

PRESENT: Supervisor Brochey; Councilmembers Ceretto, Conrad, and Winkley; Town Attorney Seaman; Finance Officer Blazick; 2 Press; 4 Residents and Clerk Donna Garfinkel

ABSENT: Councilman Bax

Clerk read notice into record:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Lewiston for the fiscal year 2016, including general town funds, highway funds, fire protection district funds, and lighting district funds has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Lewiston, 1375 Ridge Road, where it is available for public inspection by any interested person during normal office hours.

The Town Board of the Town of Lewiston will hold a public hearing on said Preliminary Budget on Thursday, November 5, 2015 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Lewiston Town Hall. At such hearing, any person may be heard in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget as compiled or for or against any item or items therein contained.

The following are the proposed 2016 salaries of certain Town officers of the Town of Lewiston.

Supervisor	\$41,906
Council Members (4)	\$13,856
Highway Superintendent	\$70,181
Town Clerk	\$60,972
Town Justices (2)	\$27,399

By order of the Town Board October 26, 2015

Supervisor asked if any resident wished to speak.

Winkley stated that \$600 will be included in the VFW.

Winkley asked if the Judges received a pay-increase. Blazick said it was removed because she was told all elected officials had to stay the same. The only increase was the Town Clerk. The Clerk requested an additional \$10,000 for the Tax Receiver's duties. Last year she was at approximately \$48,000, not including \$2,300 as Registrar. Winkley said this needs to be discussed.

Winkley asked what the tax rate will be. Blazick believes the tax cap is at \$35,409, which would be a tax rate of .00423, which if calculated on a \$100,000 home would be an additional \$4.23/year.

Winkley said Modern tipping fees are down, sales tax is down, and CWM is going to be gone. The Town needs to start preparing for an eventual Town tax. This should be included in the budget. All Board members have talked about this for the last two or three years.

Conrad said the rate in which the Town is allowed to raise the taxes in small increments, is so low, inevitably the Town will be so far behind.

Brochey asked the Board to consider, regarding Clerk Garfinkel, the savings of the consolidation of the two offices. Winkley wants to discuss this later.

Witryol, Amy – Lower River Road – Witryol called Clarence to find out their tax and they estimate it at \$10/\$1,000. Witryol would not criticize anyone for being overly conservative, most Town residents prefer that.

Witryol would be very surprised if Modern's revenue didn't increase next year. The DEC approved shipping New York City garbage to Niagara Falls by rail. The test phase of this started September 21st. This is not replacing the trucks coming; it is adding volume to the waste sheds. Once the test phase is done, there could be ½ million tons of garbage coming. In speaking with a solid waste operator from New York, they expect this to increase the price.

Witryol suggests reconciling the reports received from Modern to get a good look at what the fees are, that are being submitted.

Blazick would like to get a good hold on this and asked Witryol for her help. Witryol said yes.

Witryol believes the agreement with CWM requires them to have an independent audit done. This would definitely show the numbers.

Witryol has no reason to believe that Modern wouldn't have given to the Town their best projection, but was very surprised, with the additional volume to the waste shed, that that's the number?

Brochey said the Board is trying to be conservative; there is very little room for error.

Blazick is concerned that, she takes the numbers as they are being supplied, and doesn't know enough to be able to question what they are paying. This is one of Blazick's goals.

Blazick said the tax cap is based on the total assessment, including special districts. That number is so small compared to other Towns; a 2% increase is very tiny.

Winkley MOVED to close the Public Hearing, Seconded by Conrad and Carried 4 – 0.
(6:25 pm)

Seaman said changes can be made to the budget right-up until the adoption, which needs to take place by November 20, 2015.

Blazick requests another scheduled meeting with the Board so input is made on any changes.

It was suggested this be added to the agenda of the Work Session on the 9th.

Winkley MOVED to schedule a budget meeting for November 16, 2015 at 6:00 pm, Seconded by Conrad and Carried 4 – 0.

Winkley MOVED to adjourn, Seconded by Ceretto and Carried 4 – 0.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted by:

Donna R. Garfinkel
Town Clerk