

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town Hall

10/31/95

8:01 P.M.

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

Supervisor Holbrook declared Town Board meeting open.
Assemblage saluted the flag.

RESOLUTION NO. (778-1995)

Co. Dusanenko offered and Co. Maloney seconded

RESOLVED, that the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to institute proceedings as stipulated in Chapter 216 of the Code of the Town of Clarkstown to remove or rectify violations as reported by the Fire inspector of the Town of Clarkstown on premises reputedly owned by B.G. SCHEFA DEVELOPMENT CORP. in the Town of Clarkstown, more particularly described on the Tax Map of the Town of Clarkstown as Map 6, Block B, Lot 4, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing shall be held by the Town Board of the Town of Clarkstown in the Auditorium of the Town Hall, 10 Maple Avenue, New City, New York, on the 28th day of November, 1995, at 8:10 P.M., providing that service of Notice, pursuant to Town Code Chapter 216, is made on or before the 13th day of November, 1995.

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Councilman Dusanenko.....Yes
Councilman Maloney.....Yes
Councilman Mandia.....Yes
Councilwoman Smith.....Yes
Supervisor Holbrook.....Yes

RESOLUTION NO. (779-1995)

Co. Dusanenko offered and Co. Smith seconded

RESOLVED, that the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to institute proceedings as stipulated in Chapter 216 of the Code of the Town of Clarkstown to remove or rectify violations as reported by the Building Inspector of the Town of Clarkstown on premises reputedly owned by Myrna Simon in the Town of Clarkstown, more particularly described on the Tax Map of the Town of Clarkstown, more particularly described on the Tax Map of the Town of Clarkstown as Map 141, Block B, Lot 53.10 and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing shall be held by the Town Board of the Town of Clarkstown in the Auditorium of the Town Hall, 10 Maple Avenue, New City, New York on the 28th day of November, 1995 at 8:05 P.M., providing that service of Notice, pursuant to Town Code Chapter 216, is made on or before the 13th day of November, 1995.

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Councilman Dusanenko.....Yes
Councilman Maloney.....Yes
Councilman Mandia.....Yes
Councilwoman Smith.....Yes
Supervisor Holbrook.....Yes

RESOLUTION NO. (780-1995)

Co. Maloney offered and Co. Smith seconded

WHEREAS, a public hearing pursuant to Town Law Section 108, to consider the Town of Clarkstown Preliminary Budget for the year 1996, was duly scheduled and noticed for October 31, 1995, at 8:00 P.M. at the Town Hall Auditorium, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board met at the time and place specified in the notice of the Public Hearing 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, 1996, 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.

On roll call the following comments were made:

Councilman Dusanenko stated that the Town was blessed that scrap paper did improve in price and it is revenue for the Town of at least an additional \$600,000.00. Due to the Town's loss of a lawsuit in Supreme Court there was a reduction in garbage rates, with additional revenues of \$10.00 a ton for half a year. He said however that he considered spending as still high, and agreed with what Mr. Profenna had mentioned about the county revenue sharing, specifically the \$300,000.00, which does not exist in the County Executive's Budget. He understood that there will be a move from some legislators to restore revenue sharing when the County goes to its budget deliberations, but he also understood that the County Executive will probably veto that, which will render the \$300,000.00 of income obsolete. He felt that other revenues were overstated, the mortgage payment tax has traditionally been smaller. The 2.2 million dollars of revenue anticipated by the members of the Town Board may have a short fall on mortgage tax revenues alone of about \$700,00.00 or less, in addition to the \$300,000.00. He estimated that there was over a million dollars in revenue which may or may not be accounted for in the budget this year, giving us less funds to have in surplus. He stated that 2.5 million dollars of interest is paid for the bonds of this Town. For the new police station, even though there was a division of opinion as to what was built versus what could have been built for half the cost, the station should be mortgaged and bonded. He did not approve of the Town attempting to borrow a million dollars for Highway vehicles, which were not an item in the budget. The Supervisor had indicated that is a policy decision of the Board. Mr. Dusanenko's opinion on the same matter is that when Highway equipment is necessary it should be replaced so that a fleet does not have to be completely replaced at one time. He said that the last five budgets did not allot for funds for these vehicles simply to make the budgets look good and he suggested that used equipment in good condition could be purchased. He stated likewise for blacktop, that there

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should be funds allocated in the budget. He stated that highway equipment and blacktop are necessary items in the budget and that he will not support bonds for either. He stated that the Board needed a change of philosophy from bond and look good, and mortgage the future to a "pay as you go" policy. He also referred to a conversation he had with the assessor and stated that there was an oversight as there were no vacation buybacks, a \$12,000.00 oversight. He questioned how many other oversights are in this budget, with underestimates of expenditures and overestimates of revenue? If there were no amendments to the Budget to start going "Pay as you go" now then he would vote No because he thought the document was false.

Councilman Maloney stated that this was the 22nd budget he would be voting on and agreed with Joseph Pantano that it was very satisfactory also that it was reasonable and fair and he voted yes.

Councilman Mandia stated that the issues that were raised, specifically the county revenue sharing and the Bond attempt for a million dollars for highway equipment that failed, that these were enough questions unanswered not to adopt the Budget at this point and he voted no.

Councilwoman Smith stated that in this Budget there is no increase for residents and no increase for commercial. She stated that all the department heads are watching what they were spending because that is where the focus is to cut the Budget. She voted yes stating that the budget will be watched all during 1996.

Supervisor Holbrook stated that he has put together many budgets in the last decade, sometimes you get a break and sometimes you don't. The Town has been fortunate in that over the years the programs that have been put into place, the Town has reaped benefits, recycling is one of them. Orangetown gets no revenue from their recycling and pay only a few cents less than Clarkstown for their recycling. While Clarkstown is getting \$130.00 for paper, they are getting \$0.00. The Town has dealt with the solid waste situations in a rational and sane manner. When the Town lost their Supreme Court case, it did not cost the taxpayers money and when they renegotiated our contract, in essence over \$500,000.00 was saved. The Supervisor stated that when he took office the debt of Clarkstown was about \$40 million and change, now it stands at about \$41 million and change. He said yes that they have bonded for projects; police stations, parks, drainage and even roads. He stated that there were 300 miles of roads in this Town, many of them major thoroughfares that have been addressed. He felt it was appropriate to point out that in the course of the past four years that they have bonded about eight and a half million dollars, of which his colleague Mr. Dusanenko has voted for about seven and a half million. He stated that the Town of Clarkstown was not mortgaging its future. He said there are projects that need to be done and capital spending in a prudent manner is the way to accomplish this. He stated that the Park system and infrastructure are investments and yes, they do have a mortgage payment with interest and stated that they were at the same level of debt as ten years ago. He pointed out that from the standpoint of taxes, the increase has been zero. Clarkstown can claim twenty million of additional revenue. The Supervisor stated that this Town is in good financial shape and that government in this Town is not run by crisis. He pointed out that the police station and court overcrowding was dealt with before it became a problem. The record over the last decade has been one of achievement and soundness and that the financial rating of

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10/31/95

Town Hall

8:01 P.M.

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

Re: Adoption of the 1996 Preliminary Budget

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Mandia and unanimously adopted, the public hearing was declared opened. Town Clerk read notice and testified as to proper posting.

Supervisor opened the meeting to the public and invited anyone who wished to comment on the 1996 Budget to come forward.

Appearance: Donald Feerick,
New City

Mr. Feerick proposed a discount for seniors on taxes, recommending that the Town Board explore ways to keep seniors and children in town.

Supervisor interjected and explained that the Town of Clarkstown allows the maximum reduction in property assessments for seniors, thereby reducing taxes. He stated that the problem is that the limits on the amount of income that a person can make are so low, it becomes very difficult for all but the most needy people to qualify. The Town Board advocated and continues to advocate raising the limits so that more people would be eligible. He further stated that New York State be memorialized to increase the limits to allow more people to qualify.

Appearance: Joseph Pantano,
Committee for Responsible Government
New City

Mr. Pantano stated that this is the first budget since 1965 that he could suggest no revisions to. Mr. Pantano complimented the Supervisor and his staff for an excellent budget with less than 1% per year increase for the last three years and no increases for the proposed year.

Appearance: Louis Profenna,
New City

Mr. Profenna stated his concerns regarding possible areas where there was an overstatement of revenues and and understatement of expenditures.

Appearance: John Cuff,
West Nyack

Mr. Cuff spoke regarding the Highway Department. He believed that "a pay as you go" policy should be adopted for equipment by the Town of Clarkstown. He cited his various concerns regarding affordable housing.

Appearance: Russell Trojan,
Nanuet

Mr. Trojan expressed his concerns regarding expenditures, **PH** specifically those of the Consolidated Water District and the Spring Hill Ambulance District. He also pointed out the increases in Sanitation charges.

Appearance: Vijay Pradhan,
West Nyack, New York

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Mr. Pradhan congratulated the Supervisor and the Town Board for preparation of an excellent budget, stating that he could see an \$84.00 tax decrease per household.

Appearance: John Lodico,
West Nyack, New York

Mr. Lodico stated his concerns regarding police salaries and benefits. He stated that those entering public service should not receive the same benefits as those who have worked in public service for twenty or thirty years.

Supervisor Holbrook asked if there was any one else who would like to come forward.

Supervisor noted that there were two amendments to the budget:

- 1) reduction of A fund by \$100,000.00
- 2) increase of B fund by \$100,000.00

There being no one further wishing to be heard, on motion of Councilman Maloney and seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously adopted, the public hearing was closed at 8:50 P.M.

Resolution #780 adopting the 1996 Budget for the Town of Clarkstown