

A Special Meeting to adopt the Budget of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, April 27, 2008 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Wiegman	Trustee Gallelli
Village Manager Zambrano	Trustee Olver
Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Restuccia
	Trustee Murtaugh

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wiegman called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Wintermeir, 43 Radnor Ave., commented that he was disturbed that the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation position was eliminated and also that he learned about it from the Croton blog. He added that there is a 3 million dollar fund balance and Recreation fee increases targeted boats and the children's summer camps; he is also concerned about the potential for a lawsuit and the officials should take great care if that position is replaced. Mr. Wintermeir addressed the fund balance that he recalls should be kept at one million dollars and inquired if any of this is going to be used for parking lot improvements rather than taking out a bond. He asked how that fund balance of three million dollars is going to be used. He also suggested the Katz property be sold to reduce the tax burden. Mr. Wintermeir spoke about salaries and suggested any appointed salaries for those making over \$90,000 be frozen but he is not adverse to increasing salaries for those making under \$90,000. He also suggested increasing the salaries for the Mayor and Board of Trustees which has been the same for many years; this will bring in more people willing to run for office. Mr. Wintermeir stated that he feels the increase in recreation fees focuses on people who own boats and the children's camps and hopes there is a contingency plan to have someone in charge when emergencies arise as Sue Snyder was always available.

Don Daubney, 45 Bungalow Road, stated that he understands with the elimination of the recreation superintendent's position, there is a plan to have the DPW superintendent take care of the land and parks. Village Manager Zambrano replied that this change took place months ago. Mr. Daubney responded that the person who has been doing that job has been doing it very competently, however, he feels eliminating the recreation superintendent's position is doing a disservice to the Village and questioned how much the Village actually will be saving; the amount of work that needs to be done will be done by the people who are there now. Mr. Daubney asked if the Recreation Committee's opinion was sought. Mayor Wiegman replied that it was a Board decision. Village Manager Zambrano added that this was a difficult decision for the Board to make; the Recreation Committee is an advisory committee and this is not within the realm of their responsibilities. Mr. Daubney disagreed and stated that he felt they should have been consulted.

Mike Mamone, 19 Young Ave., stated that budgets all seem to be the headlines and he applauds the Board for what they did; he firmly believes the Village has too many employees; everyone likes programs, but programs require money including employee salaries. Mr. Mamone suggested that more needs to be done; spending federal money may be easier than spending local money but it all comes out of our pockets and it is the same money. He added that salaries have gotten out of hand; every employee who retires has to be replaced, so we are paying twice. Mr. Mamone recalled when the Village had one quarter of the employees there are today.

3. RESOLUTIONS:

- a) On motion of Trustee Olver, seconded by Trustee Murtaugh, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village of Croton on Hudson presently employs a Superintendent of Parks & Recreation; and

WHEREAS, due to the changing needs of the Village, the Board has determined that for reasons of economy and efficiency, it would be beneficial to eliminate the position of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village hereby abolishes the position of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation effective May 31, 2009, and authorizes the Village Manager to lay off the individual presently serving in that title in accordance with applicable law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes paid administrative leave for the individual presently serving in that title from the date of this resolution through the effective date of the abolition of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation position.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli commented on the difficult deliberations they had coming to this decision; the employees of the Parks & Recreation Dept. have been working under the DPW for many months now; this is not a change for them; in the end the Board felt this could be done without any disservice to the residents, the jobs can be done under the new situation and it will be a viable and effective running of the recreation department from a budgetary and service point of view. Trustee Olver added that in addition to the splitting of the department, the Board looked across all the departments very carefully this year; in particular, the Recreation Department's volume of activities in relation to the number of employees was visibly lower and was not justified in these difficult economic times; the elimination is for budgetary reasons; the former director will be on the County list and will have a call on the post for the next 4 years in the event this position is restored. Trustee Olver added that this Board is committed to have each department be as cost-effective as possible and they have produced the first tax cut for many years for this Village. Trustee Murtaugh stated that this was a very difficult decision and the Recreation Advisory Committee does serve a roll, but cannot participate in confidential personnel matters and that is why they were not involved in this decision. Mayor Wiegman stated that this was indeed a very difficult decision; facing the budget constraints such as general revenues not going up and locked-in labor agreements, the Board did have the task of finding

ways to remove \$400,000 from the budget to get to the goal they wanted to be. Trustee Olver added that all aspects of the funding of the Village were looked at. He stated that regarding fund balance, we are expecting a drop in income over the next year and is expecting conditions will continue to be difficult for the next year or two; the Village is not in the position to reduce fund balance with these conditions and the fund balance must be kept at a level to produce a favorable bond rating. He added that, as to salaries, most are set by contract and they were not in the position to differentiate between union and non union workers who work together; Village Manager Zambrano has offered to take no increase; others received very moderate increases and, in a few cases, salaries were enhanced due to significant new responsibilities. He believes they will have to struggle next year, more than this year, to reach the same goal, but we cannot afford increased taxes. Mayor Wiegman added that if they had avoided the difficult decisions this year and used fund balances, they would have eroded the rainy day fund that will likely be needed next year. Trustee Olver called upon the School Board to lower the proposed budget to zero or below.

- b) The following resolution was moved by Trustee Gallelli, seconded by Trustee Restuccia and carried by a roll call vote: Trustee Olver, aye; Trustee Restuccia, aye; Trustee Gallelli, aye; Trustee Murtaugh, aye; Mayor Wiegman, aye:

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
COMMENCING ON JUNE 1, 2009 AND ENDING MAY 31, 2010, MAKING
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE VILLAGE OF CROTON-ON-
HUDSON GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING THE RATES OF
COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR SUCH PERIOD.**

WHEREAS, this board has met at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing on the preliminary budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the preliminary budget as amended and revised and as hereinafter set forth is hereby adopted and that the several amounts stated in column titled "Adopted" in Schedule A1-General Fund,

F1- Water Fund,

G1-Sewer Fund,

HN1-Capital Fund and,

Schedule 7-Debt Service,

Be adopted and they hereby are appropriated for the objects and purposes specified and the salaries and wages stated in Schedule 5 of such budget shall be and are hereby fixed at the amounts shown therein effective June 1, 2009.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli reiterated that they worked very hard to reach and get below zero this year however, next year is going to be a difficult year and it will be hard to maintain this type of budget numbers, but the Board will work very hard to do that. Trustee Olver reminded everyone that the tax rate per thousand just two years ago was 208.887; we are up to 227.989 and that is with a tax decrease from the current fiscal year; he wishes the other out of control industries like health care and education would feel the pressure to do the same.

- c) The following resolution was moved by Trustee Gallelli, seconded by Trustee Olver and carried by a roll call vote: Trustee Olver, aye; Trustee Restuccia, aye; Trustee Gallelli, aye; Trustee Murtaugh, aye; Mayor Wiegman, aye.

Resolution adding past due receivables to the tax bills for the fiscal year June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Treasurer is hereby authorized to place the following past due receivables on the tax bills the fiscal year June 1, 2009 through may 31, 2010.

GENERAL FUND

ALARM FEES	\$ 2,250.00
REFUSAL TO PAY FOR SIDEWALK	\$10,531.03
COMMERCIAL GARBAGE	\$14,600.00
TOTAL	\$27,381.03

WATER AND SEWER FUNDS

UNPAID WATER AND SEWER CHARGES	\$65,515.35
-----------------------------------	-------------

- d) The following resolution was moved by Trustee Olver, seconded by Trustee Restuccia and carried by a roll call vote: Trustee Olver, aye; Trustee Restuccia, aye; Trustee Gallelli, aye; Trustee Murtaugh, aye; Mayor Wiegman, aye.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the Tax Warrant for the collection of taxes for the period beginning June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010.

TAX WARRANT

TO: Sandra Bullock, Treasurer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to receive and collect from the persons named in the tax roll hereunto annexed, the several sums stated in the last column hereof opposite their respective names, being a total of **\$10,113,666.38**

For the current budget	\$10,014,055.34
For the Supplemental Tax Bills	\$ 6,716.66
Sub Total	\$10,020,722.00

For Unpaid Water Rents and Charges	\$65,515.35
For Failure to Pay for Sidewalks	\$10,531.03
For Failure to Pay for Bounced Check	\$ -0-

For Failure to Pay Alarm Renewals	\$ 2,250.00
For Alarm Fines	\$ -0-
For Emergency Water Repairs	\$ -0-
For Commercial Garbage	\$14,600.00
TOTAL	\$10,113,668.38

FURTHER COMMANDED to receive and collect such sums without additional charge until June 30, 2009; and thereafter to collect such of the sums as have not been theretofore collected, an additional charge of five percentum for the first month or fraction thereof and one percent for each month or fraction thereof thereafter until paid.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED, to return the tax roll and warrant to the Village Clerk on or before the first day of May, 2010, and to deliver to the Board of Trustees at the same time an account of the taxes remaining unpaid; describing each parcel of real property upon which taxes are unpaid, showing the person or persons to whom the parcel is assessed and showing as to each parcel the amount of tax unpaid.

Dated April 27, 2009

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor

ATTEST

Pauline DiSanto, Village Clerk

The Village offices will be open for the collection of taxes **June 1, 2009** through **June 30, 2009** Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon.

- e) The following resolution was moved by Trustee Restuccia, seconded by Trustee Murtaugh and carried by a roll call vote: Trustee Olver, aye; Trustee Restuccia, aye; Trustee Gallelli, aye; Trustee Murtaugh, aye; Mayor Wiegman, aye.

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 3 of 2003 was approved at a regular Village Board Meeting held on October 7, 2003; and

WHEREAS, this Local law called for the setting of Village Fees through Board Resolutions; and

WHEREAS, it would be of benefit to both the Village and the general public to have all fees conveniently placed on one resolution, which may be amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, a master fee schedule was adopted on October 7, 2003 and has since been modified a number of times,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts the attached updated master fee schedule effective June 1, 2009.

Discussion: Trustee Olver stated that this schedule was developed and amended by previous Boards; it has been looked at carefully, agreed with and are ready to adopt these fees. Mayor Wiegman stated that the Board does have the authority to make amendments during the course of the year as necessary; some recreation fees rose modestly, but most fees are the same as last year.

Mayor Wiegman stated there are a number of volunteer advisory committees and he made the following appointments to the Recreation Advisory Board: Peter Sedlmair and Jane Murtaugh both for 3-year terms beginning April 2009. This brings the Committee up to full staffing. Trustee Gallelli moved to accept the appointments, seconded by Trustee Restuccia, approved unanimously.

Mayor Wiegman read the following statement:

Mayor's Budget Message April 27, 2009

The coming year's village budget is the seventh one on which I have the privilege to work. It has been—as well—the most difficult one to complete by far. Cutting over \$400,000 out of the initial proposed budget meant making difficult decisions. We knew revenue in the coming year would be going down. We knew taxable valuation within the village would be slipping for a fourth year in a row. We knew large mandated costs like labor agreements and non-discretionary personnel benefits would be rising modestly, no matter whether we could afford them or not. We also knew that many households in the village have been forced into difficult and lean economic times. We took as our charge to avoid adding to the economic pressure already on village residents and property owners.

Therefore, from the outset of the budget process, we resolved, as Trustee Olver put it a month ago, to pursue a “zero or as close to zero” tax increase as possible.

The good news is that tonight we enact a village budget that is smaller than last years and that delivers a tax cut for village property owners of 1.8%. This tax cut may be the village's first in many decades. While I would be happy to learn of other municipalities or school districts that are delivering tax cuts to their constituents, I have not yet heard of any others doing so at this time.

We had two positive things working for us in unprecedented doses this year. First, the village board members were united in the goal and trusted each other throughout the process. Second, we benefited from an extremely cooperative village staff that was willing to work with the village board on several rounds of the budget revisions in the past month.

The result, a tax cut of 1.84%, is unprecedented in recent years for the Village and indeed an exceedingly rare occurrence among Westchester County's villages.

How did we lower the tax rate?

1. We achieved this tax rate reduction even as the total taxable valuation remained essentially flat and general revenues from non-tax sources declined slightly.
2. We froze the cost of parking lot permits, water rates, and most building department fees at the 2008-2009 levels. Some recreation fees increased by about 5%, in many cases due to increased labor costs for those services.
3. All the departments cooperated very well with our requests for further cuts from the proposal budgets in the past month.
4. We rolled back total appropriations by net \$460,000 from the initial 2009-2010 proposed budget and a net \$283,000 below what was appropriated for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
5. We reduced the village's growing reliance of appropriated fund balance and the water department transfers by 12% for 2009-2010 to lower our recent habit of borrowing ever more from these future rainy day funds.
6. We thank all the departments for such great cooperation in coming with lower budgets this year than they had last year. Some of net reductions made over last year and from the proposed to final budget for the coming year include the following (in descending order of magnitude):
 - a. Legal budget by \$120,000,
 - b. Recreation by about \$100,000,
 - c. DPW by \$66,000,
 - d. Parking Lot by \$50,000,
 - e. Fire Dept by \$25,000,
 - f. Police by \$13,000,
 - g. General Administrative by about \$10,000, and
 - h. Courts by \$5,000.

We did increase the budget for one department for next year: Emergency Medical Services. EMS is the newest, smallest, but fastest growing village department. It's budget increased by \$45,000 to \$249,000 for 2009-2010. The EMS Department was created a year ago, has delivered excellent value to the village, has grown to 50 volunteer members, and needs some added resources to sustain it in its infancy.

We approached this year's budget making process with a unified goal of reducing the tax burden as much as we could without reducing the capacity of the village to deliver services next year and beyond. We hope we have made the right choices for this year. And we hope we have done so by keeping the village on sound financial footing for the coming year.

Trustee Olver made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Murtaugh seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M. The Board adjourned to a work session in the Village Manager's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury
Secretary

Village Clerk