

RICHFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

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The Richfield Town Board held a public hearing for the 2020 tentative budget on Thursday November 7, 2019 at the Richfield Town Hall. The public hearing was opened at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Palumbo. Board Members in attendance were Eckler, Frigault, K. Seamon, and R. Seamon. Highway Superintendent Proctor was also in attendance.

Supervisor Palumbo explained to the public how the budget process works and how the board came up with the figures for the 2020 preliminary budget.

Palumbo opened the floor for public comment.

Frank Hammer- how does the board look to save money?

Supervisor Palumbo explained that when there is a light winter the town is able to save money. The last two winters have been hard. There has been a 22% increase in the price of salt and a 1% increase in the price of sand. Health insurance costs are also on the rise. The board has been looking into alternative health insurance plans.

Ed Bello- Will the tax increase filter to everyone? Yes

Beth Ann Hammer asked why the court revenue was so low in 2019.

Cheryl Sparks stated it would be easier to absorb a tax increase over a longer period of time, not all and once. Supervisor Palumbo explained that if it stretched out over a longer period of time, the town will have to exceed the tax cap for the next five years and tax payers would not receive a rebate check. With a one-time large tax increase, the budget can get back on track so the tax cap will not have to be exceeded in the future.

Clinton Sparks asked if the Town makes money from plowing county roads. Highway Superintendent Proctor stated there is approximately a \$20,000.00 profit made from plowing county roads.

Motion by Palumbo to close the public hearing at 7:49 pm second by Frigault. Eckler – yes, Frigault – yes, K. Seamon – yes, R. Seamon – yes, Palumbo – yes.

Supervisor Palumbo opened the public hearing for the proposed local law to exceed the tax cap for the 2020 budget at 7:49. Supervisor Palumbo explained that because the court's income in 2019 was approximately 6% lower than projected and with the 3.4% allowed tax cap increase, there will be a 9.73% increase to taxes in the 2020 budget. Supervisor Palumbo stated this should be a one-time increase to exceed the tax cap to get the budget back on track.

There was no comment from the public on the matter.

Motion by Eckler to close the public hearing at 7:54 pm, second by Palumbo. Eckler – yes, Frigault – yes, K. Seamon – yes, R. Seamon – yes, Palumbo – yes.

Supervisor Palumbo opened a regular meeting at 7:54 pm.

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Motion by Palumbo to pass **LOCAL LAW # 2 OF 2019**, A Local Law Authorizing a Property Tax Levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law 3-c, second by Eckler. Eckler – yes, Frigault – yes, K. Seamon – yes, R. Seamon – yes, Palumbo – yes.

Motion by Eckler to adjourn at 7:55 pm, second by Palumbo. All members were in favor.

Maggie Young, Clerk