

TOWN BOARD
GARNERVILLE, NY
NOVEMBER 10, 2011

The Town Board of the Town of Haverstraw held a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 8:15 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Town Hall, One Rosman Road, Garnerville, New York.

On Roll Call the following members answered to their names:

Supervisor	Howard T. Phillips, Jr.
Councilman	Isidro Cancel
Councilman	Vincent J. Gamboli
Councilman	John Gould
Councilman	Hector L. Soto

PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW NO. 6-2011
TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL
LAW 3-c

Supervisor Phillips announced that this Public Hearing is being held for the purpose to consider Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c.

Town Clerk read proof of publications and presented the Affidavits of Publication to the Board.

PRESENTATION BY SUPERVISOR HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR.

William Stein, Town Attorney stated that when the state legislature adopted the 2% tax cap in June, the Town found it impossible to stay within the 2%. In order to address this situation you can conduct a public hearing, present the budget and once it is all done, have at least three out of five members of the Town Board move to adopt to exceed the 2% tax cap.

Supervisor Phillips stated that in order to get the Town budget down to the 2% tax cap we would have to cut \$1.3 million from the budget. The state placed large increases in the New York State mandated pension payments and health insurance premiums. The Town taxes are down to 2.9% with an average of approximately \$46 per average family. We continue to have the lowest Town taxes in Rockland County and the lowest sewer taxes in the Hudson Valley or in the state of New York. The Town provides excellent services to the residents and we have secured over \$20 million in grants to offset taxes. The Board and I are trying to do everything we can. In June, the state passed a 2% tax cap and in August the state hit us with bills that far exceed the 2% tax cap. Between retirement and health insurance and other programs, we were hit with total mandated increases of \$1.5 million. The Town never increased or padded our budget. We have kept the same number of workers in Town Hall since 1979. Our Police Department has grown since taking over the Village and we are happy to say that the Chief and Lieutenants are doing a great job. In order for us to get the tax levy down to 2.9%, we would have to cut another \$1.3 million, which translates into laying off 9-10 police officers, closing Bowline pool in the summertime and cutting services back at the Highway Dept. Bowline pool is the summer vacation for many of our residents. I think it would be the wrong message for new businesses coming into the Village of Haverstraw laying off nine police officers.

Chief Miller stated that the police are stretched to the limit now. If there were layoffs, the Street Crime Unit would have to be disbanded, the Detective Division would be reduced from six to two and it would just have a drastic effect all around.

Michael Cotier, Director of Parks stated that approximately 25,000 people visit Bowline during the summer that utilizes the pool. It's a summer vacation for the Village of Haverstraw; it's their vacation and a refuge for some. The pool is utilized by the Day Camps, many non-for-profit organizations, annual picnics, open-air concerts and a number of functions throughout the year.

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Supervisor Phillips stated that the park is a huge asset to the residents. We obtained most of the amenities at Bowline through grants, which we pursue vigorously, such as the pool deck, fishing dock, kiddie pool, water spray area, handicap bathrooms, playground equipment, etc. at no cost to the local taxpayer. Over the past 30 years, the Town Clerk's Office has the same number of employees as well as the Receiver of Taxes' Office. We run a tight ship. About 10 years ago, we did a pay equity study and salaries were brought up. We have the lowest paid employees in the County. We are still the lowest and we try to provide services at no cost.

Supervisor Phillips stated that he would like to open up the Public Hearing and discuss some of the things. We will go to item #4 on the agenda, which is the Public Hearing for the 2012 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Haverstraw. The Town Clerk read publication.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT

376-11 On motion by Councilman Cancel and seconded by Councilman Gamboli, unanimously adopted, the Public Hearing was closed.

ADOPT RESOLUTION

The following resolution was adopted by all of the Town Board Members.

377-11 **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Haverstraw, does hereby unanimously adopt **Local Law No. 6-2011 TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW 3-c.**

JOSEPHINE E. CARELLA
Town Clerk

TOWN BOARD
GARNERVILLE, NY
NOVEMBER 10, 2011

The Town Board of the Town of Haverstraw held a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 8:20 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Town Hall, One Rosman Road, Garnerville, New York.

On Roll Call the following members answered to their names:

Supervisor	Howard T. Phillips, Jr.
Councilman	Isidro Cancel
Councilman	Vincent J. Gamboli
Councilman	John Gould
Councilman	Hector L. Soto

PUBLIC HEARING
PRELIMINARY BUDGET, TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW 2012

Supervisor Phillips announced that this Public Hearing is being held to discuss and solicit comments from the public regarding the Preliminary Town Budget for the Town of Haverstraw for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2012.

The Town Clerk read proof of the publication and presented the Affidavit of Publication to the Board.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2012 PRELIMINARY TOWN BUDGET BY
MICHAEL GAMBOLI, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Michael Gamboli, Director of Finance stated that the Town's total increase in the tax levy is over \$2 million. The Town's increase over the 2% tax cap is \$1.3 million. The mandated increases to the Town are police salaries and retirement, employee retirement, health insurance, and an increase in workers compensation insurance, which total to approximately \$1.58 million. To meet the NYS tax cap the allowable increase for total Town levy is approximately \$740,000, yet we are being hit with \$1.5 million in additional costs. For the 2012 Town Budget, there will be an average total tax increase of 2.9% or an average in dollars of \$46.54. Approximately \$1,145,000 increase in police salaries retirement and other police benefits. The Town used \$1.8million from the tax stabilization fund to offset taxes and there will be a 2% increase to non-union employee's salaries. There is also an increase in debt service for the Mirant tax certiorari of \$750,000, which will be paid over a three years of \$250,000 by using a portion of the tax stabilization fund. In the 2012 budget there will be no increase in garbage collection in the unincorporated area. The Town is paying in full the police (\$2,350,000) and employee (\$735,000) retirement bills and we will not amortize or finance the cost because this would add additional cost to taxpayers in future years. The total increase in the Town budget is \$1,475,000 in mandated costs and a decrease of \$93,000 for other Town costs. For the 2012 budget 61% of the general fund is the cost of police because of binding arbitration. The average salary for a police officer in Rockland County in the towns of Ramapo and Clarkstown are anywhere from \$115,000 and \$135,000 a year. After five years, a police officer with the Town of Haverstraw makes \$103,000 a year with 2 ½ months off. We are not knocking the police and the job they do but it is an incredible burden for the taxpayers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THE 2012 TOWN BUDGET

Madeline DeLeon, 44 Westside Ave., Haverstraw why are the non-union employees receiving a 2% salary increase – everybody should sacrifice.

Supervisor Phillips stated that he has taken four “zeros” in his career in Town government and that our Town employees are the lowest in the county.

Michael Gamboli, Director of Finance stated that we have a total of 125 full time employees and 70 of them are police officers. We have seasonal employees and only six full time employees at the golf course.

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Councilman Gamboli stated that when 61% of your budget goes to one department as a board member your hands are tied because it is maintained by the Taylor law – it is a crippling factor of our budget as far as I am concerned. We would like to give the rank and file and clerical staff a raise because of what we are tied into. It has to change on the state level and we can't keep raising town taxes to pay for the school taxes. The state has to come up with other ways to raise money to pay for school taxes.

Councilman Gould stated that the 2% raise would be approximately 50 cent more in your tax bill – that is what the \$71,000 amounts to.

Annette Hendrie, Rosman Road, Thiells stated that she is a Town employee and wanted to thank the Town Board for the 2% raise. Her salary is \$42,000 a year and that she pays taxes just like everybody else. She further explained that she does work for three boards, the building inspector and fire inspector. 2% of our salaries is not a lot of money. All of us girls have worked her for over 11 years making \$40 something thousand a year. The economy is bad the cost of everything is rising and just because we are town employees we do not get any breaks.

Supervisor Phillips stated that the Town is rated by Moody's every year and our biggest problem right now is Mirant (GenOn). A financial review in 2010 revealed that there was no need to do a full audit. We are handling your money and making the best interest possible. We are a solvent government and will continue to remain that way.

Carmela Pantano, Central Highway, Garnerville stated that she is a Town employee and pays the bills and reviews vouchers. Everything is reviewed and doubled checked and tripled checked and she has never seen any overspending.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

378-11 On motion by Councilman Soto and seconded by Councilman Gould, unanimously adopted, the Public Hearing was closed and the Town Board reserved the right to vote on the 2012 Preliminary Budget at the Town Board Meeting of November 14, 2011.

JOSEPHINE E. CARELLA
Town Clerk