

**Town Board Meeting  
November 12, 2013  
Continued Discussion**

Following the Public Hearing at 7 PM on Local Law No. 1 for 2013 and prior to the Public Hearing at 8 PM on the Adoption of 2014 Budget the Town Board had the following discussion at 7:12 PM:

**1. SPECIAL REQUEST – COURT CLERK SALARY**

There was a special request put in by the Justice Court to pay a particular person in the court system \$17 an hour. Councilperson Wayne Freer was requested by Justice Grieco that both employees as senior clerks are doing the same job and they do not receive the same salary. One receives \$14.79 per hour and one received \$16.53 per hour. The question was posed by Councilperson Kyle Barnett do we raise Maryanne to Lois's salary? Both judges agreed to make the salaries both the same. No salaries are based upon seniority. Supervisor Coutant suggested that we bring both of them to \$16.86 per hour because they are doing basically the same job. Councilperson Barnett had no problem with this. The Town Board agreed the salaries would be the same.

**2. Item No. 38 – Kevin Rentfrow**

The cost for servicing our computers by Kevin Rentfrow was raised to \$600 a year. The Tax Collector's line was discussed and this year she has spent \$3,200 out of \$3,500. There are still outstanding stamps to be paid from this line.

**Line 71 – Assessor**

The Assessor was just hired at \$40,000. The salary listed in the budget was \$40,800. The \$800 will be taken out which was the two percent raise.

**Line 106 – Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk's salary is raised to \$40,000 from \$36,000. The computer costs were discussed and the question as to why the present Town Clerk models do not support Windows 7? Councilperson Gloria VanVliet asked if one unit could be purchased instead of the two? Both computers need to be changed according to Kevin Rentfrow. Erin's model is okay but Holly and Diane need upgrading. The cost to upgrade was reduced by Kevin from \$1,800 to \$1,400.

**2. Tim Keefe's Contract**

There were some typographical errors which have been corrected in the contract. The term of office is November 12, 2013 to November 12, 2014. The contract calls for the hours to be twenty (20) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 11 AM to 2 PM.

There was a lengthy discussion as to the salary. The first salary was \$26.18 with \$1,500 stipend but was contested by Councilperson Wayne Freer and Councilperson VanVliet who believe no one should be paid for driving to work. Supervisor Coutant provided a letter written by former Supervisor Ray Rice in January of 2005 "providing a \$1,500 stipend attached to the Zoning Enforcement Officers title to cover

vehicle expenses incurred by not taking the town vehicle out of the Town of Esopus and to cover expenses responding to afterhours work related appearances in the town.” Councilperson Freer disagreed because this has no bearing on this new contract. Supervisor Coutant argued this was the conditions of employment originally when Tim Keefe was hired. Tim Keefe said you all voted last year to approve my contract. Councilperson Freer stated we are not going to pay anyone to drive back and forth to work. Councilperson Gloria VanVliet mentioned at the time when Tim was hired full time we did not have a Fire Inspector. Now we have Deb Pugliese as our Fire Inspector. Councilperson Freer said we have no problem with paying mileage but this is about not paying taxes. He could be given a 1099 form.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett said it does not make a difference to the town. Is this agreeable to the Town Board? Councilperson Freer still stands his ground I will not pay to have him drive back and forth to work. Councilperson Donna McAuley agreed a 1099 could be used. There is no change in the cost to the town. Tim Keefe said he works in Woodstock twelve days a year and he wants to be under the \$30,000 State limit. The salary ended up being \$26.85 an hour plus the \$1,500 stipend to be paid by voucher. This changes the 2014 budget by \$300.

**A Motion to approve the Supervisor to sign the Building Inspector’s Contract was made by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**Health Costs – 5% increase**

**Don Kiernan – Water & Sewer Budget:** \$10,000 could be taken out of contractual line. The water line is going down \$15,000 and the sewer budget is up \$15,000. A suggested increase in sewer costs of 3.4% was suggested for 2014. \$5,000 can come from reserve.

**Karen Mains salary as Secretary to the Highway Supt. will be \$33,000**

**The 2014 Town Budget will increase by 2.13%**

**The public hearing on the 2014 budget will follow.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Diane L. McCord, Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**