

Minutes of the special meeting of the Jerusalem Town Board held on October 12, 2012 at 3:00 P.M. PRESENT were: Supervisor Jones, Councilors Killen, Parson, Steppe, Town Clerk McMichael, Acting Highway Superintendent Martin, Budget Officer Muscarella.

Excused: Councilor Folts.

Guests: Mr & Mrs. Molyneaux, Paul Enos and other unidentified guests.

Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M.

In response to questions from Supervisor Jones, Budget Officer Muscarella offered the following:

- Use of fund balance is based on the goal of attaining the 1.5% increase in the tax rate.
- Adoption of the 2% tax cap override local law is to protect the Town. For example, if clerical errors are identified upon audit that would cause us to exceed the limit.
- Councilor Parson's salary was corrected to \$5,590.24.
- Supervisor Jones reduced his salary to \$18,500.
- 1110.1 Town Justice notes the \$1,200 health benefit. There is no change in the budget figures.
- Salary proposals will be presented consistently.
- The contracted union employee salary increases will be changed from 3% to 4% as a worst scenario. The contract has not been finalized and will require a budget amendment if it changes.
- Post retirement analysis was distributed.

The Assessor salary proposal, appointment, hours, work load, office needs, staffing and operation were again discussed. The Assessor proposed a salary of \$47,000 working 40 hours/week with full-time benefits. Utilizing a Keuka College student to assist with data collection during their field period will be considered.

RESOLUTION #164-12

ESTABLISH SOLE APPOINTED ASSESSOR HOURS AND SALARY

On a motion of Councilor Parson, seconded by Councilor Steppe, the following was

ADOPTED Ayes	3	Killen, Parson, Steppe
Nays	1	Jones

Resolved the Sole Appointed Assessor position become full-time working Monday through Friday at an annual salary of \$47,000.

8010.1 Zoning will notate salary, vacation coverage and overtime hours. There is no change in the budget figures.

These budget changes result in 1.54% increase and 1.8% for the tax cap calculation.

Financing options for the tractor purchase were discussed.

The Modeste Bedient Memorial Library increased their request from \$11,000 to \$17,000. In prior years, the Town provided \$5,000. When the new building was constructed, the tax-exempt paperwork did not get timely filed; thereby property tax bills were generated. The Town provided an additional \$6,000 to cover the School and County/Town tax expenses. The Library is now tax-exempt, but the Town's contribution remains at \$11,000. Their 2013 budget includes \$10,000 for the playground. Further details of expenses are needed to support their increased request. Earlier submission to the Town is needed given our budget timeline.

The Summer Recreation Program budget has increased as there was no donation from the Republican Committee.

VERIZON AFFIDAVIT OF MERIT:

Supervisor Jones presented the Affidavit of Merit resolution as the court date for the Verizon assessment filing is October 16 and the Town Board does not meet until October 17, 2012.

RESOLUTION #165-12

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN VERIZON AFFIDAVIT OF MERIT

On a motion of Councilor Steppe, seconded by Councilor Killen, the following was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Jones, Killen, Parson, Steppe
	Nays	0	

Whereas Verizon New York, Inc. (formerly New York Telephone Company) petitioned the Assessor, Board of Assessment Review and the Town of Jerusalem, New York for a Review under Article Seven of the Real Property Tax Law of the assessment for 2012; and

Whereas after review of the Stipulation and Consent Order, along with due consideration of the cost and uncertainty of litigation, and discussions regarding the relevant property with the Town Assessor and counsel, we have determined that settling this matter is in the Town's best interest; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Supervisor be authorized to sign the Affidavit of Merit Index No. 20120184 reducing Verizon's 2012 assessment for parcel tax map number 225.00-6-9 from \$667,373 to \$400,424 and parcel tax map number 600.00-2-111 from \$2,229 to \$1,338; and, be it further

Resolved Councilor Killen will contact Underberg Kessler to ascertain all correspondence be copied to the Town Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Molyneaux inquired about the budget time line and how she can be informed of meetings to ensure public input to address employee contributions toward insurance. Budget Officer Muscarella stated 3-4 meetings will be held in June 2013. Supervisor Jones explained we are aware municipal employees contributing toward their insurance are paid higher wages than Town employees. The Town benefits package offsets our lower wages.

Supervisor Jones noted insurance estimates are received around July and the actual rates are not released until November. He requested public concerns be put in writing for discussion by the Town Board as it is difficult for the Board to conduct business in an orderly fashion when it is open for public discussion during workshops.

With there being no further business, on motion of Supervisor Jones, seconded by Councilor Parson, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk