

PRESENT: Sup. F. Newlin; Councilmen A. Bax, S. Edwards, M. Johnson, and G. Pacioni; Finance Officer A. DiRamio; 1 Press (Buffalo News) and Dep. Clerk C. Schroeder

ALSO PRESENT: Councilman-Elect Ernest Palmer

The Supervisor called the meeting concerning the 2007 Budget to order at 2:42 p.m. Prior to finalizing the budget, Newlin said there are a couple of housekeeping measures to clear up.

Edwards said there are two proposals out right now from the area's two co-generation plants AES/Somerset and NRG/Tonawanda to construct a clean coal energy plant. If successful, AES Corporation will invest more than \$1 billion in the new facility in the Town of Somerset creating 1,000-1,500 construction jobs and 100-120 permanent jobs. Edwards asked the Board's consideration in adopting the following resolution in support of AES Corp's bid:

**RESOLVED**, that the *Town of Lewiston* hereby expresses its support for AES Corporation's bid to construct a "clean coal" power plant in the Town of Somerset under the terms of Governor Pataki's Advanced Clean Coal Power Plant Initiative; and

**FURTHER**, that the *Town of Lewiston* recognizes the many benefits of this project to the Niagara Region and to the State of New York – the jobs, the investment, the tax revenue, the power – and is eager to secure these benefits to improve the quality of life of local residents.

**Edwards MOVED for adoption of the foregoing resolution. Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.**

Regarding health insurance, Newlin said the Town Board on 11/3/06 approved Independent Health Flex-Fit as the 2007 base plan for non-union employees. This was based on an estimate of a 13% increase over 2006 rates. Since then, they have received the actual Independent Health rates which reflected a 22-1/2% increase. In light of this information he said the Board may want to reconsider its choice for the 2007 base plan.

**Johnson MOVED to rescind the approval of Independent Health Flex Fit as the 2007 base plan for non-union employees. Seconded by Bax and carried 5-0.**

Newlin deferred this matter until the regular meeting until they are able to obtain the rates from Univera Solutions. If we can find a more comparative plan that provides good coverage at a lesser cost then the Board would be willing to consider it.

The Budget Officer asked that the following budget lines be changed to reflect the correct account numbers for budget amendments made at the 11/13/06 budget worksession:

SW1 – 8320 – 0400      Amount to be \$525,000.

SW1 – 8340 – 0400      Amount to be \$ 73,800.

**Johnson MOVED to correct line-item SW1-8320-0400 to read \$525,000. Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to correct line-item SW1-8340-0400 to read \$73,800. Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

Newlin gave an overview of the 2007 Budget, providing a summary of appropriations and estimated revenues, as follows:

Newlin said the overall appropriated fund balances in the A, B and BD Funds are down substantially from 2005. Overall, the town has enough reserves in fund balance for future needs.

2007 Budget Summary

<u>Code</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Estimated Revenues</u>	<u>Appropriated Fund Balance</u>	<u>Amount to be Raised by Taxes</u>
A	General	\$2,404,697	\$2,348,950	\$55,747	\$0.00
B	General/ Outside Village	2,001,687	1,913,382	88,305	0.00
BD	Highway-Town	1,609,000	1,563,750	45,250	0.00
SD	Drainage	268,000	268,000	0.00	0.00
SS1	WPCC	<u>1,503,500</u>	<u>1,486,000</u>	<u>17,500</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	Subtotal	\$7,786,884	\$7,580,082	\$206,802	\$0.00
<u>Special Districts</u>					
SW1	Water	\$1,484,250	\$1,065,800	\$215,023	\$203,427
SF	Fire Protection	961,800	9,700	0.00	952,100
SS2	LMSIA	1,614,160	1,152,702	0.00	461,458
SS3	LSSIA	300,400	123,796	0.00	176,604
SL	Lighting	<u>20,000</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>19,800</u>
	Subtotal	\$4,380,610	\$2,352,198	\$215,023	\$1,813,389
Total		<u>\$12,167,494</u>	<u>\$9,932,280</u>	<u>\$421,825</u>	<u>\$1,813,389</u>
	ASSESSEDVAL VILLAGE		\$133,281,701		
	TOWN O/S				
	VILLAGE		<u>626,627,733</u>		
	TOTAL		<u>\$759,909,434</u>		

Newlin provided a list of changes that need to be adopted to enact the budget before the Board. Included in the amendments is an increase in the A-Fund Contingency from the proposed amount of \$50,000 to \$60,123. Newlin said he hopes the Board considers publication of a town newsletter in 2007 to allow for better coverage of town meetings and to try and get as much important information out to its residents as to what's happening.

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$55,000 to line-item A8989-0432 (LNRRC), Seconded by Edwards and carried 5-0.**

Newlin said they reviewed the salaries of certain town personnel who are below the mid-range for their position based on a study that was conducted in 2005. With regard to Seniors Director Jeannette Collesano, Newlin said her salary, if approved, will be increased to \$34,980. She is still below the mid range of the study which is \$40,000.

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$100,550 to line-item A-7630-0100 (Senior Personal Services). Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

The second salary reviewed was that of Mike Dashineau. His salary is projected to be increased by 6% as Parks Director.

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$46,170 to line-item B-7110-0100 (Parks Personal Services). Seconded by Edwards and carried 5-0.**

Newlin said the salary increases have an impact on State Retirement, Medicare Tax, Social Security and Medical Insurance. The perspective budget lines will need to be adjusted to reflect the increases.

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$85,000 to line-item A-9010-0800 (State Retirement). Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$14,500 to line-item A-9020-0800 (State Retirement). Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$62,000 to line-item A-9030-0800 (Social Security). Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$171,000 to line-item A-9060-0800 (Medical Insurance). Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$14,925 to line-item B-9010-0800 (State Retirement).  
Seconded by Edwards and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$49,350 to line-item B-9030-0800 (Social Security).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$117,175 to line-item B-9060-0800 (Medical Insurance).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

Changes were then made to the BD-Fund (Highway). Edwards noted that the Highway Budget is a bare bones budget. We are very tight on some lines. If the Highway Supt. falls short, we're going to have to come to the plate. He's running a very tight department. If everything's in range, we're in good shape but if we get hammered in the winter with overtime costs and fuel costs... Newlin said funds could be allocated from B-Fund Contingency to help out a highway department under pressure. If he has pressing equipment needs we can help him too with some of the Power Authority monies.

**Edwards MOVED to appropriate \$45,250 to line-item BD-1000-0599 (Fund Balance).  
Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to appropriate \$1,335,000 to line-item BD-1000-1120 (Sales Tax Revenue).  
Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to allocate \$350,000 to line-item BD-5110-0100 (Gen Repairs Pers. Svc.).  
Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to allocate \$135,000 to line-item BD-5110-0400 (Gen Repairs Contractual).  
Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to allocate \$52,000 to line-item BD-5130-0200 (Machinery Equip).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to allocate \$91,000 to line-item BD-5110-0100 (Gen Repairs Pers. Svc.).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to allocate \$5,000 to line-item BD-5140-0400 (Brush/Weeds Contractual).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to allocate \$170,000 to line-item BD-9060-0800 (Medical Insurance).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

Newlin made two notations with regard to the Highway Budget. First, he said Supt. Reiter has been helpful and agreed with the numbers. Under Brush/Weed Contractual, he has been able to start negotiations with a firm that will take brush chippings. That line would have been \$30,000. Since there is a commodity value to those chippings, they were able to reduce the line substantially. Also, the Town suffered a tragic loss with the passing of David Quarantillo of the Highway Department. Mr. Reiter, cognizant of the fact of this Board's concern of rising medical costs, is going to do his level best to keep the department at 16 employees (down from 17) and use seasonal/part-time help as he best sees fit and where he is allowed to as per the labor contract. The longer we can reduce full-time personnel the more this town will accrue savings, Newlin said.

**Johnson MOVED to appropriate \$1,172,000 to line-item B-1000-1120 (Sales Tax Revenue).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$104,100 to line-item B-1990-0400 (Contingency).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to allocate \$60,123 to line-item A-1990-0400 (Contingency).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

**Johnson MOVED to appropriate \$90,000 to line-item A-1000-2401 (Interest & Earnings).  
Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.**

The last proposed change was to Supervisor Personal Services. **Johnson MOVED to allocate \$71,027 to line-item A-1220-0100. Seconded by Pacioni,** for discussion.

Newlin said the costs built in this line are the salaries of the Supervisor, Confidential Secretary and Deputy Supervisor. Under Johnson's proposal, the Supervisor's salary will be increased to \$34,500.

Johnson said he is hoping they start the year discussing what the duties of the Supervisor are and how much time is involved. The Town of Lewiston is similar in population to that of the towns of Wheatfield, Lockport and Grand Island. The Supervisor's salaries in those towns are \$35,000, \$41,200 and \$59,349, respectively. I really think we need a full-time Supervisor and we need the public's read on that. It's more important now to have a full-time Supervisor on board that can be responsible and give the time that is needed.

Bax said the primary concern for this Board should be its ability to attract able bodies to the supervisor's position. We should get in line with the salaries offered to the supervisors in the municipalities around here.

Edwards echoed the comments of the council. We all recognize the hours the Supervisor puts in each week. The proposed raise is very fair. It's still less than what the job deserves. You should be compensated for the time put in.

Pacioni agreed with the increase in salary. It's minimal as compared to the other townships. He concurred that they should look at making the Supervisor's position full-time.

The Supervisor moved the question. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Edwards MOVED to adopt the 2007 Final Budget, as amended with the changes made at this and previous meetings. Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.**

At the worksession of 11/13, Edwards requested a resolution in support of the 2006-2007 Department of State Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program for a 2006 Vacuum Street Sweeper to be shared by the Towns of Lewiston, Wheatfield & Pendleton and Village of Youngstown. The Supervisor was awaiting a response from the Village of Lewiston and Town of Porter. The Village of Lewiston has since gone on record in support of said Grant Program.

Edwards read the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York, Department of State is soliciting applications from local governments under Shared municipal Services Incentive Grant Program for collaboration between communities to promote Shared Services for Town of Wheatfield, Town of Lewiston, Town of Pendleton, Village of Youngstown and Village of Lewiston.

**RESOLVED** that the Supervisor of the Town of Lewiston is hereby authorized and directed to file a joint application with the Town of Wheatfield, Town of Pendleton, Village of Youngstown and Village of Lewiston to request funding under the New York State, Department of State Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program for a 2006 Johnston VT650 Vacuum Street Sweeper mounted on a 2006 Freightliner FC-80 Cab and Chassis.

**Edwards MOVED for adoption of the foregoing resolution. Seconded by Pacioni.**

**A poll of the Board resulted in 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.** Motion Carried.

**Johnson MOVED to adjourn. Seconded by Pacioni and carried 5-0.** Time: 3: 40 p.m.

Transcribed and  
Respectfully submitted by:

Carole N. Schroeder  
Deputy Town Clerk