

**NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PUBLIC HEARING**

Local Law #5 OF 2015-2% Tax Cap Override

7:00 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Post
Deputy Supervisor Underhill
Councilman Lang
Councilwoman Michalak
Councilman Zambito

Others Present: Town Clerk Morasco
Dan Lang, Building Inspector
Tom Lichtenthal, Highway Superintendent/Assistant Engineer
Sharon White, Candidate Elect
Roger Muehlig, Daily News Reporter
17 Constituents

Supervisor called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 P.M. and the Supervisor presented the notice as published in the Daily News.

The following people spoke:

John Della Penna- Commented that if the Town tax levy is going to be another line on the tax bill, that combined with the fire tax and water debt service, it's going to be greater than his county tax.

Cheryl Kowalik- Commented that she appreciates all this Town Board has done but asks the Board to reconsider adopting this local law. There are many senior citizens on fixed incomes with no cost of living increases. Also, she stated that this would impact the \$200 rebate the State sends for keeping it under the 2 percent.

John Riley- Commented that he has farmed since 1973 and is now on a fixed income. It's hard for young people to get started and for the elderly who are on fixed incomes, trying to maintain their homes. Mr. Riley expressed that he is proud of the Town Board and the great job they have done but questioned the need for engineering staff. Also, with the Town assessments at 100% and land values up that should generate income. Supervisor Post informed the public that the values have gone up 35% in ten years but the Town has not benefited from the assessment growth increases because there hasn't been a Town tax levy. The Supervisor also gave figures of the last 10 years budgets, grant funding, and unexpended funds used to balance the budget. Approximately 6.5 million dollars in grants were awarded to the Town because of the engineers. These costs are an investment to the community. There has been a lack of attendance to manage the Town over the years.

Mr. Riley thanked the Supervisor for the information.

Tina McQuillen- Commented that she is an Assessor for four different municipalities and is aware of the problems municipalities face. She expressed her concern with

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imposing a tax levy, that once a tax is implemented it will continue. The Supervisor expressed that back in the 70's and before, there was a tax, then it went to a zero levy, which carried the Town for 3 decades.

She questioned if it would be more cost effective to contract engineers rather than hire them. The Supervisor informed everyone that there are 9 items currently for the Planning Board's review with private investors investing 58 million dollars in the community and there are 50 items of capital/planning projects totaling 42 million dollars. The engineers are active in reviewing the project plans, as well as working on capital/planning projects and correcting issues from their predecessors.

Ms. McQuillen also questioned whether the Town is collecting enough money to offset the costs to contract with the other Town's for assessment. The Town is getting \$108,000 from the assessment contracts.

Lynette Brown- Questioned whether the new businesses are paying taxes. The Supervisor informed that they are not paying Town tax now but the Town has increased the tax base by 60 million dollars.

Supervisor Post declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:52 P.M. on the Local Law to override the tax cap.

Respectfully submitted,

Teressa M. Morasco
Town Clerk