

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP
2025 TOWN AND WATER BUDGETS
MINUTES VAN ETTEN TOWN BOARD
NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF TOWN OF VAN ETTEN WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWN SUPERVISOR GEORGE KETURI AT 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF TOWN BOARD

HAROLD SHOEMAKER-COUNCILPERSON/DEPUTY SUPV.
FRED SWAYZE, JR.-COUNCILPERSON
CATHY LECLAIRE-COUNCILPERSON
ANDREW LARISON-COUNCILPERSON-EXC
GEORGE KETURI-SUPERVISOR

TOWN OFFICERS

BOB EASTWOOD-H'WAY SUPT.
SALLY WHITSON-ASSESSOR-EXC
DAWN ROSE-TOWN CLERK
BRANDON DECKER-CODE ENF
DENEEN DILLER- TOWN HISTORIAN-EXC
HEATHER GABLE- WATER OPERATOR-EXC
DUSTIN ROSE-CEMETERY CURATOR AND
DOG CONTROL OFFCR.-EXC
DONNA REDSICKER-WATER CLERK
LEON TUTTLE-TOWN JUSTICE-EXC

OTHERS PRESENT: REBECCA WRIGHT, SCOTT RODMAN, PAT POMPA, TERESA SILVERNAIL, JANET SAYRE, BRIAN BELANGER, SR. AND RICH LECLAIRE

NEW BUSINESS:

- KETURI OPENED MEETING WITH COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE;
- MS. SILVERNAIL ASKED FOR FUND BALANCES: KETURI STATED ~\$200,000 IN GENERAL; \$0 FOR HIGHWAY AND SHOEMAKER NOTED ~148,178.75 IN WATER. MS. SILVERNAIL ASKED WHY HIGHWAY ACCOUNT WAS ZERO AND KETURI STATED IN 2023 TOWN STARTED TO WORK ON 2024 BUDGET IN SEPTEMBER AND MADE ERRORS WITH BUDGET. SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED TOWN WILL BE RECEIVING ~\$317,000 END OF DECEMBER FOR CHIP REIMBURSEMENT HOWEVER, STILL LEAVES HIGHWAY ACCOUNT IN NEGATIVE. SHOEMAKER STATED 2024 TOWN BUDGET RATE WAS \$6.42/THOUSAND AND PRELIMINARY 2025 TOWN BUDGET IS \$7.41/THOUSAND. MS. SILVERNAIL ASKED AMOUNT FOR REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND SHOEMAKER RESPONDED \$696,904 (DOES NOT INCLUDE FIRE CONTRACT AT \$160,000). MS. SILVERNAIL ASKED WHY FIRE ACCOUNT IS OVER AND KETURI STATED WORKER'S COMP AND TOWN SHOULD CORRECT BUDGET FOR 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KETURI AND SECONDED BY LECLAIRE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH TOWN CLERK, DAWN ROSE AT 7:14 PM. ALL AYE. CARRIED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SWAYZE, JR. AND SECONDED BY LARISON TO ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:59 PM. ALL AYE. CARRIED

- KETURI STATED PERSONNEL WAS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION.
- MS. SILVERNAIL ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE ANY CUTS TO 2025 BUDGETS AND KETURI ANSWERED YES, WAGES.
- MR. POMPA ASKED ABOUT EQUIPMENT AT HIGHWAY GARAGE; SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED NEED FOR SOME ITEMS IN QUESTION. EASTWOOD NOTED TOWN CAN NO LONGER UTILIZE CHEMUNG COUNTY SOIL AND WATER EQUIPMENT. MR. POMPA STATED HE FEELS RENTING EQUIPMENT FOR SHORT TERM USE IS BETTER SOLUTION FOR TOWN. MR. POMPA STATED HE

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DOESN'T FEEL TOWN NEEDED NEW PICK UP TRUCK; OLD PICK UP TRUCK WAS SUFFICIENT. MR. POMPA STATED TOWN IS SPENDING TOO MUCH MONEY ON EQUIPMENT.

- MS. WRIGHT ASKED IF BUDGET WILL BE READY FOR VIEWING TOMORROW AND KETURI STATED YES. MS. WRIGHT FEELS THAT MONIES COULD HAVE BEEN USED FOR REPAIRING ROADS INSTEAD OF PURCHASING EQUIPMENT.
- SHOEMAKER STATED VAN ETTEN TOWN TAX RATES PER THOUSAND FOR PREVIOUS TOWN BUDGETS:
 - 2019 \$5.39
 - 2020 \$5.29
 - 2021 \$5.36
 - 2022 \$5.23
 - 2023 \$5.87
 - 2024 \$6.42
- EASTWOOD WILL HAVE 2025 HIGHWAY PROJECTS PRESENTED TO TOWN BOARD SOON.
- SWAYZE, JR. STATED HE'S BEEN SPEAKING WITH OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING INCREASING CETC (CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT TAX CREDIT) AMOUNT TO REFLECT INFLATION, ETC. AND SWAYZE, JR. IS ALSO SPEAKING TO THEM ABOUT NYS 2% TAX CAP REQUIREMENTS-FEELS THAT IT'S ANTIQUATED. SWAYZE, JR. IS TRYING TO GET OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO VAN ETTEN.
- SHOEMAKER STATED TOWN OF CHEMUNG TAX RATE PER THOUSAND IS INCREASING BY \$.99; SOUTHPORT IS INCREASING BY \$.79; ONLY MUNICIPALITY IN CHEMUNG COUNTY NOT INCREASING IS TOWN OF BALDWIN.
- SWAYZE, JR. STATED TOWN OF VAN ETTEN IS IN SECOND YEAR OF EXCEEDING 2% TAX CAP.
- MS. WRIGHT IS CONCERNED WITH REVALUATION; WILL ASSESSMENTS BE DONE CORRECTLY. SWAYZE, JR. ASKED RESIDENTS TO ASSIST WITH SURVEYS THEY RECEIVED IN MAIL AND GETTING THEM TO TOWN ASSESSOR PROMPTLY.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 2024 AT 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNED AT 9:37 PM MOTION BY SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED BY LARISON. ALL AYE. CARRIED.