

A Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget was held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY on Monday, April 9, 2012 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

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| Mayor Wiegman | Trustee Gallelli |
| Village Manager Zambrano | Trustee Schmidt |
| Attorney Whitehead | Trustee Murtaugh- on line |
| Treasurer Bullock | Trustee Raskob |
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1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wiegman called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Village Manager Zambrano conducted a power point presentation explaining the real property tax cap that was instituted this year and how it relates to the Village.

Treasurer Bullock conducted a power point presentation explaining the current proposed budget which is still under review.

PUBLIC HEARING: Trustee Raskob made a motion to open the public hearing; second by Trustee Gallelli; approved unanimously.

- a) Ed Braddick, 9 Young Ave., asked if the EMS vehicle is a replacement or a new vehicle and is it absolutely necessary?; do we give mileage currently for use of his own vehicle. Mr. Braddick questioned if the new chief's vehicle is new or a replacement. He added that he believes that the budget can be trimmed significantly; people are struggling to stay in this Village; he questioned staffing and has it been looked at again this year; there have been no reductions. He asked if the Washington Fire House sprinkler system is a code requirement. Village Manager Zambrano stated that he will check on this.
- b) Allison Feinberg, 45 Truesdale Drive, asked that salary increases be cut.
- c) Kevin McClone, 2 Stevenson Place, asked about the lease for the Yacht Club and when will it be up; why are we paying for the breakwall when they are repairing it already; he questioned the cost of the soil screener; he questioned spending \$50,000 for an old chassis when we just purchased a new tanker for \$50,000 and do we have a plan for the future; the Harmon firehouse is a newer facility; why spend money when we may replace the Washington firehouse in the future; he also questioned the EMS vehicle expense, put the money in the fly car instead. He asked why spend \$75,000 for a modular structure in the parking lot and what is that for.
- d) Barry Feinberg, 45 Truesdale Dr., stated that the only place he saw significant decreases in the budget is for Senior Services. He asked if the board has any intention of bringing the budget down close to the 2% tax cap. Trustee Gallelli replied that it is their intent to reduce this proposed budget.

- e) Ginny Calcutti, 18 Hunter Place, asked if there wasn't a bond for the sprinkler system already. She asked if the Yacht Club members are all Croton residents. She was told that there are residents and non-resident members. Ms. Calcutti added that she doesn't think that the 25 GPS units are needed at this time. Ms. Calcutti questioned if a new part time employee has been hired. Village Manager Zambrano replied that no one has been hired. Ms. Calcutti questioned the Village court's promoting another employee with a \$17,000 raise; her opinion is that her tenure has given her the experience and should be given the same raise as everyone else. She asked for a stop of attending all conferences this year. Ms. Calcutti questioned the Treasurer's items of \$1,000 for mileage and overtime and the \$500 for the Village Clerk for overtime for elections. Village Manager Zambrano replied that the election overtime is for staff to open the buildings at 5 am; it is an hourly union rate and is charged to the Village Clerk's budget. Ms. Calcutti questioned the proposed salaries for non-union employees.
- f) Pat Moran asked about the unfunded mandates and does that include the pensions. Village Manager Zambrano responded with details. Ms. Moran stated that retirement benefits are a percentage of salaries and we have no control, but we do have control over raises and the number of employees. She asked why health insurance is fixed for non-union employees; the Village is free to get health insurance elsewhere. Ms. Moran asked about overtime and if non-union staff gets paid overtime. Village Manager Zambrano replied that they get comp time.
- g) Bob Wintermeier, 43 Radnor, suggested getting rid of the Katz property, we paid \$900,000 and it sits there doing nothing; go back to the five people who had inquired about the property. He added that it is not a good sign to track employees with a GPS; try to reduce trips and the clothing allowance and longevity allowances should be gotten rid of. He added that he sent Trustees information about salary increases; the Village is top heavy in high end salaries. Mr. Wintermeier added that he would like to know the status of the Gouveia and Katz properties. He questioned how the new piping for some people experiencing brown water is going to be phased in. Mr. Wintermeier stated that the fund balance today is \$500,000. Regarding comp time, he stated that some employees get quite a hefty salary and we pay the employees or they can take the time; exempt positions should not get overtime.
- h) Dan Chesnard, Farrington Road, stated that he heard we weren't going to cut grass and mow with Village employees, but will hire out instead of doing in house. He added that he believes we should not pay for work at the Boat Club and he thought members were only Croton residents. Regarding the request for GPS units, if managers do not trust the employees, than we should not have them working; if they are for driving in the Village, give them maps. Mr. Chesnard questioned the expense of \$2,000 dental for non-union and \$900 for union and why they are not all the same. He stated that Village vehicles should not be taken out of the Village during non-working hours; use your own vehicle to take home; everyone has to pay for their commute.
- i) Phyllis Morrow, Nordica Dr., spoke about the water pipe replacement project, the role of the Mayor, the budget, the raising of taxes but not raising fees; she suggested areas where revenues can come in; some have to give up something to get something. She stated that we do need a new roof on the Municipal Building and she has the solution for the remodeling of the Municipal Building and can bring it in at 25% of the proposed cost.

Ms. Morrow stated that the Harmon study was flawed and a more judicial vetting of hiring of consultants need to be done using qualified research consultants.

- j) Debbie Braddick, 9 Young Ave., inquired if the architect fee for repairs of this building is in this budget. Village Manager Zambrano replied that it is in the current budget. Ms. Braddick asked if there was a RFP for the architect. Mayor Wiegman replied that there was one a few years ago and this is a follow-up to that contract.
- k) Mark Franzoso stated that this budget is totally unacceptable; he hopes it will be looked at and cut back; he didn't realize it was that bad; are the taxpayers allowed to be included in these work sessions; he will do his best to help the taxpayers save money
- l) Phyllis Morrow spoke again about what the future taxes are going to be in a few years if this is allowed to pass.

Discussion followed on posting of the work sessions on the Village web site, the minutes of the previous work sessions and the presentation of the numbers to the Board by department heads and how the information is gathered and presented later. Bob Wintermeier added that the work sessions are not the same as here; technically residents are not supposed to ask questions; it is not an interactive session. Mark Franzoso suggested forming a Citizens Advisory committee to work with the Board. Trustee Schmidt commented on responding to the questions and staffing that needs to be looked at. He stated that he supported the sanitation study but expected a different type of study and he questioned picking up of trash by both DPW and Recreation Dept.

Barry Feinberg added that this budget should not have been put before the public because of the 2% tax cap; it should not go over 2%; he asked how ultimately the budget is approved. Mayor Wiegman replied that the Board of Trustees adopts the budget as a whole and it is done at a public meeting. Mr. Feinberg asked that the public meetings be publicized.

Phyllis Morrow stated that she looked at the budget at the library; all the accounts have numbers and the key should be made available. Village Manager Zambrano explained how to read the budget.

Roseann Schuyler, League for Open Government, stated that this meeting shows people are dissatisfied by how work sessions are handled; she asked that they be videoed and recorded and made more accessible; the public should have better access to these meetings and the comments here would have greater value.

Ginny Calcutti stated that we should use the television station more and asked if we would rent the GPS's. Village Manager Zambrano replied that they would be leased. Ms. Calcutti stated that no money was set aside when finances were doing well, now there is not enough money; there should be planning for the future. She added that when she raises her hand to ask a question at work sessions, she has never been denied.

Kevin McClone, 2 Stevenson Place, spoke about the lease for the Yacht Club and asked why it hasn't been increased. Village Manager Zambrano replied that this lease was signed several years ago. Mr. McClone also asked about increases in recreation fees.

Trustee Raskob made a motion to close the Public Hearing; second by Trustee Gallelli; approved unanimously. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:15 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury

Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

A Work Session followed regarding the draft Negative Declaration, WAC referral resolution and public hearing resolution regarding the proposed local law No. 3 of the Year 2010 (October 2011 version) which provides for Harmon/South Riverside Gateway Zoning district expansion and amendment of zoning regulations regarding district and related regulations.

The Board retired to Executive Session.