

**TOWN OF BALDWIN  
PUBLIC HEARING: 2023 BUDGET  
NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

**THIS PUBLIC HEARING** of the Town of Baldwin was held at the Town of Baldwin Town Hall and called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Purvis. Those present were Councilwoman Purvis, Councilman Conklin, Councilman Collins and Councilman Smith.

Also present were Faith Marmor, Robin Rosekrans, Paul Tillotson, Anna Pirro, Adam Sherwood, Joseph Spencer, Becky Spencer, Joseph and Lynn Sullivan, Bud Hall, Beth Ruggiero, Steven Hanshaw and Ann Sherwood. There were a few other individuals whose names were not taken/given.

*A Moment of Silence was held for Brian Hyland.*

**RULES GOVERNING A PUBLIC HEARING**

The Rules Governing Public Hearings was read by Supervisor Purvis.

**2023 BUDGET**

Supervisor Purvis stated that Barb Harding made one change to the Budget, moving \$5,000.00 from Account No. A1910.4 to Account No. A9060.8.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Adam Sherwood (12 Federal Road) - He had a question/statement that given the proposed budget and seeing a 2% increase in property taxes, any conversation of raising taxes really should be looking at why there are any pay increases along with why is there no efforts at money savings before taxes are raised. Supervisor Purvis stated that the town is not raising property tax. Mr. Sherwood stated that there is a 2% increase in the levy. Supervisor Purvis stated that this is not the town itself, this is the County. Mr. Sherwood stated to which the town's people pay, so if our taxes are going up 2% why is the Town of Baldwin not looking to save the taxpayers any kind of money or why are we looking at tax increases and having pay raises for the Town of Baldwin. Supervisor Purvis stated that the only raises that were made were for our town Highway Department and we have to keep the wages comparable at least a little bit towards what they can get at other trucking jobs. He was working as a truck driver and he was getting paid more than our guys. We cannot afford to lose our truck drivers to corporations because they are paying more, we have to keep at least halfway close so we do not lose people we have and have to hire guys who could potentially cause damage to the vehicles because the crew we have right now are very good with the equipment. Mr. Sherwood then asked that to that point, why is there a comparison between private business and municipal financials, they are completely different. Supervisor Purvis stated that jobs are jobs and people often look for the highest paying job in the field they are working. Mr. Sherwood stated that this is nothing against the guys that work for the Highway, for the town, because they do a good job, but the tax payers cannot be held hostage. Supervisor Purvis stated that

the town did not raise taxes, it is on the County. You need to go to the County and find out why they are raising things, it is out of our hands. Mr. Sherwood stated it is not because the Board can still look at ways to find savings. Supervisor Purvis stated that we have, we have made a lot of savings. We have made savings in the health insurance, we have saved over \$30,000.00. Mr. Sherwood stated that the Board is giving away that money. This is not the only savings. What is the Board doing this year? Supervisor Purvis again stated that we are saving over \$30,000.00 on this upcoming year comparable to just two years ago. Mr. Sherwood stated that things are going up and the Board is basing a healthcare giveaway, there is still more money that can be saved. Supervisor Purvis then stated that Mr. Sherwood's time was up. We have made cuts. The lawyer fees have been cut by over 50%. Mr. Sherwood stated that savings by doing nothing is not savings. This is not doing your job. To realize real savings, if these raises are that important how about this Board becomes a non paid elected position. This will save almost \$8,000.00 right there. If the Board is going to give the Highway crew the raises, then why don't we have them clean the Hall monthly and stop paying the stipend, that will save further money and then it is a wash.

Bud Hall (Hammond Road) - He has not been at a Town Board meeting in a long time and he has a question that if the town Highway guys do not get a raise, he gets the assumption that they are going to quit and go somewhere else. Supervisor Purvis stated no, it is just that we have a good crew. The cost of living has gone up like 12% over the past year and a 2% raise is nowhere near the cost of living rate/amount. We are just trying to safeguard a little bit in keeping the good crew we have rather than taking and possibly losing the crew because of higher pay some place else. He thinks it is a very important thing for the Board to consider. Mr. Hall stated that if they can get more money some place else, have at it. Supervisor Purvis stated that he realizes this. Mr. Hall stated that there is always someone out there who can drive trucks. Supervisor Purvis again stated that he realizes this but you also get a lot of people who drive trucks that are not really good at driving trucks to which can end up costing more money because you can end up with a lot of mechanical issues caused by someone that is not treating equipment like they need too. Mr. Hall said that what he is saying is, if they can get more money some place else, let them go. Supervisor Purvis stated that this is not why they asked for a raise. This is his contention on why we should keep their pay within a range that makes it beneficial for them to stay here. Councilman Collins stated that it is more of a retention tool.

Beth Ruggiero (Hammond Road) - She asked if the raise that is proposed in line with other towns our size and our financial amount? Supervisor Purvis stated yes and that other towns are more than that. Councilman Collins stated that our guys are actually underpaid compared to most of the other towns. Councilman Collins stated that he has some numbers he will run when we get through. He went to Town of Chemung and Town of Erin and did their miles and their cost per miles for maintenance. Baldwin's projected budget is \$565,811.00 with 34.96 miles which comes out to \$16,184.52 per mile. Chemung's budget is \$1,546,006.00 and they have 71.6 miles which cost per mile comes to \$21,565.15. Town of Erin's budget is \$734,597.77 with 55.4 miles which comes out to \$13,259.88. Ms. Ruggiero stated that all are significantly higher than us. She then asked what the population difference is than us. Councilman Collins stated that he just went by the miles. She stated that what she is looking at are the people that have to pay these taxes, this is the point of view that she is looking at. We are all getting squeezed as well and it is just kind of tough for the town residents to swallow that, that is significant when we are all getting squeezed everywhere. This is why they are all here and concerned, is it really

necessary. Supervisor Purvis stated that the miles of the road is where the cost comes in, the population you do have to take into consideration. Councilman Collins stated that she does have a point, you do take that into consideration because that is how you divvy out who pays that. Ms. Ruggerio stated that Erin and Chemung are significantly bigger with a heck of a lot more sales tax, there is a lot more business in the town. We have no other generating of sales tax, there is nothing that comes in other than property taxes. Supervisor Purvis stated that this is one of the things that hurt us, we do not have a main road. Ms. Ruggerio stated that we do a lot of shared services already so she does not think we would be left high and dry, but she worries that it is just going to be enough that it would drive more people away. Councilman Collins stated that the Town of Chemung took over Ashland and it is included in those figures. They merged and they pay Chemung a certain amount of money each year. He believes the Highway guys are still employed by Ashland. Councilman Conklin stated that there are two or three guys that work for Chemung but are employed by Ashland. Councilman Collins stated that Ashland basically dissolved their Highway Department/equipment and went with Chemung, this has been quite a few years now. The Town of Ashland only had like 16 miles/16.7 miles and the rest was in Chemung. It is tough to compare Chemung because they have some really good income, big time income.

Steven Hanshaw (636 Breesport N. Chemung Road) - He asked if we pay the Highway men salary or hourly? Councilman Collins stated that the two Highway guys are hourly and the Supervisor is salary. He then asked if they work a four-day week? Councilman Collins stated they work four tens in the summer and then five eights in the winter. Mr. Hanshaw then commented that we are then essentially using them for what he would consider a standard work week of 40 hours per week. He is now trying to have to work 60 to 70 hours per week to pay his taxes now. We all know this wonderful world's inflation is going to kick us all in the rear end and we are looking to a budget to raise these guys, their pay, a few percent. He only gets 3%, they get 2%. He is now going to have to work double time to work for them. Why are we allowing them to break their time into four day weeks when he has to work for six days a week? Why can't we make them work a five/eight at least, make them work a whole week and struggle like all the rest of us? Supervisor Purvis stated that we can take that into consideration. Mr. Hanshaw stated that he plowed snow for years, do not get him wrong, early, early hours. He still does it today. He works hard hours in the middle of wintertime. It is not easy. He gets it, but they are getting paid hourly just like he does and in the snow you can make great money. Struggling on our end needs to be portrayed in what we are paying. He stated that his taxes on less than 3 acres are \$2,600.00 for just the Town of Baldwin. This year we are proposing a budget that is slightly higher than we have in the past. Do we have a savings account that we are pulling those funds out of or are we planning on taking that up later on next year, the year after, by raising our taxes and not raising them this year? Supervisor Purvis stated that we ended up in the black last year, we are hoping to this year. We will not know until the end of the year when we do the numbers. We are hoping to still be in the black this year. There has been a lot of added expenses because of the rising fuel and all those types of things. Mr. Hanshaw asked who does our tax audits for Baldwin? Supervisor Purvis stated that our Bookkeeper is Barb Harding. Mr. Hanshaw asked if she bases this off of County estimates or does she base it off her own personal walking around looking at everybody's houses? Supervisor Purvis stated that he was referring to the budget itself and what is taken in and spent handled by the Bookkeeper, the Assessor is Terie Huseby. Mr.

Hanshaw asked what we based the Baldwin town taxes on per person, the assessment, and is this done by the County? Councilman Collins stated that the taxes are based off of assessment and there is an equalization rate that is controlled by the State. When this goes down, which it does every year, this pushes our stock/value up which then changes and the Town of Baldwin cannot control what the State does with that. Mr. Hanshaw stated that he is looking at other houses in this area, the Town of Baldwin, that basically have the same value, acreage, etc. and he is looking at their taxes and seeing significant changes in numbers, so how come some are paying more, some are paying significantly less? You look at the assessments coming from the County and they are pretty even across the board. Councilman Collins stated that it has probably been 20 years since we have had a reassessment, a whole town reassessment.

Becky Spencer (Elston Hollow Road) - She asked to see the Budget and questioned that it is not just the Highway Department getting raises? Supervisor Purvis stated that the only other one is the Town Clerk and she has not gotten a raise in a couple years. She asked when the Clerk was available as years ago the Clerk was available 24/7. She questioned the amount of raise as the Town Clerk is only seeking a raise of \$1,000.00, no a percent. Faith Marmor explained the payroll line item vs. the contractual line item and what contractual is used for. Mrs. Spencer asked if anyone else was getting a raise, to which no one else is. She stated that everything else is higher but that she has not been able to get a raise in two years because the County says we are in an economical crisis. She questioned why she needs to work harder as Steven Hanshaw stated and try to get an extra job in order to pay even more taxes, is her work less important, is anyone's work less important. We kind of all have to realize that we are in an economical crisis right now so this might not be the year for big raises.

Robin Rosekrans (Hoffman Hollow Road) - She was just going over some different stuff because she works for the County too and the County workers for the Highway only got a 2.5% raise this year, next year the projected is another 2.5%, and then it goes 3% and 3%. Their pay to start out in the County HW Department is \$18.18 per hour. The Town of Baldwin guys have to be making more than that. Paul Tillotson stated that the pay is \$20.25 and \$20.75. She stated that these guys get better health insurance than the County does, then what the County has. That is not okay. Supervisor Purvis stated that the \$18.18 is for starting pay and our guys are only getting \$2.00 more than that after having been here for several years. Robin stated that the State's salary is only \$35,000.00 per year to start out. She does not believe in the \$2.00 an hour raise because of the simple fact that the insurance they get is better than what she has. Supervisor Purvis stated that the State has signs up right now for drivers and their starting wage is way more than that for truck drivers. She stated that she does not agree with the \$2.00 an hour raise. She can see a 3.5% or 3.0% raise for them but not a \$2.00 an hour raise. She does not agree with this at all.

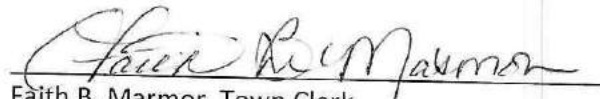
Ann Sherwood (Federal Road) - She worked for a municipality and there were years when we did not get a raise, especially when the County starting taking more of the sales tax revenue from the town. There was a two-year period where they did not get a raise. Working for a municipality is not a guarantee of your salary competing with a trucking company or a corporate company. Two to 3%, 3% was the most that they gave, and then they factored in and received a letter in January that stated how much it costs for them to work for the town which included salary, what they had to pay in Social Security, Medicare and health insurance, and they paid a lot more towards their own health insurance then what she believes is being paid now by these employees. A municipality is not a guarantee of a deep pocket to keep up with inflation. Everyone has to bite the bullet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion was made to adjourn the Public Hearing by Councilwoman Purvis, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

*A copy of the Notice of Public Hearing and Affidavit of Publication are attached to these Minutes.*

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Faith B. Marmor, Town Clerk

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**TOWN OF BALDWIN 2023 BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Baldwin will hold a Public Hearing to address the 2023 Budget on November 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. before the start of the Town of Baldwin regular monthly Board Meeting at the Town of Baldwin Town Hall located at 622 Breesport North Chemung Road, Lowman, NY 14861.

Any person for or against said Budget will be heard. Any interested parties may review the Preliminary 2023 Budget during the Town Clerk's normal business hours.

BY ORDER OF THE BALDWIN TOWN BOARD

Faith B. Marmor

Baldwin Town Clerk

Dated: October 14, 2022

# STAR-GAZETTE

State of New York  
County of Chemung

Linda Tuttt being duly sworn, deposes and says she is the Principal Clerk of the Star-Gazette, a public newspaper printed and published in Elmira aforesaid and that a notice of which the annexed is a true copy as published in said newspaper:

On the 14 day of October in the year 2022, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared Linda Tuttt, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual(s) whose name(s) is (are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument, the individual(s), or the person upon behalf of which the individual(s) acted, executed, the instrument. (Signature of Notary)

10/14/2022

Linda Tuttt  
Legal Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14 day of October, 2022

Nicole Jacobs  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin, County of Brown

8-21-26  
My commission expires

NICOLE JACOBS  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin