



TOWN OF WILLSBORO
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**TOWN OF WILLSBORO
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
WILLSBORO VISITORS CENTER
NOVEMBER 7th, 2024**

ATTENDEES- Bud Wilson, Win Belanger, Hannah Neilly, Jeffrey Bigelow, Gregg Gordon, Polly Belanger, Catherine Kaleita

BOARD MEMBERS- Steve Benway, Lorilee Sheehan, Lane Sayward, Scott Christian
Shaun Gilliland- Excused

CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30pm
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENED PUBLIC HEARING

This public hearing is for The Town of Willsboro preliminary budget to become the budget for 2025. This Public hearing was advertised in the Press Republican, Community Board and on Facebook.

BOARD COMMENT- None

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Jeffrey Bigelow- asked if the animal control line was to build a new shelter. Travis Crowningshield explained that the town has gotten quotes for a DEC approved shelter to house dogs. We no longer have a contract with the SPCA as they could not meet our needs and Eagle Feather in Plattsburgh only takes dangerous dogs. There is no shelter for a dog that needs to spend the night. The county is looking at building a shelter also, Willsboro will wait to see what the county does first.

Win Belanger- stated that he attended the Parks Commission presentation and was very much in favor of the Hathaway Park project. He also stated that the budget is what it has to be and that the people sitting at the Board table should be getting raises.

Hannah Neilly asked why the employee benefits went up so much. Benway explained that the highway and water and sewer are zeroed out on their lines this year and it is all under general.

Jeffrey Bigelow asked if there was any money in the budget for preventive maintenance. He noted the Visitors Center roof needs to be replaced and stated that it should be put in the budget. Neilly suggested putting in a capital improvement line. Catherine Kaleita asked if the two

\$100,000.00 onetime payments be spread out over several years. Sheehan stated that with the increase of the budget this year of \$241,410.00 it is a total budget increase of \$.10 per \$1000.00 of assessment. Ranging from a \$150,000.00 assessment it is an increase of \$15.00 and for a \$500,000.00 assessment it would be \$50.00. It is a 10 cent increase for all district tax payers as in fire, EMS and water. The park's \$100,000.00 is .019. Neilly stated that nothing really seems to stand out on the budget and she feels that with the assessments going up that she was shell shocked by the increase in the budget. Benway stated that the assessments went up but the tax rates went down. Neilly asked if the highway put money into the budget every year for equipment? Crowninshield stated that they have been for the last 8 years. Kaleita commented that the park is going to need maintenance. Neilly asked if a person was hired for the \$30,000.00 increase in parks? Sheehan stated yes. Neilly asked why Planning and Zoning was \$15,000.00. Sayward stated that it was for training and travel. No further comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:48pm
Submitted by Susan Thompson