

**VILLAGE OF TIVOLI
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Proposed 2014-2015 BUDGET
April 2, 2014**

Mayor Cranna opened the public hearing at 5:37 pm at the Historic Watts DePeyster Hall, Tivoli, NY.

Present: Mayor Cranna, Deputy Mayor Griffith, Trustees Ezrati, Bruno and Schneider.

Public: Jeanette Canady, Karen Cleaveland, David Cleaveland, Phyllis Palmer, Thomas Crisci, Jr, Patricia Dreyfus, Shane Digan, Charles Van Norden, Rich Schiafo, Nancy Houk, Pamela Morin, Peter Mauney, Jeffrey Scales, Emily Majer and Robert Lachman.

This public hearing is to hear all interested persons on the proposed 2014-2015 budget. This is the fourth meeting for this budget. The first budget submitted to the board was for a 6.19% tax increase. Amendments were made in a workshop to the budget last week. The budget adoption vote will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 6:00 pm at village hall.

Mayor Cranna asked for public comments.

Karen Cleaveland

- Read the attached letter from Hildegard Edling
- Zoning and ZEO-shared services – needs to be evaluated

- Infrastructure
 - Are grants available?

Thomas Crisci, Jr.

- Budget
 - Budget spending is frozen after four months
 - Tax rebate was lost
- Police Patrols
 - What is cost of police -having own police vs. patrols?
- Tivoli Fire Department
 - Fire company applies for grants regularly

Rich Schiafo

- Bard College
 - Donation of \$10,000 for police
- Employee Health Insurance
 - Employees need to bear more costs
 - Trustees should not be paid
- Increase Shared Services
- Lots of DPW overtime
- Need Capital Planning
- Cut Employee Pensions

Shane Digan

- Who gets a pension?
- Health Insurance increase – 30%?

Patricia Dreyfus

- Does the village share services?
- Who pays for the street painting festival?
- Police - Never sees them – where are they?

David Cleaveland

- Budget
 - 2.69% increase?
 - Village residents cannot receive rebates this year
 - Who voted to override the tax cap?
 - Is \$11,000 difficult to raise?
 - What is the public safety payroll line on the budget?
 - What are street lighting costs?
- Police
 - Can more fines be written to generate income?
 - Cost of sheriff vs. the Red Hook Police
- Garbage tag price increase?
- What is the library expense line?
- What is the public safety payroll line on budget?

Nancy Houk

- Employee costs
 - Is there a list of pensions?
 - Why 15% health insurance contributions for employees?
- Budget
 - What are the reductions from 6.19% to 2.60%
 - Are you cutting the wrong things?
- What services as residents do we receive?

Peter Mauney

- Shared Services
- Budget
 - Services have gone down
 - Inefficiency obvious in water
 - In house ZEO services -a lot more for the money
 - Sheriff makes sense
 - Services cut back with budget cuts
- Town of Red Hook Rec Fund
 - Rec funding refurbished?
- Infrastructure
 - There has been a deferral of maintenance
 - Many water main breaks

Pamela Morin

- ZEO
 - Not available between 9-5
 - Can't find them – do not call her back
 - Does ZEO have Tivoli's interests at heart?
- Does the village have grant writing?
- Outside consultants -can expenses be cut

Jeff Scales

- Budget
 - Can legal expenses be cut?
- How is the village preparing for repairs to infrastructure?
- Use of solar to offset electric bills?
 - State programs for expanding solar systems

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Griffith, seconded by Trustee Schneider, the Tentative 2014-2015 budget was approved. Roll Call: Griffith: aye, Ezrati: aye, Bruno: aye, Ezrati: aye

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Griffith, seconded by Trustee Bruno, the public hearing was closed at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gonnella
Village Clerk & Treasurer