

**TOWN OF SOUTHEAST
John J. Dunford Civic Center
1360 Route 22, Brewster, New York 10509
November 6, 2008
SPECIAL MEETING - 7:30 PM**

Present: Supervisor Michael Rights
Councilman Paul P. Johnson
Councilman Richard B. Honeck
Councilman Roger Gross
Councilman Dwight Yee - late

Also: Town Clerk Ruth A. Mazzei
Town Counsel Willis H. Stephens, Jr.

And: Approximately 70 persons

WORKSESSION

Dunmore Corporation – Sent back to the Architectural Review Board

SPECIAL MEETING

STORMWATER REMEDIATION

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the Wetlands Permit Application for the Croton Falls Storm Water Remediation Project as recommended from the Town Wetlands Inspector. Councilman Honeck seconded and all in favor.

CERTIORARI SETTLEMENTS

Councilman Honeck made a motion to authorize the Certiorari Settlement for Denise Quinn – Index # 1948/2008. Councilman Gross seconded and all in favor.

Councilman Honeck made a motion to authorize the Certiorari Settlement for Glafkos G. Keramidas and Vivianne L. Keramidas – Index # 1951/2008. Councilman Gross seconded and all in favor.

Councilman Honeck made a motion to authorize the Certiorari Settlement for Harry Allison – Index # 1950/2008. Councilman Gross seconded and all in favor.

**RESOLUTION # /08 – ADJUSTING “BASE PROPORTIONS” FOR REAL
PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES**

Introduced by Councilman Honeck
Seconded by Councilman Gross

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Southeast desires to maintain fairness in the taxable valuation of tax parcels within the town; and

Whereas, it is the Board’s understanding that using the calculations of RP-6703 for the adjustment of base proportions will best serve the needs of the Town and be most equitable for the taxpayers; and

Whereas, the Town Assessor has recommended that the Town accept the adjusted base proportions as submitted as Town outside village homestead at 69.445919% and town-wide homestead portion as 68.825616%

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Southeast accepts the recommendation of the Town Assessor and hereby authorized the Town Clerk to sign provide to the Office of Real Property Services from RP-6703 for the Town-wide and Town outside village containing the base proportion of 68.825616% and 69.445919% respectively pursuant to Real Property Tax Law and NYS Rules and Regulation in form and substance as may be approved by the Town Attorney.

Upon Roll Call

Councilman Yee – aye
Councilman Gross – aye
Councilman Honeck – aye
Councilman Johnson – aye
Supervisor rights – aye

Carried by a vote of 5 to 0; 0 abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2009 BUDGET

Supervisor Rights made a motion to open the public hearing and Councilman Johnson seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Rights spoke of his campaign promises to cut 10% or take a 20% cut in salary. No requested copy of the speech was received. Mr. Rights said that his budget cut the “fat” from the budget. Councilman Johnson talked of the 5% inflation rate and that the purchasing power is less. He stated that the departments that were cut were not examples of budgetary fat and that the budget presented by Councilmen Honeck, Gross and himself reduced taxes by almost 1.4%. and that it is critical to preserve some of the monies for the future. He said to use the surplus will artificially give a tax cut. It was mentioned that in 1992 there was a 28% increase in taxes.

The Town Board added back \$110,000 to the Highway Department or they would not be able to maintain or plow the town roads. Litigation budget was fully restored since it is necessary for the litigation of zoning violations. The veterans received the full \$5,000 that is allowed and the 3% increase in garbage was noted. Mr. Johns said the 1.4% tax decrease was a responsible proposed budget.

Councilman Honeck handed out a pie chart which showed that our taxes are the lowest in Putnam County. Councilman Gross said that using the fund balance to posture in front of the camera is not going to fix the problems and money is needed for a rainy day. Library was cut 18,000 and the museum was cut 25%. The Supervisor said the Library should have a fundraiser to raise monies needed and that fund balance is routinely used. Mortgage tax revenues were down.

The Supervisor said that the Town Attorney does a good job but thinks the salary is too high. He showed his own chart which showed the differences between other attorneys. Mr. Yee said that he thinks Southeast pays more than is needed. Town Attorney said that before there were separate counsels for various positions, such as labor, planning, etc. The charge of \$125 per hour is a lot cheaper than the usual \$250 per hour for attorneys that some other town pay. He attends the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Town Board, and also does Labor, and Court twice a week and litigation is \$125 an hour. Councilman Honeck said that the first line is for salary and 2nd line is for litigation and outside council. If it is not used it is returned to the general fund. He said there is fat in the budget officer’s salary of \$18,117. He said the Supervisor promised a 10% cut and he backed into it to get these figures.

Peter Carey said the library provides an invaluable service. He said he spends more to take a family of five to the movies than it would cost to restore the services. Carol Myers said the library has many volunteers and the library is essential. Donna Relyea said she would pay \$60 for all the services the town provides. She is embarrassed by the Town Board's behavior and feels they should look into ways to bring business to the town. Martha Shortledge wants the monies to be restored fully to the library. Robert Bock said he does not understand and does not want fat in the budget. He thinks that the reserve should be used. Matt Neuringer spoke also and was in favor for the original budget. Sharon Nakazato read a letter sent by Louise Bisogne. Rick Voss the President of the Brewster Library said there is an army of volunteers. Councilman Honeck read a letter from Jim Nixon. Lynne Eckardt said for accuracy the chart showing the town attorneys line is wrong. Regarding the fund balance, she feels that we don't need to spend the extra money now. She would like to make contingency zero. Volunteer Park is in the recreation fund. Open Space the money to use is for some programs, postage, etc. Shari Chiara asked if the taxes will go down and will the budget be posted on the website. She thought some money could be saved by using less lights and the town should look into a grant writer. Cathy Croft asked questions regarding Special Districts. Dan Armstrong said that have to cut somewhere because people can't afford it. Councilman Johnson said both sides are giving a tax cut.

Supervisor Rights made a motion to cut the Town Board Contractual (1010.4) by \$2,000. Councilman Yee seconded and the motion was denied by 2 ayes and 3 nays. (Honeck, Gross and Johnson).

Supervisor Rights made a motion to adopt the tentative budget as presented and Councilman Yee seconded and motion was denied by a vote of 2 ayes and 3 nays. (Honeck, Gross and Johnson).

Supervisor Rights made a motion to adopt the Revenue as presented in the tentative budget and Councilman Yee seconded and the motion was denied by a vote of 2 ayes and 3 nays. (Johnson, Honeck, and Gross).

Supervisor Rights made a motion to adopt the expenditures as presented in the tentative budget and Councilman Yee seconded and the motion was denied by vote 2 ayes and 3 nays. (Honeck, Gross and Johnson.).

Supervisor Rights made a motion to adopt the Highway Budget as presented in the tentative budget. Councilman Yee seconded and the motion was not carried by a vote of 2 ayes and 3 nays. (Honeck, Gross and Johnson.).

Councilman Johnson made a motion to adopt the 2009 budget with the changes presented in the Preliminary Budget. Councilman Honeck seconded and the vote carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 2 nays (Yee and Rights)

Councilman Johnson made a motion to close the meeting and Councilman Johnson seconded and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Argo Mazzei
Southeast Town Clerk

November 6, 2008