

Town of Schroepfel
Town Board Special Meeting
November 9th 2023

Present: Town Supervisor Cary Redhead, Town Board Members Zachary Gelling, Lewis Hoyt, Nicklaus Hoyt, JoAnn Nazarian and Town Clerk Darlene Owens.

At 6:05 p.m. Redhead called the meeting to order with the Pledge Allegiance.

SEQR Motion:

Gelling made a **Motion** that all actions taken tonight are excluded, exempt or Type II actions for the purpose of the State Environmental Quality Review Law unless otherwise stated, seconded by L. Hoyt. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Redhead said Councilmen Nick Hoyt, Councilmen Lewis Hoyt, Councilmen Zachary Gelling, Councilwoman JoAnn Nazarian, Supervisor Cary Redhead and Darlene Owens were in attendance for the Town Board meeting.

Public Hearing: Local Law #2 Tax Cap

At 6:07 Redhead open the Public Hearing on the Tax Cap. Redhead said this is to override our tax levy established in General Municipal Law section 3-c to increase if we need to in the 2024 over the 2%.

At 6:08 Redhead made the **Motion** to close the Public Hearing on the Tax Cap seconded by Nazarian. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Nazarian said we have to accept the **Motion** to accept the Local Law #2 2023 to override the Tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-3, which is 2% seconded by Gelling. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Public Hearing: 2024 Town of Schroepfel Budget

At 6:10 Redhead opened the Public Hearing on the 2024 Town of Schroepfel Budget. Lynette Greco asked what the actual percentage of the tax cap override is going to be. Comptroller Brenda Weissenberg said currently per the preliminary budget, the percentage of the increase is 4.689%. Gelling asked how much is that per \$100,000 assessed value to put that into perspective for people. Weissenberg said the tax increase would be \$35.37 per \$100,000 assessed value. Gelling said if we went 2% basically half of that is \$15 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Gelling said all of the other municipalities around us are breaking the 2% tax cap. Weissenberg agreed.

Cliff Hoyt, Highway Superintendent, where you came up some of these salaries, how were they raised so much. Gelling said each one is different and the Board reviewed each, line by line, every single item for each department. We looked at other municipalities in general for comparison of what the job was to other surrounding municipalities to get that into competitive wages. C. Hoyt said he wished Gelling was on the Board when he was here. That is quite a jump. Also B&G is quite a jump. Nothing against Chip; he does a good job. Being here three years, that is a pretty good raise. Darlene and I would squabble for fifteen years trying to get a decent raise and all we got was \$600 and maybe sometimes we got forgot about. So I just wanted to bring that to your attention while the public is here.

Redhead asked if the part time clerk for the Assessor and Codes, is that salary correct in the budget? \$19.38 hourly rate for a second clerk. So a new hire coming in would be at the same rate as Vickey? Nazarian said that when we discussed this in the budget, we went with that dollar amount, but that person is not necessarily going to make that much money, but we wanted to put money in the budget just in case. Brenda and I both talked to Vickey and she understands completely now, in the event that we do have to hire (a second clerk). A person could be hired at a lesser rate with more hours, or just for data entry at lesser rate.

N. Hoyt responded to C. Hoyt about the B&G salary. It's showing \$70,360 but that includes the department head and two more employees, not just for the department head. Weissenberg agreed. She also answered a question

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and stated that we are 2.68% over the 2%. N. Hoyt said that is Outside Village rate, and stated that any number in here can be changed as well. Even after it gets voted on, there could be changes. (Various discussions continued with some breakdown and some of the changes that occurred.)

At 6:29 p.m., Redhead made the **Motion** to close the Public Hearing on the 2024 Preliminary Budget seconded by Nazarian. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Gelling made the **Motion** to pass the 2024 Town of Schroepfel Preliminary Budget seconded Nazarian. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Cary Redhead: November 14th Meeting

Redhead made a **Motion** to cancel the Tuesday November 14th 2023 meeting seconded by Nazarian. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Zachary Gelling: Elected Official's Medical Benefits

Gelling said we have somebody retiring with stipulation on Elected Officials on medical coverage. We have found some documents. Gelling said the easiest way to go forward for the future based on the Town Attorney is that we have to pass this Resolution. Gelling said the Town of Schroepfel has in place medical benefits for elected officials, which continues after their retirement. Nazarian said back in the 1990's, elected officials that had worked for 25 years would receive lifetime medical benefits. But now with the implementation of the Federal Mandate that everyone sign up for Medicare, over the course of the last few years the board has discussed eliminating the lifetime medical benefit. So this has been in the works for a very long time and tonight finalizing it. Gelling said so whereas the Town Board has determined that it is appropriate and necessary to modify their policy to discontinue benefits for elected officials after their retirement and desires to do so effectively immediately. And now, therefore, be it resolved the Town of Schroepfel discontinues the payment of any medical benefits for elected official after their retirement, and it is further resolved that this discontinuance of payment of medical benefits upon retirement shall become effected immediately upon passage and will remain in effect until modified by the Town Board (for future Elected Officials). Redhead made the **Motion** to accept the Resolution seconded by Nazarian. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead. (Attached to minutes)

Redhead said congratulations to all the new Elected Officials coming into office. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

At 6:38 p.m., Redhead made the **Motion** to adjourn the Special Meeting seconded by Gelling. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt and N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Owens
Town Clerk

Attachment:

Resolution: Elected Officials Medical Benefits (Nov. 2023)