

Town of North Hudson  
Public Hearing  
2021 Budget

Present were Supervisor Stephanie DeZalia , Councilperson Brian Caza, Councilperson Marshall Gero, Councilperson Robert Dobie, Councilperson Maureen Marsden. Absent was Town Clerk Martha King.

No guests in attendance.

Supervisor DeZalia called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Legal Notice as published was read by Supervisor DeZalia:

***Annual Preliminary Budget Public hearing***

***Notice Is Hereby Given*** that the Annual Preliminary Budget of the Town of North Hudson for the year 2021 has been completed and filed at the Office of the Town Clerk of the town of North Hudson. The Town Board will hold a Public Hearing at the North Hudson Town Hall, North Hudson, New York, Essex County, on Wednesday November 5, 2020 at 5:15 to review the Preliminary Budget. Any person may be heard, in favor of or against, any items therein contained.

*The proposed salaries of the Supervisor, Town clerk, Highway Superintendent, Assessor-chair, Assessor, Justice and each member of the Town Board are as follows:*

<i>Town Councilman (each):</i>	<i>\$ 5,098.00</i>
<i>Supervisor:</i>	<i>\$ 25,000.00</i>
<i>Town Clerk:</i>	<i>\$ 16,500.00</i>
<i>Assessor-Chairman:</i>	<i>\$ 9,572.00</i>
<i>Assessor:</i>	<i>\$ 5,930.00</i>
<i>Town Justice:</i>	<i>\$ 23,409.00</i>
<i>Highway Superintendent:</i>	<i>\$ 46,410.00</i>

*By order of the North Hudson Town Board, a copy of the Preliminary Budget is available at the Office of the Town clerk, where it may be inspected by any interested persons during regular hours.*

*Martha King  
North Hudson Town Clerk  
Date of Notice:*

**Discussion-** No Public present.

Board members commented that the date of November 5 was correct however the day was not. It should have stated Thursday November 5, not Wednesday November 5. The notice published on the Town Hall Sign and the Website was correct.

Mr. Dobie stressed his concern with a Budget increase of over 9% and with the huge decrease in State revenue. Stating this will have a direct effect on the Town of North Hudson residents. He believes the proposed budget increase is too much recommending they relooking at the Budget and cut where ever possible. Mr. Dobie stated it doesn't help that the total taxable value of property has gone down \$2

million dollars in 2019 and another \$ 2 million in 2020. He would like the Supervisor to communicate with all department heads regarding any and all unnecessary spending.

Mr. Gero is in agreement with Mr. Dobie also stating wages should not be increased more than 2% across the board. Mr. Caza said that while being aware that North Hudson has a large population of residents on a fixed income that some Town employees are also facing financial hardships and the raise is going benefit them and their families. He stressed that we can't keep cutting from the employees when they are being asked continuously to do more and more. Supervisor DeZalia agreed and commented there is not a big pool of prospective employees.

Supervisor DeZalia stressed the importance of all department heads be accountable for what they are spending. In some departments there has been no accountability enforced. Procurement Policy states that all purchases over \$1,000.00 are to come before the board for approval prior to spending not after the fact. Some departments have not adhered to this policy and the policies will need to be enforced. Department heads need to be held accountable for the money spent in their departments.

Board members want to take closer look at The Highway Department budget for possible areas where money can be saved. Discussion on possible creative ways for smart scheduling as well as the need for projects to be put on paper to include total projected costs broken down into labor, time material and equipment. The priority being doing what is best for the residents of North Hudson.

The salt budget is an area of both financial and environmental concern. The use of time clocks, monitored gas usage will be looked into as well. Creative scheduling for ways to cut back on overtime for safety and financial reasons were also discussed. The highway committee will meet with the Highway Superintendent and explain that we need to conserve as Town revenue has decreased. The board will look at a cap put on the salt usage and rethinking the County roads contract.

The highway committee will need to meet with Highway Superintendent Duntley and explain that we need to conserve resources and review highway spending. Limits need to be set and policies adhered to. Supervisor DeZalia stated she would like to leave the pay increases as they are and examine the other areas of the budget for a possible decrease. She will take all recommendations into consideration. The 2021 budget will be looked at again and she will get it back to the board next week.

Respectfully submitted

Martha M King  
Town Clerk