the Highway Department the ability to do more work. He asked Mr. Mauro if he had to pick up junk all summer how much other work would he have accomplished. Mr. Mauro said you would not get any roads paved.

Mr. Schultz said if he doesn't have to do that then he wants the \$1,000,000.00 out of his budget. Mr. Schultz said now you are going to take over my garbageman's job then how will he know - it may be \$20.00 that is a month that is on the tax bill for less and then you are going to take the difference between \$12.00 and \$20.00 or \$8.00 per month and you are going to spend it on something else.

Supervisor said what we intend to do with the monies we collect is to use those monies to offset the senior cost of garbage collection by a minimum of a third. He said that does make some sense. We are also toying with going to a recycling incentive program maybe down the road regarding bags. Figuring the senior population probably produces the least amount of garbage they are entitled to some form of break on garbage collection. If you are only putting out a little it is really not fair to pay as much as someone who is putting four cans out and that is where we are trying to go.

Mr. Schultz said he is against the town taking over the remainder part and billing him even though it will be a tax deduction, maybe. Councilwoman Smith said we have not made a firm decision on that. Supervisor said we are still discussing it but that is the rationale behind it at least.

Mr. Schultz said he did want to say the Transfer Phase 2, 3 and 4 doesn't have to be done with legal documentation about case studies, etc. Even people on the Board here will say private contractors can do the job at half the cost of our in house people and if you talk to people around the town they will agree with you on that without a big legal engineering study. Councilwoman Smith reminded Mr. Schultz that they are looking for whatever other information he may have. Supervisor said we appreciate your challenging us nicely and we understand where you are coming from. Councilwoman Smith said it is not whether the money is being spent on school taxes, county taxes, or town taxes but we realize that a person's pocket is just so deep and it is hitting now very hard on everybody.

Mr. Schultz said he has seen the two basic proposals on the new police station. One is an old fashioned one and the other is ultra modern and he said he doesn't think either one applies based on the Police Department's viewpoint. If we have all these surplus schools here in Clarkstown why not assign one of those as the new police station rather than build a multi million dollar monument for the police.

Councilman Mandia said he thinks the Board's time is more valuable than to waste it on political rhetoric. He said he wants to express his concerns and this is for the benefit of everyone. He said if he can do nothing more in the four years he is going to be here than instill some of the thoughts he would like to bring here. He said he was delighted when he saw a 7.8% tax increase. We have discussed this. We are burdened with the Mini Trans which as the Supervisor said we are going to try and fight

Continued on Next Page

that. The Landfill and the Transfer Station go without saying. The Police Department he is thoroughly familiar with. He would like to see a tax increase that would be like Mr. Shankey did - around the cost of living. A couple of more percents because of the problems we have may be necessary. But when you add up the numbers it is 23%. It really is. Collected from property taxes. He said he heard a comment in town hall that if you have to hit them, hit the businesses. He said he sees a lot of closed stores. Everyone is saying how tough it is out there. He stated that he works in business every day and he hears more and more pleas from people - salesmen, etc.. The young people in the town, the senior citizens and many of the housewives whose husbands are off to work in the city depend upon local businesses to work. He stated that he hears from the businessmen that they got rapped last year really bad and he just wonders if we have done a good enough job in really challenging each of the department heads. He did not want to sit here and get cocky and tell you that "I am an expert on this budget." He said he has been here for nine months. He thinks Paul Schofield (Comptroller) did a great job. This is a lot easier to understand that last year's budget. He said it does make sense to ask department heads to live within this and if they can't then they should tell us what is going to hurt. Tell us what is going to happen if we don't let you go more than 5% or 6%. He stated that he would really like to see that happen. He is disturbed at 17% in Parks Board and Recreation. He said he does not see any reason for that. He said we get calls that we should stop pay raises and we should cut pay raises. He said he read every salary of every person who works for this town. No honest person is getting rich working for government. The question in government must be the numbers of people that we have and the competency they have in the jobs they are in. Everyone, including the people in this town, deserve a fair equitable increase in their salary so they can support their families and pay the same taxes we have to pay.

Councilman Mandia said so far as paying through the tax bill with the trash collection he agrees with some of his colleagues on the Town Board that it should be done, with one qualification. If we come up with a department of collecting money for garbage with seventeen employees and four \$14,000.00 cars he is a little concerned about that. He said he thinks we should try between now and the day we adopt this budget to challenge the department heads, if their budget is cut to bring this down to a more reasonable increase, to explain to the Board how it is going to hurt.

Councilman Mandia went on to state that he read through this budget as best he could. There were some cuts taken out of there by the Supervisor and other members of the town. He said he knew they hurt Mr. Mauro's budget by about \$1,500,000.00. He said he thinks that was the right thing to do. He said he hopes the county comes to us and restores the \$300,000.00. The Mini Trans is supplementing their bus system. In this town we are transporting handicapped people and senior citizens who asked us to declare a Mini Trans Week and we did. Those people are going to places like Jawonio, Venture, etc. They can link up with the county system. He said he feels we deserve that. Not any more but at least give us what we had. We in Clarkstown through that transfer station are creating a system that the whole county can share in. Nobody, especially the county, has done a thing and this town has by virtue of that transfer station. We are taking some initiative. They should take some initiative. That money should be restored to us.

Councilman Maloney said this is his seventeenth year sitting on the Board and every year we seem to get less people. He stated that he remembers when there used to be 300 to 500 people sitting out there. He mentioned to the Supervisor last week he wondered if there would be a dozen people here tonight. He said there are not and he does not know what that tells us. We try to do the best we can and this is it.

Continued on Next Page

Mr. Cuff said he would like to comment on that. He said people used to come here religiously but they all say the same thing. What good has it done? Councilman Maloney said we try to do the best we can. We listen to everybody who comes. It doesn't mean that if you are not here we don't listen to you. He said he thought Mr. Cuff was going to say that most of them moved away.

Councilman Kunis said in going through this he thinks the Supervisor did a fine job on the preliminary budget. He said he thinks it is incumbent upon this Board that a memorializing resolution be sent to the county. There is no reason in the world why they should take over \$316,000.00 which is approximately 33% of that Mini Trans budget. He said we deserve it. Our taxpayers deserve it. He feels we should send a memorializing resolution regarding this to the County Legislature. We should fight for it and he thinks the Board will.

Councilman Kunis said he has looked at the bulk pickup of approximately \$1,000,000.00 and he looks at the Highway Department budget. He said we sat here two years ago and said it would take approximately \$850,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 in the bituminous line to set up a program where he believes it was twenty miles of road would be completed annually, which would then produce a new road every fifteen years which is the average we figured out. He said he had several questions for Mr. Mauro regarding his budget. He questioned bills for bituminous and was told that those bills are way behind. He asked Mr. Mauro what he anticipated spending on bituminous? He was told over half a million this year. Mr. Mauro said about three quarters of a million all together. Councilman Kunis said two years ago our budget was \$800,000.00. Supervisor said last year it was \$425,000.00.

Councilman Kunis said he would be committed as a Board Member to give that line \$850,000.00 to \$900,000.00. He thinks it is important for the infrastructure of the town. On the other hand, he would like to recommend that we reduce the bulk pickup once again. Perhaps sacrifice a year of twelve month pickups and have six month pickup. Supervisor said that is not really going to reduce the ad valorem tax because the bulk pickup is a user charge whereas the highway comes out of ad valorem. He said he would recommend that we consider maybe increasing the bituminous because he does believe there is a lot of pressure to pave roads. He said it could be increased a couple of hundred thousand because he thinks that is something we could add to. To reduce the bulk pick up, he thinks, would be a mistake. Councilman Kunis said if we can find a couple of hundred thousand and find it within this budget without adding to the budget and he thinks we can then that would be important for the infrastructure of the town. He said long range it would save the taxpayers money. The roads have to be cared for and he thinks the Board was committed to it. He said he is certainly committed to it. Supervisor said one way we could do that is if we could get some of the MTA funds restored. That \$316,000.00 would basically put you even with the bituminous in terms of about \$800,000.00 or so. Councilman Kunis said well let's work toward that.

Councilman Kunis also spoke about solid waste refuse fees by the town. He said it is a great idea. It would benefit the senior citizens. He thinks there could be an even greater taxpayer savings if the Board commits itself to do this. Rather than bid it out on a consortium basis like bulk pickup was bid out, various garbage districts be formed in this town and garbage haulers bid on each district separately. He said he thinks that will open up the bidding process and he thinks the town taxpayers will find a great savings of anywhere between 10% and 25%. There was cross dialogue between Councilman Kunis and Mr. Les Bollman, Director of Environmental Control. Councilman Kunis said villages in Ramapo do this and it has come out a lot less expensive. He said he has had carters approach him and indicate that it would be a savings and

Continued on Next Page

they want to do it. He said he is saying that we should seriously look into forming garbage districts within the town and open up the bidding because a consortium doesn't open up bidding. It closes the bidding process. He said this is a recommendation and it would be a savings to the town.

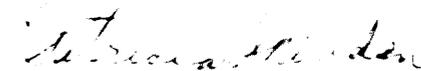
Councilwoman Smith said one year we did reduce the bulk pickup to 75% of what it was. What is important now is that people have gotten used to the fact that at least once a month whatever they have can go out. She said, although the Litter Control Bureau does have its problems, when you ride around the Town of Clarkstown, it is much cleaner. She said she does not see very much more than paper going out in her neighborhood and she would like to see a lot more of the cans and bottles because then ultimately we may be paying for the recycling and the bulk pickup but we are saving in what we are sending through the transfer station. It just takes time for these things to work. She said she didn't think Ramapo having special or separate districts is really a saving.

Supervisor said he thinks the key is what Mrs. Smith has been saying and that is that it takes time to teach people how to put the garbage out properly. We are now in our third year, going into our fourth year and you see an improvement every year.

Supervisor also noted that our new code inspector has issued field correction to people who put it out improperly which has helped to a degree so we are attacking it from a variety of ways.

There being no further business to come before the Board and no one further wishing to be heard, on motion of Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilwoman Smith and unanimously adopted, the Budget Hearing was declared closed, RESERVED, time: 9:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA SHERIDAN,
Town Clerk