

**Hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba  
To Override the Tax Cap in 2017**

Held at the Cuba Library, 39 East Main Street, Cuba, NY

**Present:**

Supervisor: Robert Carney  
 Council Persons: Joseph Miller, Daniel McGraw, Timothy Ramsey, Steven Nease  
 Also Present: Nancy Orcutt, Town Clerk, Chad Smith, Hwy. Supt.  
 Dustin Burch, Police Chief & Ambulance Administrator

Supervisor Carney called the hearing to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm. There were 7 people in attendance.

Supervisor Carney explained the need to override the Tax Cap for 2018 budget year. It is currently at an approximate 10% increase. The 2017 rate is \$9.34 and the new rate is \$10.02 at this point. The override is necessary because services would have to be cut in order to comply.

Ramsey reprimanded Carney for giving the Board a budget with such inflated numbers. It is easier to ease the numbers up than hack them down. The idea of a 15% cut was mentioned to the Department Heads but were asked to turn in numbers that were necessary to meet the needs.

McGraw also brought up discussing a change in payroll companies (supposedly payroll would be a \$2,500 savings if turned over to our accounting firm) and a new procurement policy in hopes of better controlling departmental spending. Before payroll is reassigned, there is a need to make sure we are comparing apples to apples. The Town is currently paying \$3,000 annually and they are providing all the necessary reports on a weekly, quarterly and annual basis and providing the W-2's and the printed checks. The procurement policy may require a request one month in advance for expenditures over a designated amount for items necessary to run the Assessor's, Clerk's and General Office. This will not include the Police, Ambulance and Highway Departments.

Miller wished that when the Tax Cap was first initiated we just said no and did not spend down the reserves. We did so in order to comply with the State's mandate. It was the beginning of our demise. He wishes the Town did a 3 1/2% increase as that would have kept us in better condition. The fact that the Seneca Nation has pulled the Tracewell property of the tax roll is also a big factor. That alone is \$25,000 in lost tax revenue.

Discussions took place about depending on the State Police to supplement coverage and cut back on hours and turning the Ambulance over to the Fire Department. Chief Burch refuted these ideas with the fact that with over 5,000 police calls annually, response time would not be acceptable and layoffs would take place with the current officers. The department is running on a skeleton crew, and to have no one to call in for an emergency could be devastating. The Fire Department has never shown the Town any interest in heading the Ambulance. There was a meeting with the Fire Department and then Supervisor Deming on this matter and they turned it down. Miller pointed out that by transferring these services, they are still not free. We are all tax payers, and we would end up paying a different entity instead.

At 6:53 pm Miller motioned to end the public hearing, seconded by Ramsey. All in favor, passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Nancy Orcutt, Town Clerk

**Hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba**  
**On the 2018 Budget**

Held at the Cuba Library, 39 East Main Street, Cuba, NY

**Present:**

Supervisor: Robert Carney  
Council Persons: Joseph Miller, Daniel McGraw, Timothy Ramsey, Steven Nease  
Also Present: Nancy Orcutt, Town Clerk, Chad Smith, Hwy. Supt.  
Dustin Burch, Police Chief & Ambulance Administrator

Supervisor Carney called the hearing for the 2018 budget to order at 6:53 pm. Continuing on with the Ambulance, \$10,000 was cut off the Ambulance contractual and equipment is cut from \$12,000 to \$11,702. This is an odd number because of the final payment on a piece of equipment, the heart monitor, purchased on a 5 year contract. The Police services were budgeted at \$250,000 for 2017 and requested \$273,228 and set at \$27, 0000 in 2018. Chief Burch offered to decrease equipment by \$4,000 to reduce further the budget. He is willing to forgo purchase of new radios. Highway Supt. Smith offered to cut \$10,000 from general repair. After a long discussion on Ambulance pay, it was decided to cut it back by 25% per call. The \$10,000 for the revaluation was removed from the budget completely. Another \$5,000 was taken away from the contingency fund. McGraw suggested funding for equipment should be placed in the contingency fund so the departments need to request it prior to purchasing. They need to be made accountable for all purchases and not spending for the sake of spending. Miller agreed with the policy saying it should be put into place for one year with the possibility of returning to the way it is done now depending on the outcome. It may open eyes on the way things are being done. The idea of reaching out to the Seneca Nation again on providing services for the Tracewell property is another probability of finding revenue.

With \$29,000 cut from the preliminary, that brings the increase down between 6 or 7%. McGraw suggested a 25% decrease in pay for the Board and Supervisor. This will be discussed further in the regular meeting.

Carney called for a motion to close the hearing at 7:29 pm. The motion was offered by McGraw and seconded by Miller. All in favor, hearing closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Orcutt  
Town Clerk

**Regular Meeting**  
**Of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba**

Held at the Cuba Library, 39 East Main Street, Cuba, NY

**Present:**

Supervisor: Robert Carney  
 Council Persons: Joseph Miller, Daniel McGraw, Timothy Ramsey, Steven Nease  
 Also Present: Nancy Orcutt, Town Clerk, Chad Smith, Hwy. Supt.  
 Dustin Burch, Police Chief & Ambulance Administrator,  
 Richard Patterer, Dog Control

Supervisor Carney called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm. There were 7 people in attendance.

**Public Comments:** Ken Hintz inquired how much the Town gives to the Library. The answer is \$19,000. He then asked if we also give money on our school taxes. The answer is yes. Hintz would rather see that some of this money be spent on the Police Department. The Library operates on about \$190,000. When is the reval? It depends on fast the neighborhoods decrease. We are currently at 91% and it will not be long before we have to do this. Revaluation does not raise taxes; the budget raises taxes because it is the amount needed to be raised to run the Town. Miller stated he is not in favor of cutting the Library funding. The Library does an excellent job on providing for our community and he is not going to stay and listen to this. Miller states he "tirelessly puts in his time for \$49 a month but it's not about the money, he loves Cuba and would do this for free." Miller packed up his materials and excused himself from the meeting.

**Board Comments:**

**McGraw:** No one does this job for the money because it does not pay a living wage. This job is about service to the Town of Cuba. The reason McGraw is not running for another term is because he feels he cannot give 100%. There are too many other obligations with family and work that will keep him away. In order to further reduce the budget, McGraw motioned to cut the pay of the Board and the Supervisor by 25%. Carney objected to the Supervisor's pay being reduced due to the time and amount of responsibility involved by comparison of other towns. Nease seconded the motion. A roll call vote showed Ramsey, McGraw, and Nease voting yea, Carney, nay, and Miller now absent. Majority rules. The cut is made to the final budget.

**Approve Minutes for 10/10/2017:** Nease motioned to approve the Minutes of the October meeting followed by McGraw to accept the Minutes as presented. McGraw, Ramsey, Nease and Carney are all in agreement, Minutes accepted.

**Approve Supervisors Report for October:** The income for the General Fund totaled \$3,828.27. Disbursements totaled \$113,060.28. The Highway Fund's income is \$175.60 and disbursed \$43,265.11. Ramsey motioned to accept the report as presented. It was seconded by McGraw. Ramsey, McGraw, Nease and Carney all voting yes, the motion passed

**Approve General & Highway Abstracts for November:** The General Fund is \$80,664.15. Highway Fund totaled \$63,144.52. McGraw motioned to approve the Abstract as presented. This was seconded by Ramsey. All four Board Members present approved the Abstract.

**Clerk's Correspondence:** The VFW, Legion and Am Vets have turned in applications for Bell Jar licenses for the upcoming year. The Clerk called for a motion to grant the licenses. Ramsey made the motion which was seconded by Nease. Licenses granted.

**Supervisor's Comments:** Carney said he felt he was being singled out for the 25% pay cut. If there is a cut, all elected officials should be cut. For the responsibility Carney handles including water and sewer districts, police and ambulance services, the other nearby towns have fewer these services. Ramsey responded that the other elected officials are in line with the other Towns pay scale. As Supervisor he is above average in wages.

**Police Department Comments:**

Cuba Police responded to 249 calls to service in October and developed 28 cases from these. The Police Department handled 8 motor vehicle accidents 5 in the town, 2 in the village, 1 on the Lake and 0 on I-86. There were 47 Traffic stops conducted with 32 Traffic Summons issued (13 in the town, 6 in the village 10 on the lake and 3 on I-86). The Police Department also handled 2 noise complaints, 2 motorist assists, 2 funeral escorts, 8 vehicle lock-outs, 2 parking tickets/complaints were issued, 4 other agency assists, and 5 domestic disputes. The Police Department assisted the Ambulance on 29 calls. The Police Department conducted 0 safety car seat installations. 5 Pill/needle drop offs were completed. 0 gun locks were handed out to residents. 12 business funds escorts were completed. Patrols checked Cuba businesses and property's 15 times.

**Ambulance Comments:**

The Cuba Ambulance Service responded to a total of 44 calls to service in October of 2017. 33 of those calls were taken to Olean General Hospital, 2 were taken to Jones Memorial Hospital and 0 were sign offs, 0 was mutual aid, 2 were refusals, and 2 were taken by Mercy Flight. 34 of these calls were critical care with Cuba handling 34 and Olean 10 handling 0. 20 of these calls were in the village, 12 were in the town, 0 were on Cuba Lake, 6 were mutual aid to New Hudson, 6 were mutual aid to West Clarksville, 0 was mutual aid to Friendship, and 0 was on I-86. Megan Hosley was hired as a driver for the ambulance. Motion was made by Ramsey and seconded by Nease. All in favor.

**Highway Department Comments:**

Work performed in October included the following services:

- Graveled parts of Beebe Hill and Hopkins roads
- Patched holes in West Main, Gross Road, Burlingame, Beebe Hill, and Acme roads
- Cut shoulders on North Branch Road
- Mowed more roadsides

**Equipment Repair**

- Put new exhaust on Mack
- Put new steering link on Mack put exhaust elbow and pipe on Sterling
- Had Saia service truck radios and base

**Dog Control Comments**

- 10/25/2017 – received a complaint from a residence on a neighbor's dog. Working with dog owner and complainant in an attempt to correct the situation
- 10/27/2017 – received a call of two dogs running around the Great Lakes Cheese Plant property/ Unable to locate the dogs after they had run off the property before DCO arrived.
- 10/30/2017 – received numerous calls about a malnourished dog in terrible condition. Investigation revealed that the address was on a road that is not in the Town of Cuba. DCO notified the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department, the Town of Franklinville, Lyndon, and Ischua Dog Control officers to let

them know of the condition of this dog. There were at least eleven calls about this dog from people from all over the country due to this dog being put on Facebook.

**Code Enforcement Comments:**

October 10<sup>th</sup>

I received a call from 5925 Route 305 for a completion inspection.

October 11<sup>th</sup>

I inspected Larson's cottage at Cuba Lake and issued a Certificate of Occupancy.

I stopped at the office and dropped off permits.

October 20<sup>th</sup>

I did the framing inspection at 15 South Shore Cuba Lake.

I received a call from the Clerk that I had permits.

October 26<sup>th</sup>

A permit was written for Donald Glover for a 50x80 pole barn at 1520 Maple Lane.

October 27<sup>th</sup>

I inspected the wood stove at 9103 Jackson Hill Rd.

I stopped at the office and dropped off permit applications.

I dropped off permit and inspected framing at Donald Glover's pole barn on Route 305.

I inspected Dana Klein's property at the corner Maple Lane and 305.

October 30<sup>th</sup>

A permit was written for Mary Marra at 226.2 West Shore Road for a demo of existing building.

November 1<sup>st</sup>

I inspected steps and ramp at the American Legion 3085 Route 305. It needs repair and I gave notification.

I dropped permits off at the office.

November 7<sup>th</sup>

I spoke to Dana Klein and he said he would have the building cleaned up by the 14<sup>th</sup>.

November 13<sup>th</sup>

I inspected Dan Klein's property at Route 305 and it was not cleaned up.

I stopped at the office to check mail.

**Facilities Report:** The answering machine line has been fixed.

**Old Business:**

**Shared Services:** The County is getting a firm to help move along with the shared services program.

**Tracewell/Seneca Update:** There is a rumor the Tracewell building has been rented/leased. This has not been confirmed at the County level to date.

**B.A.N.'s:** The Keller Hill Bridge B.A.N. has been finalized at the bank and the next payment for the B.A.N. to finish Town Hall were both taken care of on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

**Line Item Transfers:** The Board had been given a list of line item transfers to consider for beginning to balance the books for 2017. After careful consideration, Ramsey offered the motion and instructed Carney to make these transfers. The motion was seconded by McGraw, all in favor, passed.

**Exceed Tax Cap:** Moving on, Carney called for a motion to override the Tax Cap for the 2018 budget. Miller offered the resolution to override the Tax Cap as there is no safe way to cut 9% - 10% off the current preliminary budget. Nease agreed and seconded the motion. A roll call vote shows Ramsey, McGraw, Nease, Miller and Carney all voting yea to the override. Issue resolved.

**Adopt 2018 Budget:** After more in-depth discussion, a total of \$42,750 was trimmed from the preliminary budget. During this exchange of ideas, McGraw made the motion to lower the pay of the Ambulance personnel by 25%. Ramsey seconded, all in favor, passed. The pay for each run will be reduced beginning January 1, 2018. Each member will receive a letter of explanation prior. McGraw also suggested a letter be drawn up and sent to the Seneca Nation with another proposal for services. Carney agreed.

Ramsey offered the resolution to adopt the 2018 preliminary budget with all the modifications discussed at tonight's meetings, bringing the tax increase down from 10% to between 5% and 6%. Nease seconded and Carney called a roll call vote. It shows Ramsey, yea, McGraw, yea, Nease, yea, Miller, absent, Carney, nay. Carney then declared the budget is adopted.

**Sliding Scale:** Every year the Town offers an exemption for those over 65 years of age. There is a sliding scale based on annual income. Nease motioned to maintain the same rate as in 2017, income set at a maximum of \$19,500. McGraw seconded and all agreed.

At 8:10 pm Nease motioned to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ramsey, all in favor, adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Orcutt  
Town Clerk  
Town of Cuba