



## Minutes

Town of Cairo

Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Public Hearing @ 7:00am

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

The Town Board of the Town of Cairo met for a Special Town Board Meeting for a Public Hearing for the Cairo Water Improvement Project on Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Town Hall, Main Street, Cairo, New York.

Supervisor Coyne called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and asked the attendees to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance: Supervisor Coyne, Council Member Cords, Council Member Kralovich, Council Member Powers, Council Member Watts

### **Enter Public Hearing @ 7:00PM**

Offered by Supervisor Coyne and seconded by Council Member Kralovich.

*Supervisor Coyne – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Aye, Council Member Powers – Aye, Council Member Watts – Aye.*

- The Public Hearing starts with Supervisor Coyne expressing to the public that the current proposed budget is under the 2% tax gap. The tax payers will see a 21 cent per thousand increase.
- Marc Gorelick from the Library, mentions how the library's budget was a large percentage over compared to past budgets and each meeting it got smaller and closer to the Town Boards goal. He states that even though the library had come cuts, he is grateful it was not a large amount and left the last meeting on good terms.
- He then addresses the post on Facebook from a member of the board. Says the post was inaccurate, unprofessional, and inappropriate for a board member to say who represents the Town and opposite of what everyone is trying to do in the Town. Understands what is important things are in the Town; businesses, the park, the fair, highways & town roads, fire dept., police dept., EMS, etc. Find it is uncalled for after completing the final meeting the night before.
  - Supervisor Coyne applauds the library for working with them and coming to an agreement during budget time, there's always room for improvement for communication between the Town Board and the Library Board.

- Mary Finneran thanks the board for taking care of the financials of the Town. She along with the board also looked into the salaries for the senior level library compared to NYC earnings. She mentioned that many things can affect the payroll, health insurance, retirement, etc. Mentioned that the board may see some decrease in insurance if they took the few library employees (3) who have insurance in with the rest of the Town employees. She then goes to express it is the heart of the Town & how it's saved her money in the long run using the Wi-Fi.
- Lastly mentions the lack of a clerk in the water dept. and how the PFOA's percentage that is now being allowed.
  - Coyne then expresses that it would not be the clerk she would address it would be the head of the dept. She can contact Marianne or Kris to get a hold of them.
- Rich Lorenz has concerns with the new building and wants to know the plan of the building.
  - Plans are to close on the building, get engineers/architects in to start coming up with a set plan, work with the County and Town to get more grants and funding for these projects. The engineering costs line item has been increased for this purpose, not the building repairs line item in the budget.
- Then asks how about the fund balance and what the fund balance is and was for last year and the revenue.
  - The Board does not have that in hand, that would be info the bookkeeper would have.
- James Freeman wants to be on record being opposed to any and all cuts to the library budget. Also mentions the FB post and says to the board that the library was never completely closed to the public.
- Another woman in the public says she is also opposed to any budget cuts to the library.
- Council Member Kralovich states that it was an understanding between the two boards the night before about the cuts in the budget and they both left on good terms.
- Council Member Watts then addresses the project that the County is doing for the Town, paving down at the soccer field and also assisting with the park paving along with a few other projects. Then goes on to say how the County asked for the Town to put up some money which was agreed on, but believes there is not enough money for these improvement projects to be done after agreeing with the County.
  - Supervisor Coyne then asks Watts if he had ever mentioned any ideas on where to get the extra money for the improvement projects. It was asked multiple time from Coyne to have all board members bring your thoughts and ideas for the budget so we can try to not go over the tax gap.
  - The agreement with the County is to pave the parking lot in the park and near the soccer field and it was asked if the Town can give the money for the walking path, children's play area and the red barn. Estimates are coming in, but we also will need to rely on grants for the paving.
  - Council Member Cords said that it possible that the COVID grant could be useful for this project.
- Items in the budget have gone up tremendously, many things that the board cannot control, insurance, retirements, workman's comp.
- Mary Finneran says that if the Town goes over the tax cap everyone once in a while, the budget would be easier to keep under the cap in future years.
  - Coyne addresses that this was done last year, taxes weren't raised last year and this year they were. The goal was to stay under 2%, it benefits other opportunities and grants, while keeping taxes low.

- Deb from the library mentions that the library in Town is the only entity that pays its own workers comp. insurance and disability.
- Council Member Powers asks Rich Lorenz about when he was on the board in the past. Asks what happen when the library split away from the Town.
  - The Supervisor in the past wanted control of the Library Board and the Town Board disproved, is what Rich’s understanding was.
- Supervisor Coyne states that if anything needs to be addressed with the library it can be discussed at their next quarterly meeting.

**Resolution No. 2021-233** “Adoption of Preliminary Town of Cairo 2022 Budget”

Offered by Council Member Kralovich and seconded by Supervisor Coyne.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board does hereby adopt the Preliminary Town Budget for 2022 as presented to the Town Board.

*Supervisor Coyne – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Aye, Council Member Powers – Abstain, Council Member Watts – Nay.*

**Exit Public Hearing @ 7:25PM**

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Supervisor Coyne.

*Supervisor Coyne – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Aye, Council Member Powers – Aye, Council Member Watts – Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla L. McAlister

Town Clerk