

PRESENT: Supervisor Broderick; Councilmembers Bax, Ceretto, Geiben and Morreale; Finance Officer Blazick; 1 Press; 8 Residents and Clerk Donna Garfinkel

The Supervisor opened the Public Hearing and requested the Clerk read notice into record.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Lewiston for the fiscal year 2017, including general town funds, highway funds, fire protection district funds, and lighting district funds has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Lewiston, 1375 Ridge Road, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during normal office hours.

The Town Board of the Town of Lewiston will hold a public hearing on said Preliminary Budget on Thursday (Wednesday), November 9, 2016 at 5:30 pm showing such changes, alterations and revisions as shall have been made therein by the Town Board of the Town of Lewiston.

At such hearing, any person may be heard in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget as compiled or for or against any item or items therein contained.

The following are the proposed 2017 salaries of certain Town Officers of the Town of Lewiston.

Supervisor	\$41,906
Council Members (4)	\$13,856
Highway Superintendent	\$70,181
Town Clerk	\$60,972
Town Justices (2)	\$27,399

By Order of the Town Board
October 24, 2016

The Supervisor welcomed residents to speak.

Lyle, Mr. - Lower River Road – Lyle is very impressed with what the Zoning Board of Appeals places on the website for upcoming meetings. It is very clear with all the details. It would be nice to see for all Boards/Commissions.

Glasgow, Paulette – The Circle – To look into this budget one sees a number of questions that need to be asked and answered.

With a possibility of a Town tax, why is there an increase of \$200,000, and where did it come from?

In order to make up for this \$200,000, or any line items additionally cut, why was the library cut an additional \$10,000, and the Lewiston American Legion Post not funded at all.

Why is the Attorney Contractual line increased by \$25,000 in the Preliminary Budget? When Geiben and Glasgow were on the Town Board there was one attorney. He was paid \$50,000 with a Contractual line of \$100,000, answered all Town legal questions, represented the Town in court and negotiated union contracts. Why does the Town need \$360,000 for legal fees?

Every year the Town receives \$850,000 for the NYPA. Glasgow was under the impression this is revenue and should be in Projected Annual Revenue, but it is in a Capital Account

Why are there so many dormant Capital Accounts, such as H-43? There is over \$16,000 for Joe Davis Park. The Town has been out of Joe Davis for at least 2-years.

Why have these accounts not been closed and funds transferred back into the General Fund?

Why is there nearly \$370,000 in the Power Allocations fund? Is this money that is to be distributed to the tax-payers for rebate checks?

Why is there \$2 million sitting in H-97 – NYPA annual account? Can this money, as pointed out by the Auditors, have a long term capital plan?

The Comptroller has often said, when you present an annual budget behind that budget there should be a capital plan. This would spell out expenses and how the Board will face emergencies and future purchases of equipment.

In the Executive Summary of the Auditor's report it was stated there should be a formal policy for Fund Balance for each account. This way the Board knows exactly how much money is suppose to be in each fund balance.

Glasgow has had a problem for many many years with people being paid the wrong tier. Why does the Town pay people to volunteer on Boards/ Committee / Commissions? One volunteers because they want to make the community better.

The Town pays a lot in unemployment benefits. Why does the Town hire so much seasonal help? If you want to cut down on expenses don't hire so much seasonal help. Establish a policy to hire seasonal help for essential services, highway/water/sewer. If Parks & Recreation needs additional people, fine. In looking at the abstract the bulk of the seasonal help is Parks & Recreation.

Glasgow has a problem with the size of government. The Town has a policy regarding when a position is created or vacated, to post the job for ten days. For some reason this is not being followed. The Town is hiring individuals that don't live in the Town of Lewiston and are not paying them according to the pay schedule. The Town has an approved salary schedule and it is not being followed. People come in and a salary is just slapped on it.

No one is following the Procurement Policy in regards to leasing vehicles and buying equipment.

Why is the Town paying someone \$12,000 to write grants? For many years the Police Dept. wrote grants. There is an individual sitting here tonight that wrote the grant for the vests for the Police. That service can be given to the community and the Town can save money. There is a multitude of people within the community who would gladly give you that service pro-bono.

Last month the Lewiston Taxpayers Accountability & Action Alliance distributed to the Board an Ethics Policy. There is a Town employee soliciting from Town residents, cash donations to cover Town expenses using a Facebook page, listing the Town's address and phone number. This activity is in violation of at least three State Comptroller opinions. This is an example why the Ethics Policy needs to be addressed.

No one wants to be against the Ice Rink, but the Comptrollers opinion is quite clear that municipalities have no statutory authority to solicit donations from the tax-payers to cover Town expenses.

Further, it is the opinion of the Comptroller that any money that has already been solicited needs to go back into the General Fund.

Glasgow will share the Comptrollers opinion with the Town Board.

Since there is already private interest in solicitation for this, Glasgow would strongly suggest the Board encourage the privatization of this. Ask Mr. Deal to take over, the hiring, the donation solicitation, the management and the operation, and not use tax-payers funds to do this.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to voice opinions Glasgow questions if anything she has just said is going to have an impact on the budget or is she just spinning her wheels.

Another concern is the time of the meeting. The Board is asking the public to comment on a budget, where there is talk of imposing a Town tax, when the bulk of the residents cannot be here to comment. Glasgow strongly suggests the Board hold the meeting at a convenient time.

Glasgow said she didn't make this mess, the people in this room didn't make this mess, but yet the Board is asking for clean up.

Maggard, Marjorie – Garlow Road – Maggard feels there are some items in the budget that could be reduced by a large sum.

Geiben said there is time to address the concerns of the residents.

Broderick said the VFW came to the Town and said they did not need the money this year, but would like to be considered on a year-to-year basis.

Broderick has written down all suggestions and appreciates the comments. Broderick was hoping more would have attended; he really wanted to hear what they had to say. The Budget is not something the Board treads lightly on, and was hoping for more opinions.

Geiben MOVED to close the Public Hearing, Seconded by Bax and Carried 5 – 0. (5:50 pm)

Geiben recalls, when on the Board years ago, there were problems finding times to hold the meetings. There are not enough evenings in the week, and the building is inadequate.

Broderick said with the holiday on Friday (Veterans Day), and to have ready for Monday, Blazick would need to work on the holiday.

Glasgow really wants the Board to consider looking at cutting Legal, and looking at something with regards to Engineering. In looking at the budget, a bulk of the money is going to engineering, legal and parks & recreation.

Geiben said the \$50,000 to represent the Town in regards to CWM is in the legal account. Blazick said it is \$100,000 this year. The Town alternates and two payments will hit next year.

Geiben MOVED to adjourn, Seconded by Bax and Carried 5 – 0. (5:55 pm)

Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by:

Donna R. Garfinkel
Town Clerk