

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

PUBLIC HEARING

Preliminary Budget for 2006

November 14, 2005

A Public Hearing of the Town of Claverack Board, Columbia County, New York, in regards to the Preliminary Budget for 2006, was held at the Town Hall, Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Hearing opened at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor James W. Keegan.

Present:

James W. Keegan	Supervisor
Anne Twaddle	Councilwoman
James Van Deusen	Councilman
William L. Blaauw	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Joseph Romano	Town Engineer
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Town Attorney
Martha Pizza	Deputy Clerk
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Louis LaMont	Highway Superintendent
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Supervisor Keegan briefly explained Budget for 2006. Rate for Town is up \$.03 per thousand to \$1.25 per thousand. Rate in Village of Philmont is down \$.09 per thousand to \$.87 per thousand. Total budget increased by \$86,735.00. Among reasons for increase are gas, petroleum products (ex. Blacktop) in Highway Department, health insurance, retirement, 3% raises for most employees and 3 ½ % raises for Highway Department.

It was noted that in 6 years the tax rate has increased only \$.07 per thousand. Town is 2nd largest in County with 4th lowest tax rate.

Hearing opened to public:

Katie Cashen – With assessments going up, taxes also increasing.

Max Dannis – If assessments go up, taxes go up. Figured tax rate increase to be 23%. Too much unexpended balance.

Michael Brandon – Problems have come from high prices being paid for property, way above assessments.

Virginia Martin – Wants more time to go over budget before decision is made.

Michael Johnston – Good points brought up to make budget more readable in the future. With time constraints this year, should be taken into consideration for next year.

Public Hearing closed at 8:00 p.m. by Supervisor Keegan.

Town Clerk