

VILLAGE OF BREWSTER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 15, 2009

Public Hearing, (Continued from April 8, 2009)

2009-10 Budget

7:30 P.M. 208 Main Street, Brewster, NY 10509

Minutes

Pledge to flag

7:30 P.M. - Mayor Schoenig motioned to continue the Public Hearing on the 2009-2010 Budget, Trustee Stockburger 2nd, All in favor – 4 to 0 Bill Banks absent

Ms. Susan Berman thanked the Board for continuing the Public Hearing since she was unable to attend the last one due to a religious observance.

Ms. Berman questioned as to why there was a split in the budget for water and sewer. She wanted to know if 30% of Peaceable Hill water revenues used for other expenses. Trustee Piccini responded that was not the case.

Ms. Berman questioned whether the Village was charging Peaceable Hill Water customers for the cost of police, streetlights, business cards, etc.

Trustee Piccini went on to explain the elements that go into producing a gallon of water using the analogy as if you were purchasing a gallon in a retail store. Is the cost of the water only the production costs? Or are there other costs of managing inventory, accounting, management, debt service, depreciation, the total cost of the business entity? Of course all these costs are allocated to the sale price of a gallon of water and that is essentially the same as the Village of Brewster is doing.

Village Counsel Molé said that no customers were exempt from the cost of administration and operation of the water service.

David Gillis mentioned that there has been a group of concerned citizens who have been attending the Board meetings for the last 2-3 months who have been very concerned that the Village was wasting money. The result has been that he is confident the Village is doing everything it can to keep the costs down in all aspects of financials.

Mark Anderson questioned the Police Budget – how is it established? How are the personnel costs being reduced? How many hours will Police be on duty?

Mayor Schoenig said that the schedule is being made leaner by improved results during the last year.

What does the Police Dog cost and what does the dog do that benefits the Village? I haven't seen the dog? Why isn't he on the street sniffing pockets?

Mayor Schoenig explained the money in your pocket would produce a positive response due to the nature of the money transference.

What does the dog cost? Food, Vet bills?

Mayor Schoenig – the cost is minimal.

What does this dog do for us?

Mayor Schoenig said the dog is used for search missions, firearms, specific drug missions, and tracking.

Mark: What are the wages of the Police? How much have they gone up?

Ms. Piccini explained the per hour cost went up approximately 1.50 with the reduced schedule we are still able to reduce overall wages 27%,

Mark: What are the grant items that were taken out of the budget?

Safetea-Lu, Greenway, Quality Communities, Estuary?

Hansen said the grants were taken out for two reasons, one the insurance is based on total appropriations and carrying the grants would inflate the appropriations number and increase the cost of insurance, secondly, grants can be added at any time they are received. They do not need to be budgeted in advance.

Ms. Piccini stated the budget includes \$200,000 contribution to the General Fund to offset taxes. Hansen stated that a large portion of that amount came from nearly doubling the Fines and Forfeitures which was a direct result of establishing the Police department. If the Police were to be reduced that additional contribution would likely disappear.

Mark asked if more penalties were being assessed?

Hansen said yes more penalties have been assessed since the enactment of the Police Department. Fines from traffic tickets, parking tickets, and other violations as well as forfeited bail are a direct contribution to the General Fund.

Mayor Schoenig asked if there were any more questions.

Trustee Stockburger asked if there were any more questions.

There being no additional questions

Trustee Stockburger motioned to close the Public Hearing, Mayor Schoenig 2nd all in favor 4 to 0