

Minutes from Germantown Town Board Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget, held on November 18, 2008 at 6:00pm at the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown.

Present: Roy Brown, Supervisor
Joan Snyder, Councilwoman
Graceann Lamberta, Councilwoman
Joel Craig, Councilman

Recorded by: Donna Diehl, Deputy Town Clerk
Charlene Diehl, Town Clerk

Not Present: Jeremy Smith, Councilman

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and the Deputy Town Clerk read the notice to meet.

Supervisor Brown informed the board and the public that there were no final figures on the Sewer; it's still being worked on. There is a small increase each year on the sewer, to offset bonds, etc.

Councilwoman Lamberta asked about the total cost for maintenance of the sewer and Supervisor Brown replied that number was not known at this time.

Councilwoman Snyder said that in 2004, 2005 and 2006 that sewer cost rates should have gone up, but there was no increase. Repairs and maintenance have to be done and taxpayers should not pay for the sewer, it should go up each year.

Supervisor Brown said the town engineer is going over the sewer and he's waiting for the report of what should be done.

Kay Abraham said the board should consider making health insurance part of a town employee's salary, considering the substantial increase of this year's rate. She said the town board kept its level of commitment for the future and kept sidewalk and Re-Zoning Committee funding in the budget. She's glad the budget was posted on the website for residents to view.

Ms. Abraham suggested a Capital Budget Committee for future plans, in terms of equipment the town will need to purchase in the future. She also suggested that health care contribution costs should be considered for next year for/by employees.

Art Schiff spoke about the change in environment that has recently happened and said we're in the middle of chaos. He said he was not happy about the 2% increase for town employees and thinks the board should look at ways to cut costs throughout the year. He is of the opinion that the three towns, Livingston, Clermont and Germantown, should set up a committee for citizens and board members to prepare for the budget throughout the year instead of waiting until September to begin the process. He believes this could be done in a non-hostile and non-adversarial way.

Councilman Craig agreed with Mr. Schiff about the fluidity of the times and said that Councilwoman Snyder had suggested meeting quarterly to review fiscal spending.

Mike George questioned the yearly cost of \$58,000 given to the library, and the board informed him that the townspeople voted for that yearly stipend when it was put on the ballot and that cannot be changed.

Supervisor Brown thanked everyone who attended the budget public hearing as well as the budget workshops and thanked the board member for coming back with cuts to the budget. He said tomorrow night (November 19) the board will vote on the budget and closed the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted