

**NOVEMBER 4, 2020  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**2021 Annual Town Budget**

**7:10 P.M.**

**Present:** Supervisor Post  
Deputy Supervisor Underhill  
Councilwoman White  
Councilwoman Michalak  
Councilman Zambito

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Morasco  
Deputy Town Clerk Sauka  
Alecia Kaus, Video News Reporter  
Brian Quinn, Daily News Reporter  
Michael Shultz  
Loren Clark  
Michael Dana

Supervisor Post called the Public Hearing to order at 7:10 P.M. and opened the meeting for public comment on the 2021 Annual Town Budget as published in the Daily News.

Michael Shultz addressed the Town Board. He reviewed the budget closely and had no concerns on the 2021 Budget but is concerned for the future budgets. He noticed that a tremendous amount of revenue dollars come from the water districts to pay employee salaries. He questioned whether this goes on forever. Won't these other Town's maintain their own districts?

The Town Supervisor explained that the water and sewer operations are the most crucial to have control over to enhance economic development. Without economic development there isn't an increased tax base and costs generally go up. The County provides water to the City and Town of Batavia, Oakfield and Elba. Most of the systems are operated by Monroe County Water Authority through retail agreements. Through strategic planning, the Town has done its best to provide the same or better level of service and maintain local control over the water and sewer operations, such as sizing lines appropriately to meet future demand. With retail agreements you do not have the control of the system.

The Supervisor further explained that virtually every employee in this organization is doing two or three different jobs to earn the wage that they are paid. If the job responsibilities go away, then that wage goes away, and the budget expense is reduced.

This budget calls for a 40-cent increase per thousand dollars assessed value and the County rate is going down 31 cents. The overall increase is 9-cent per thousand dollars assessed value.

Mr. Shultz commented that the initial budget, had a half a million dollars for expansion of the Town Hall because of the building's insufficiency, particularly the court. He went on to say that since the pandemic, the staff has been self-managed,

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working from home and has been getting things done. The insufficiency of the court still exist. He expressed that the Towns and County need to come together and asked if it was possible to work with the County to build a facility or build our own court facility.

The Supervisor explained that the Town did propose a joint venture for a court facility and visiting center in about 2008 with the Town of Elba and the Chamber of Commerce that could have served other Town's as well. Each Town has a court, with a total of 30 elected justice's in Genesee County. The cost to maintain a court facility to the NYS specifications is astronomical. It deprives the dollars from the Town that could be better used elsewhere to serve the community. Many towns are looking to consolidate their courts.

The Town is not proposing to spend any money for an expansion. It will be doing maintenance to the existing buildings. The Town is proposing to move the Assessor's office to the City Centre and utilize the Town Hall's existing footprint.

Michael Dana questioned the shortfall in the budget. The Supervisor expressed that he is concerned with the States reductions to the County and that creates a shortfall to the Town. Thus far there is about \$375,000 of revenues that the Town did not get because of the reductions. However, the Town did not spend the \$1,000,000 from the unappropriated fund, which was a savings

Mr. Dana questioned whether there is going to be an increase in property valuation of the homes. The Supervisor explained that last year the Town did not do a re-assessment but will be doing a reassessment this year. The State drives up the values based on sales. The Supervisor further explained that if the value goes up, the school tax may go down or maintain a stable rate because they are held to the tax cap.

Loren Clark asked about the boat launch. The Supervisor explained that it is in East Pembroke by the East Pembroke Fire Station. It was property that was donated to the Town. The dollars that are in the 2021 budget are to do groundwork. Also, the Town Republican Committee donated \$5,000 towards the boat launch.

Mr. Clark also questioned the \$60,000 in the budget for Ellicott Trail. It was explained that he was looking at the 2020 budget cost. The amount that is in the 2021 budget is \$5,000 to maintain the Town's section of Ellicott Trail.

Supervisor Post declared the Public Hearing closed at 8:07 P.M. on the 2021 Annual Town Budget as no one else spoke for or against the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Teressa M. Morasco  
Town Clerk