

PUBLIC HEARING

November 3, 2010

The Byron Town Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Crnkovich at 7:00 p.m. with the following people present:

- Supervisor.....Robert Crnkovich
- Councilmen.....Jeanne Freeman
Jeff Thompson
Jack Redick
- Highway Superintendent.....George Heins
- Town Clerk.....Debra Buck-Leaton
- Absent.....Councilman Ivison

Public:

- John Durand.....6383 Townline Road, Byron
- Barb and Jim Cudney.....7072 Rte. 237, Byron
- Mickey Truax.....Swamp Road, Byron
- June Eichenberger.....7326 Rte. 237, Byron
- David Chupp.....Tripp Road, Byron
- Richard VonBergen.....6721 Townline Road, Byron
- George Squires.....McElver Street, Byron
- Tom Felton.....6376 Townline Road, Byron
- Robert Wilson.....Mill Pond Road, Byron

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Supervisor Crnkovich led the people in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2011 BUDGET:

A **motion** was made by Councilman Redick to open the Public Hearing on the 2011 Budget at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson and carried with the following vote:

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF BYRON
2011
PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Byron, the Preliminary Budget and Assessment Roll for the Byron Sewer District and the Preliminary Budgets and Assessment Rolls for the Byron Water District No. 1, Byron Water District No. 2, Byron Water District No. 3 and Byron Water District No. 4 for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 have been completed and filed in the office of the Byron

Town Clerk, 7028 Rte. 237, Byron, New York where they are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Further notice is hereby given, that said Preliminary Budget, the Preliminary Budget and Assessment Roll of said Sewer District and the Preliminary Budgets and Assessment Rolls for the Byron Water District No. 1, Byron Water District No. 2, Byron Water District No. 3 and Byron Water District No. 4 will be reviewed at a Public Hearing to be conducted by the Town Board of Byron at the Byron Town Hall, 7028 Rte. 237, Byron, NY on Wednesday the 3rd of November, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., at which time all interested persons will be heard and objection to said Assessment Rolls considered, pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law. The proposed salaries of the following Town of Byron Officials are as follows:

<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>\$ 11,000</i>
<i>Deputy Supervisor</i>	<i>\$ 1,000</i>
<i>Councilmen (4/each)</i>	<i>\$ 3,000</i>
<i>Town Justice</i>	<i>\$ 11,075</i>
<i>Town Justice</i>	<i>\$ 10,500</i>
<i>Highway Superintendent</i>	<i>\$ 47,000</i>
<i>Town Clerk</i>	<i>\$ 25,016</i>
<i>Tax Collector</i>	<i>\$ 4,202</i>
<i>Registrar of Vital Statistics</i>	<i>\$ 420</i>

By Order of the Byron Town Board
Debra Buck-Leaton, Byron Town Clerk

Supervisor Crnkovich reviewed the 2011 Preliminary Budget:

- Amount to be raised by taxes is \$194,200.00
- General and Highway Funds: The estimated tax rate is \$2.00/\$1,000.
- Sewer District: \$0 to be raised by taxes. O&M will be \$90.00/unit and debt service will be \$0
- Water District #1: \$100,000.00 (301.5 units) is the amount to be raised by taxes
- Water District #2: \$72,838.00 is the amount to be raised by taxes, with the Town of Byron having 164.5 units for \$63,564.00, and the Town of Stafford having 24 units for \$9,274.00.
- Water District #3: \$4,390.00 (9 units) is the amount to be raised by taxes.
- Water District #4: \$4,722.00 (11 units) is the amount to be raised by taxes.

Public Comments:

Councilman Redick read the following comments on behalf of Councilman Ivison:

Please excuse my absence tonight. The “Make A Wish” foundation has given our family an amazing gift that was scheduled this week.

As many of you know I voted against this budget at our last meeting. I regret that I can't be here to advocate for my position in person.

First of all – it's important to understand that I think the primary task of a Town Board is to establish a budget for the people and materials necessary to provide the services that citizens need. The Supervisor and the Highway Superintendent must then execute within the confines of that budget and can do so with a high degree of discretion. In most cases – consultation with the board isn't required so that town government can operate efficiently.

If you accept that premise – now is the time to impact the track we are on.

I opposed this budget because I disagree with the spending priorities in the highway fund. The equipment reserve must be funded with the future in mind. What are our equipment needs now, next year and 5 years from now? If we had to replace all of our equipment today it would cost well in excess of one million dollars! To avoid financing our equipment needs with debt we need to reserve at least \$100,000/year.

Therefore I suggest the following modifications to the budget:

1. Decrease General Repairs Contractual (DA5110.4) by \$25,000 to \$125,000
2. Decrease Machinery Equipment (DA5130.2) by \$20,000 to \$11,000
3. Decrease Snow Removal Contractual (DA5142.4) by \$15,000 to \$105,000
4. Increase Highway Reserve Fund (DA9950.9) by \$40,000 to \$100,000
5. Keep the remaining \$20,000 in the unexpended balance

Here's some additional rationale...

If it is deemed that a pickup truck is a high priority for the town's capital we can fund that piece of equipment from the Highway Reserve Fund with a public meeting and an open debate within the community.

The combined funding of the general repairs contractual account and the CHIPS account has risen steadily over the last few years as it's become apparent that some of our roads have lacked attention. The amount we budgeted in 2010 represents a 20% increase over 2007 spending levels. I think this is enough until Sales Tax revenue allows us to more aggressively fund this line item.

Snow removal is an "icy" topic. I'm frustrated that increases are always forecasted. In 2007 and 2008 we were spending \$90,000 on this. In 2008 there was significant inflation due to salt and diesel. Since those years we've budgeted \$100,000 and \$105,000 respectively. I think \$120,000 in 2011 is excessive. I'd like to see the Highway Superintendent use a higher level of analysis regarding the decision to salt.

Thomas Felton: Why has the Health Insurance line item gone up so much?

Highway Superintendent Heins: Two anticipated new retirees will be covered under the General Account

Thomas Felton: Has the Town been happy with the new Bookkeeping firm?

Town Clerk Debra Buck-Leaton: Yes.

Thomas Felton: Why has the revenue for Fines and Forfeitures gone down from what was estimated for 2010.

Supervisor Crnkovich: The revenues have been increased by \$5,000.

Thomas Felton: Why is the Interfund Transfer (A9901.9) so much?

Highway Superintendent Heins: To help pay for the retirees sick pay

Councilwoman Freeman: She has reservation about passing the budget due to the Machinery Reserve Account.

ADJOURN:

A **motion** was made by Councilman Thompson to adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2011 Preliminary Budget at 7:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Freeman and carried with the following vote:

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra M. Buck-Leaton
Byron Town Clerk