

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2022**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Marianna Anthonisen, Councilmember (Online)
Britt Buckenroth, Councilmember
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember
John Trainor, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha “Marcie” Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Jeffrey Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Ashley Saviano, Deputy Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:30p.m. by Supervisor Houghtling.

ELECTED OFFICIAL’S SALARY & COLA’S:

Supervisor Houghtling stated this meeting is to discuss Elected Officials salaries and whether or not they can apply a COLA without going through a local law process. She updated the board that the town attorney did not get an answer back from the State Comptroller. The attorneys advice to the Town Board is to go ahead and set them in the budget where the board would like them to be, assuming they are allowed to put a COLA in place, as they have always done. She stated that they are always allowed to pay less than what is advertised in the Public Hearing notice but they can’t pay more. The Public Hearing notice needs to go out today to get it in the paper in time. She stated that before adopting the final budget they will hopefully have an answer and if they have to be adjusted down, they can.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the boards’ intention is to give the COLA to the Elected Officials with the exception Tax Collector and Justices.

Supervisor Houghtling reported that they do not have an answer on if they are allowed to do a one-time inflation adjustment for 2023. The town attorney was pretty sure that elected officials would not be able to get the one-time inflation adjustment for 2023.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that in the past boards have done the same COLA for elected

officials that they have done for other officials. Elected officials cannot have the evaluation-based raises which other employees are getting and elected officials probably can't get that one-time inflation adjustment. Supervisor Houghtling asked the board if they should do the same 5% COLA that everyone is getting or do they consider 6% or another COLA amount.

Several of the Town Board members stated that being on the board is not their full-time job and they don't feel that they want the raises. The Town Board held further discussion, and decided that only elected officials who work their position as their full-time job should get the COLA.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that they are then talking about the three positions that perform their jobs on a full-time basis for Supervisor, Town Clerk and Superintendent of Highways. The Town Board agreed on a 7% COLA for those three elected officials.

MISCELLANEOUS BUDGET ITEMS:

The following changes were made:

Page 2. **Budget Officer, A-1340.1** increase from \$8,000 to \$8,560

Page 1. **Schedule of Salaries:**

(Supervisor) A-1220.1 increase from \$23,200 to \$24,824

(Town Clerk) A-1410.1 increase from \$36,400 to \$38,948

(Superintendent of Highways) A-5010.1 increase from \$67,433 to \$72,153

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to adjourn the budget workshop at 3:42pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Buckenroth.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Buckenroth -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye
Councilmember Anthonisen-	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk