

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING & 2015 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

November 5, 2014

Time: 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO FLAG

Supervisor Croce opened the meeting with a salute to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL

The following Town Board Members were present:

- Supervisor Croce
- Councilman Putnam
- Councilman Farrelly
- Councilwoman Delgado
- Councilman DePew

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL

2015 – PRELIMINARY BUDGET RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, The Budget Officer, Supervisor Croce, received the 2015 Budget Requests from all Town Departments and compiled the 2015 Tentative Budget, which was then presented to the Town Clerk on Sept. 30, 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, The Town Clerk presented the 2015 Tentative Budget to the Town Board Members at a regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting on October 1, 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board met with all Town Departments to review and make adjustments to their 2015 Budget Requests, and

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Tentative Budget has now been re- drafted by the Budget Officer with changes and modifications,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, New York hereby adopts the re-drafted document as the 2015 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Plattekill. Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Croce	X			
Councilman Putnam	X			
Councilman Farrelly	X			
Councilwoman Delgado	X			
Councilman DePew	X			

PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 TOWN OF PLATTEKILL-PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Croce stated that he feels the Town Board put together a fair and honest budget and he wanted to thank all the departments for working with the Town Board.

Supervisor Croce read through the first page and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Mark Reynolds asked how much money was in the reserve funds.

Supervisor Croce stated that there was approximately eight hundred twenty thousand. He stated that he could get better numbers for him from the bookkeeper.

Mr. Reynolds stated that he would give him a call tomorrow.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would go page by page and take any questions that the audience may have.

On the first budget line page, Mrs. Laskowsky asked why the “percentage of difference” line said that there was an 86% change in the Justice Equipment line when it should read 100%?

Supervisor Croce stated that he understood what she was asking. There was no equipment in the 2014 budget line and now there is \$3,126.00, which should equate to a 100% increase. However, he believed that the software, when looking for numbers, took the only numbers that were available from the 2015 Tentative Budget and saw the 86% change between those figures and not the 2014 Budget, because there were no figures for 2014.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked how they would know if any of the other lines were not correct?

Supervisor Croce stated that he would assume the same would happen on any other line item where there was nothing budgeted for in the 2014 adopted budget. All the other lines should be correct as there were figures for the computer to pick up from the 2014 Budget.

Ms. Valerie Smith asked about the reduction in fees for the Elections budget line.

Supervisor Croce stated that the County has decided to take over the election fees on a three year schedule as they did on the Safety Net expenses. He explained that the County would be taking over one third of the cost for the next three years until the entire cost is borne by the County. He stated that the Town has never budgeted the amount that the Board of Elections has suggested but he is taking two thirds of that amount for this budget line just to be safe. Next year we should be able to take another third off this amount.

On the next page, Mrs. Coppola asked about the equipment line in the Police Dept. budget line.

Supervisor Croce explained that there was an accident involving one of the newer police cars that was not the fault of the police officer. He explained that there was money received from the insurance company and we have some excess money from that incident.

Mrs. Coppola asked if the Town had thought about going for payments to purchase new cars?

Supervisor Croce asked if she meant budgeting for portion of a car each year? He stated that if they did this, it would inflate their yearly budget.

Ms. Smith stated that she was still confused with the “percentage of change from 2014” budget line. She stated that she could not figure out how one line could be 2%, the second line be 5% and the third line be 12% and the total budget only be up 3%.

Supervisor Croce and other members of the Town Board explained that it is the budget line that is being estimated as in reading the line from left to right. It is the estimation of that line from 2014 to 2015 and you cannot add them together, up and down.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked about the wage increases. She asked if everyone was receiving a 2% increase?

Supervisor Croce stated that most employees would be receiving a 2% increase and there are two elected officials that are also receiving an increase.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked about the Social Services – Home Relief budget line.

Supervisor Croce stated that the County has taken over the full amount of this budget as of the 2015 year. He explained that the problem is that the County is late in billing and so the Town may end up responsible for the 2014 November and/or December amounts in the beginning of 2015. We need to cover those two months.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked about the increase in the Celebrations budget line.

Supervisor Croce explained that the fireworks event would be costing the Town more money this year. The company that the Town uses has told us that they can no longer do the show that we have for \$5,500.00. We have added extra funds to cover this increase. We are hoping \$7,000.00 will be enough to have a good show. He continued to explain that most companies they have asked for an estimate will not even consider us unless we are willing to pay \$50,000.00 or more for fireworks.

Supervisor Croce stated that he felt this was a big event for our Town and we usually have thousands of people show up for it. It is also important to our community groups who set up as vendors to make their yearly funding off of this event.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that the Town Board has also moved two events, the Halloween Event and the Easter Egg Event, back to the Celebrations budget line so that is another source for an increase in this budget line.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked why the Recreation budget line had gone down?

Supervisor Croce stated yes, it did go down partially due to moving the two items, the Halloween Event and the Easter Egg Event and we also reduced some other items. We also added some additional funding for the senior trips.

Mrs. Coppola asked who was considered an employee? She thought she heard that “employees “ received a 2% increase.

Supervisor Croce stated that an employee would be anyone who works for the Town. He stated that he said “most” employees were getting a 2% increase.

Mrs. Coppola stated that she did not realize he said “most”.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked about the Cemeteries budget line? Are there funds to help out the other cemeteries?

Supervisor Croce stated that it was for mowing of the cemeteries that the Town takes care of. He stated that it seems the cemetery that the Town helped out in the past has received some funding because they have not asked for assistance again.

Supervisor Croce pointed out that the cost for retirement had gone down \$2,000.00 due to investments made by the State Comptroller. He stated that the retirement system received a 13%

return on their investment which allows us to save a little. He also stated that the line for Workmans Comp. had gone up due to a few cases we are paying and based on our salaries.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has a meeting set up with our Health Care provider to try to see what we can do to reduce the costs for health care.

Mrs. Coppola asked what carrier the Town currently used?

Supervisor Croce stated that we are now with CDPHP. He stated that we have to play the game. They come in and give us a cheaper rate for a year or two, and then we change to another company to get a cheaper rate until that company increases in a year or two. It is not good for our employees when we have to keep changing every year or so.

On the Revenue page:

Supervisor Croce stated that this page has a lot of educated guesses. We have to estimate what we will get according to what we have gotten in the past. We have to take into consideration the economy and how we see it going in the next year or so.

There was some discussion on the Dog Control and that they had not brought in the amount of money that was anticipated for this year.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had spoken to Mr. McKee about this and he stated that the revenue comes from him redeeming the stray dog to the owner and charging a fee for having the dog overnight in the kennel. This year there were very few dogs that were redeemed by the owner. Most were strays that needed a new home.

There was a question on how many dogs were picked up in a year.

Councilman Farrelly had a report from the State when they did an inspection which stated that there were 46 dogs picked up from last August until August 2014. This was the closest total figure that he had at this moment.

Supervisor Croce explained that Mr. McKee does do a monthly report that is read at a Town Board meeting each month.

There was discussion on how Mr. McKee gets the word out that there are dogs that need a home.

Supervisor Croce stated that Mr. McKee uses a varied number of agencies. We try very hard not to euthanize any animals.

There was a question on the sales tax amount and mortgage amount.

Supervisor Croce stated that these figures are given to the Towns by the County. They are also an estimate. He stated that the other problem is that the County does not necessarily run these items on the yearly basis of January to December. The money for this year may not come in until sometime in the beginning of next year.

Supervisor Croce stated that also for some of the recreation programs, the programs bring in the money to pay for them, however we still have to budget the full amount in case the program doesn't do as well as anticipated. We don't run programs to make money, we try to make them self-sustaining.

Councilman Putnam stated that one of the figures is also a grant that they are anticipating receiving for a youth program.

Mrs. Coppola asked what bank the Town uses?

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town uses Key Bank and M&T Bank.

Mrs. Coppola asked if the Town would be changing banks?

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board has not decided yet. Key Bank is convenient. If we move to a bank that is farther away, will we end up with more expenses?

Mrs. Coppola stated that she felt the Town should look for how much interest the bank is paying.

There were no further comments or questions on the 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Croce stated that he wanted to thank the other Town Board members and the Department Heads for working with the Town Board on this Budget. He stated that this Town Board is trying to run this towns government as frugally as possibly. He stated that he has a little more work to do as the State has a new program where he will have to fill out and submit a plan to stay under the cap and show that the Town is using shared services, to be completed by June 31, 2015, and then residents will receive a rebate check from the State by the end of next year.

Discussion was done on

Mrs. Laskowsky stated that last year the Landfill Closure debt was paid off. She wondered if there was money coming in now that this is no longer being paid out?

Supervisor Croce stated no. He stated that he thought the same thing, but it doesn't work out that way. We have other increases in Health costs and Worker's Comp., salary increases and other department needs. He stated that when he first came in and we had all those things to pay, we were dipping into the reserves for a lot of money. What he can say is that with these items paid off and the County taking over the Safety Net expenses, we are down to taking out very little as compared to previous years.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked if there was anything else the Town was paying off?

Supervisor Croce stated no and he dreads the day, but feels that something will have to be done to either extend this current Town Hall or we have to do something else. This building was built to last 20 years and it is now over 40 years, but where will we get the money? He stated that he is looking to get grants, we need to finish our Veterans Memorial, and we can't have a fancy Town Hall while people can't pay their taxes. We have to prioritize what we need, but at some point something will need to be done. He would like to see more energy efficient items at the Town Hall and maybe a small extension. We have to make do with what we have, but we need to do it with minimal impact on the residents.

There were no further comments or questions from the Public.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2015 Preliminary Budget at 8:24 PM.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETINGMINUTES

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the October 7<sup>th</sup> ,9th, 10th, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Special Town Board Meetings and the October 15, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 7th, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Abstained (he was absent)
Councilwoman Delgado	Yes
Councilman DePew	Yes

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the Oct. 9, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Abstained (he was absent)
Councilwoman Delgado	Yes
Councilman DePew	Yes

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Abstained (he was absent)
Councilwoman Delgado	Yes
Councilman DePew	Yes

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the Oct. 15, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the Oct. 16, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the Oct. 17, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Reynolds asked when the Town Board would be adopting the final 2015 Budget?

Supervisor Croce stated that he was planning to adopt the 2015 Budget at the next Town Board meeting on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.

There were no further comments or questions from the Public.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input section of the meeting.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 1 – BID FOR ICE CONTROL SAND

Supervisor Croce read a memo from the Highway Superintendent requesting that the Town Board go out to bid for Ice Control Sand.

\* Councilman DePew made a motion that the Town go out to bid for Ice Control Sand for the Town Highway Dept. with bids to be received and opened, in the Town Clerk's Office by 10:00 AM on December 1, 2014.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 2 – HIGHWAY WINTER WORK SCHEDULE

Supervisor Croce read a memo from the Highway Superintendent stating that the Highway Dept. would be starting their winter schedule on Monday November 17, 2014 with the hours of 6:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

#### SECTION 3 – HIGHWAY DEPT. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Supervisor Croce read a memo from the Highway Superintendent requesting that \$10,000.00 be transferred from the General Repairs Highway Budget Line to the Machinery Contractual Highway Budget Line to cover any unforeseen shortages that this account may accumulate before the end of the year.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to transfer \$10,000.00 from DA5110.4 Highway General Repairs Contractual to DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual to cover any unforeseen shortages that this account

may accumulate before the end of the year. A copy of the complete transfer is attached to these minutes.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 4 – CONFIRMATION ON AWARD OF HIGHWAY GRANT - \$200,000.00

Supervisor Croce read a letter from Senator Larkin congratulating the Town of Plattekill on receiving a grant of \$200,000.00 to complete infrastructure improvements to Old and New Unionville Roads. The funding is through the Multi-Modal Program and is administered through the NYS Dept. of Transportation.

Supervisor Croce stated that he wanted to thank Senator Larkin and our Highway Superintendent and his secretary for securing this grant.

#### SECTION 5 – ULSTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Supervisor Croce read a letter from the Ulster County Executive, Michael Hein, which stated that he had appointed a Veterans Advisory Committee to work on the design and installation of a memorial as a tribute to Ulster County's fallen soldiers. He is trying to honor every military member from Ulster County that was either killed or missing in action in any war or conflict from the American Revolution to Operation Enduring Freedom. He was asking for assistance in obtaining the names of any service members that our Town knows of that were either "Killed in Action" or "Missing in Action". He was asking that any records be sent to Keith Bennett, Deputy Director of the Ulster County Veterans Agency.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has contacted Pearl Morse, the Chairperson of our Veterans Committee, the Town Clerk, Barbara Dawes and Elizabeth Werlau, our Town Historian to offer whatever help they can give to getting this list sent to the County as soon as possible.

#### SECTION 6 – PLANNING BOARD REQUEST FOR TRAINING

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board had received a request from the Chairperson of the Planning Board, Cindy Hilbert, to attend a training class in Goshen, NY. There is money in the budget to cover this expense.

\* Councilman Putnam made a motion to allow Cindy Hilbert and other members of the Planning Board to attend the Land Use and Planning Workshops/Training Classes in Goshen, NY.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 7 – 2015 U.R.G.E.N.T. CONTRACT

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town has to renew its contract with the Ulster County URGENT Task Force for 2015. This program does a lot for our community and helps our Police Dept. investigate criminal enterprises and narcotics cases.

\* Councilman DePew made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
 ULSTER REGIONAL GANG ENFORCEMENT NARCOTICS TEAM

November 5, 2014

**WHEREAS**, various Town and Village police departments in the County of Ulster together with the Ulster County Sheriff’s Office and the Ulster County District Attorney’s Office, as Member Agencies, seek to operate and act collectively as a task force team pursuant to Federal policies and guidelines, such task force known as the Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (hereinafter referred to as “URGENT”), and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of URGENT is to achieve maximum coordination and cooperation, through utilizing the combined resources of Member Agencies, to primarily investigate gang members and affiliates involved in criminal enterprises, as well as investigate narcotic related offenses and the possession and sale of illegal firearms in Ulster County, and

**WHEREAS**, membership in the URGENT task force will benefit the Town of Plattekill in that it will provide a specialized unit to combat gang violence and narcotic trafficking within the Town and the County of Ulster, and

**WHEREAS**, THE Town board has reviewed the inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement (Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team) proposed by the Ulster County District Attorney and the Ulster County Sheriff, a copy of which is annexed hereto and made a part of this resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, the Police Chief of the Town of Plattekill has also reviewed the annexed inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement and has recommended that the Town Board approve the agreement,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill hereby approves the annexed agreement and membership in the task force, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Police Chief of the Town of Plattekill is authorized to execute the annexed agreement on behalf of the Town.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

<u>On the vote:</u>	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Supervisor Croce	X			
Councilman Putnam	X			
Councilman Farrelly	X			
Councilwoman Delgado	X			
Councilman DePew	X			

Adopted on November 5, 2014

**SECTION 8 – VOUCHERS**

\* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 11/5/2014, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$14,410.98, the Highway Fund amount of \$72,270.55, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$701.16, the Modena Light District amount of \$1,293.19 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$2,325.28 for a total amount of \$91,001.16 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 9 – ADJOURNMENT

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.