

**Town of Independence
Regular Meeting
Preliminary Budget Hearing**

November 10, 2016

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on November 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm for the regular monthly meeting and the 2017 Preliminary Budget Hearing.

Present: Supervisor Reichman; Council: Meunier, Waters, Acomb; Town Clerk, Cindy Welch, Deputy Clerk, Jasmine Bledsoe; Highway Superintendent, Dennis Graves. Police: PJ Sherman; Absent: Council Howe.

Visitors: One WCS student and one area resident

Supervisor Reichman called the Public Hearing to order. The Clerk declared the Hearing had been duly advertised in the form of Legal Notice and posting on the Town Clerk signboard. Visitors were given a copy of the preliminary budget for review. With all persons having been heard and no negative comments the Hearing was declared closed by the Supervisor at 7:20 p.m.

Supervisor Reichman called the regular meeting to order. A motion to approve the October 20th, 2016 minutes was made by Council Meunier seconded by Council Acomb with all approving.

Denny Graves, Highway Superintendent, gave the Highway Report:

Work report: mowing roadsides, hot patching on Forsythe, Skinner, Walters, Harris, Casey and Clark Roads; Multiple repairs from the recent storm; graveling; repair Sluice pipes on Graves road; shoulder work on Harris Roads. Submitted CHIPS reports.

Equipment report: replaced wiring harness on the 1 Ton for the sander and snowplow; inspected all Dump Trucks.

A letter from an area resident requesting that the D.I.'s on the town streets be repaired was reviewed by all. Report to follow.

Superintendent Graves also reported that he was asked by a taxpayer/resident to oil and stone Casey Road from 1720 Casey to the County Road 22. Denny estimated the cost at \$100,000 and told the resident he would gravel the road.

Fuel Report:

Gas: purchased:	143 gals	used: 174.2 gals.	Tank Measurement: 32"
Diesel:	677 gals.	765.9 gals	36"

Patrolman Sherman reported he received notification of \$4920 grant money for the purchase of additional cameras and security equipment. PJ also reported on a county wide Rapid Response - Mutual Aid Agreement and presented paperwork. Matter tabled until complete paperwork is received for board review.

Discussion was held concerning the current Towing and Impound Fees as set forth in Section #5 of LL#1-2013 with **Resolution #12-2016 -Resolution to Change the Towing and Impound Fee Structure** was offered by Supervisor Reichman moved upon by Council Meunier. Clerk call for a roll vote with all voting yes, Howe absent. This reflects a change to \$200 and/or any additional cost incurred for the Impound and Towing. Storage Fees to be charged starting on the 11th day at \$15.00 per day.

The Clerk presented the annual Aged Tax Exemption for board review. A motion was made by Council Reichman seconded by Council Waters to adopt the yearly exemption with no changes. Motion carried by all. Clerk to submit to Allegany County Real Property Tax Service and the Assessor.

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The Clerk reported that Superintendent Graves allowed C.P. Ward Inc. to use town water for a project with the agreement they would be billed for it. The board directed the Clerk to invoice \$25.00.

Discussion was held concerning the 2017 preliminary budget with **Resolution #13-2016 - 2017 Budget Adoption** was offered by Supervisor Reichman, moved upon by Council Meunier. Clerk called a roll vote with all votes yes, Council Howe absent. Clerk will submit the 2017 budget to the county.

Police, Financial, and Clerk reports reviewed by all.

Bills reviewed by all and motion made by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and approved by all to pay abstracts #11-2016 in the following amounts:

General	Voucher #'s 154-163	\$1540.41
Water	82-85	\$1162.38
Highway	204-216	\$8751.22
St. Light	#11	\$620.38

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Acomb, approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Town Clerk, Cindy Welch

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Note: at printing pgs. 234
and 235 are misprints.

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