

**A Regular Town Board meeting was held on October 3, 2016 at the Lysander Town Building, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Saraceni, Supervisor  
Roman Diamond, Councilor  
Robert Ellis, Councilor  
Peter Moore, Councilor  
Robert Geraci, Councilor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Comptroller David Rahrle; Dina Falcone, Town Clerk; Gene Dinsmore, Highway Superintendent; PAC-B; Baldwinsville Messenger, and several residents.

**Supervisor Saraceni called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.**

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**Supervisor Saraceni** stated that this meeting will be brief although important. It will be the most important item this Board does, which is to compile, analyze, and breakdown, and present [the budget] and eventually adopt a budget so that this Town can perform the services that the residents expect, from road maintenance to its court, to the Clerk's Office. Every dollar the Board is reviewing is going to be put to good use for the residents in the Town of Lysander. This is the preliminary budget that was put together by department heads. It is tentative and based on needs not wants, given their mission and what is needed to accomplish each departments' mission for the coming year. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that it is his first budget as Town Supervisor with this administration. The budget that the Board is working from, from last year has been a challenge and he thanked all of the department heads for working hard and staying within [previous] budget numbers. He said he looks forward to working with each department as the Town enters this process.

**Supervisor Saraceni** addressed the Board in regard to the proposed budget's overall numbers in that expenditures are down slightly, by around \$10,000 total, which is a very small decrease. It is .21 percent cut in expenditures, but you are looking at a budget that is less reliant on fund balances than last year. Last year \$960,000 was appropriated from the fund balance to make this current years' budget work. **Supervisor Saraceni** says that the budget he is presenting relies on \$772,000 which is a significant decrease in fund balance appropriations. To rely on that heavy of a fund balance allocation is unsustainable. While he appreciates the previous administrations desire for a cut, [it was approx. 21.18% cut in taxes], **Supervisor Saraceni** said that in working through that, it's very difficult in an unsustainable budget moving forward.

**Supervisor Saraceni** stated that he is presenting a budget that will right-size the budget with a 6.8% tax increase, which equates to 11 cents per thousand or so. For example, on a \$100,000 house there would be an \$11 increase; on a \$200,000 house it would be a \$22 dollar increase. None of that goes into elected officials' pockets sitting at this table. The Town is not asking for an increase, the money that is generated is going right into the infrastructure that residents rely on a daily basis to get around. It is a good budget, and he has met with the entire department heads with the exception of the court, as their budget is the same. He said that he is meeting with the court tomorrow, and additionally will talk with them regarding building improvements that will impact that department. **Supervisor Saraceni** said that this budget will put the Town on the right track to perform the services residents expect, but going forward it should see incremental, if not freezes to perform those same services. He said that his goal for the next three years is to present budgets between 0% and maybe 3% but no higher. Looking back at the at the ups and downs of the rate, no one likes to see that, and people understand that things don't get cheaper over time, and just the cost of doing business year after year, if it goes up, gradually and responsibly, is an acceptable income.

**Supervisor Saraceni** continued with regard to the fund balance, per last year, \$960,000 was appropriated for this year. Initially the Town is appropriating \$772,000, and the expenditures are down slightly. He said he is not going to spend any time tonight going into nuances department by department. There is a lot of information and the Board will do its best to keep the public up to speed at each work session. The Board is proposing to discuss Highway first, as it is the largest of the Town's expenditure. Each department head will have an opportunity to present and defend their budget.

**TOWN BOARD COMMENTS:**

**Councilor Geraci** stated that he appreciates that the Town has a flat budget, but he is concerned about the fund balance being over 20%. He said the fund balance is a driver in terms of how the Town deals with the budget. He asked **Mr. Rahrle** a few questions specific to the handout in the budget workbook as it related to the fund balance. In short, **Mr. Rahrle** stated that the good thing out of it is that \$960,000 was the amount appropriated and this Town will use \$510,000.

**Supervisor Saraceni** stated that we should not forget that we were blessed with a mild winter, and it could have been worse. He is hoping we don't get an early harsh winter to wipe out the benefits from the mild winter. He continued with regard to Councilor Geraci and Mr. Rahrle's conversation by stating that he did not want to scoff at 6.8% as a tax hike but it is a tax hike. There were concerns last year at holding the fund balance at 20%. This adjustment was needed. That was the compromise I thought we could make, pass a budget to right-size things. Supervisor Saraceni thinks this correction will get us to where we can look at a sustainable budget moving forward. **Mr. Rahrle** said that if we have learned anything it is that services cannot be performed at 1.64/cents per thousand. **Councilor Geraci** stated that what this Town does is commendable compared to others, and it's a commitment to conservatism that we should all be proud of. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that this budget process is an open process, there are no smoke and mirrors.

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**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Town Clerk Dina Falcone** stated that she is formally presenting the budget to the Board.

**Highway Superintendent Gene Dinsmore** stated that he does not mind guiding his department to [tighten its belt]. He says he hopes it's enough to continue with the level of services the Town is providing.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SARACENI**

1. **Town Board Meetings:** Monday, October 17, 2016, Monday, November 3, 2016; Work Sessions at 5:30 pm, Regular Town Board Meetings begin at 7:00 pm (both held in the Auditorium).
2. **Budget Work Sessions:**  
October 11, 5:45 pm  
October 12, 5:45 pm  
October 17, 5:45 pm  
October 19, 5:45 pm  
October 20, 5:45 pm (Tentative depending on progress)  
October 26, 5:45 pm

The public is invited to the work sessions. The Town must print the date for the Public Hearing by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium.

The Board may meet one additional time to discuss the budget if needed, on November 15, 2016, in the conference room at 5:45 pm. By November 21<sup>st</sup> the budget will be adopted in the auditorium.

3. **Planning Board Meeting:** October 13, 2016, 7:00 pm (held in the Auditorium).

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilor Diamond and seconded by Councilor Geraci** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:20 pm.

This is a true and complete recording of the action taken at this meeting.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk