

STATE OF NEW YORK
ONONDAGA COUNTY
TOWN OF CICERO

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The Cicero Town Board held their Annual 2010 Budget Meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., at the Brewerton Fire Department, 9625 Brewerton Road, Brewerton, NY, rather than the Cicero Town Hall, to accommodate the anticipated number of people.

Present: Chester A. Dudzinski, Jr., Supervisor
James Corl, Jr., Councilman
Charlotte Tarwacki, Councilor
William Rybak, Councilman
C. Vernon Conway, Councilman
Tracy Cosilmon, Town Clerk

Others Present: Christopher Woznica, Highway Superintendent
Sharon Edick, Receiver of Taxes
Joseph Snell, Police Chief
Jody Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation
Wayne Dean, Director of Planning & Development
Jeanne Kulesa, Comptroller
Brad Brennan, Assessor
Bonnie Smith, Secretary to Supervisor
Heather Cole, Esquire, Town Attorney
Michelle Baines, O'Brien & Gere

Absent:

The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of our troops that are in harms way.

Mr. Dudzinski indicated where the fire exits were and read the following statement:

The Cicero Town Board acknowledges the importance of full public participation in all public hearings and, therefore, urges all who wish to address those in attendance to utilize the microphones located in the front of the room. At this time please turn off your cell phones and be sure to speak into the microphones to enable all to hear.

S.E.Q.R.

Motion was made by Mr. Dudzinski, seconded by Mr. Conway, that all actions taken tonight are Type Two (2) or Unlisted actions and have a negative impact on the environment unless otherwise determined.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Ms. Tarwacki: Yes
Mr. Rybak: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Dudzinski: Yes

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Dudzinski, seconded by Mr. Corl, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 town board meeting.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Ms. Tarwacki:	Yes
Mr. Rybak:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Dudzinski:	Yes

2010 FIRE CONTRACTS

Proof of publication and posting was presented to the Town Board by Town Clerk Tracy M. Cosilmon. Mr. Dudzinski offered to read the notice in its entirety. There was no request to do so, therefore the reading was dispensed with.

PUBLIC NOTICE, TOWN OF CICERO: Please take notice that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Cicero at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5th, 2009 at the Brewerton Fire Department, 9625 Brewerton Road (Route 11), Brewerton, NY 13029, to consider the 2010 Fire Protection Contracts. The contracts and amounts to be considered are: Protection Area: Brewerton, Amount: \$340,811.00, Service Award: \$32,860.00, Total: \$373,671.00. Protection Area: Cicero, Amount: \$313,780.00, Service Award: \$70,000.00, Total: \$383,780.00. Protection Area: South Bay, Amount: \$240,000.00, Service Award: \$34,000.00, Total: \$274,000.00. Protection Area: Bridgeport, Amount: \$123,725.00, Service Award: -----, Total: \$123,725.00. Protection Area: Village of North Syracuse, Amount: \$259,275.00, Service Award: \$16,980.00, Total: \$276,255.00. South Bay Workers' Compensation: \$17,000.00. All persons wishing to speak for or against the contracts are invited to attend. By the Order of Cicero Town Board, Tracy M. Cosilmon, Town Clerk

Discussion:

Tom Squires gave a Powerpoint Presentation of the 2010 Fire Contract and stated he would then take questions. This is an overview of the Fire Protection within the town and it includes the Fire Protection Contracts. The Fire Protection Contracts are the contracts that the town enters into with the five different Fire Departments. The numbers are going to be presented in order of Fire Department. What we're seeing here is the 2009 amounts versus the 2010 amounts, the change and the percent changes. I want to note here as well, that all the amounts in 2010 for the Fire Protection Contracts are the amounts that have been requested by the Fire Departments. Brewerton, as you see your contract amount will be \$373,671.00 which is about a \$14,000.00 increase or about 4.09% for the prior year. Cicero for 2010 will receive \$383,780.00 which is an increase of \$69,000.00 or about 21.97%. South Bay Fire Department will receive \$240,000.00 which is an increase of \$7,000.00 or 2 ½ %. Bridgeport Fire Department will receive \$123,725.00 which is an increase of \$2,300.00 or 1.89%. North Syracuse Fire Department will receive \$276,255.00 which is a decrease of \$23,296.00 and a decrease of 7 ¾%. The total for the year is \$1,448,431.00 which is an overall increase of \$69,000.00 or 5%. The Fire Protection Districts are the districts where the Fire Commissioners, have sole discretion to the taxable amount of tax to be raised. These are the amounts given from the Fire Departments, to the town. The town collects it and passes it through. Brewerton will collect \$136,736.00 in their fire district which is a decrease of \$1,249.00 or just about 1%. Cicero will receive \$333,000.00 in their district which is an increase of \$18,293.00 or about 5.81%. In total \$469,941.00 an increase of \$17,044.00 or about 3.76%. In total the Fire Protection Contracts and the Fire Districts together. The two that changed were Brewerton and Cicero, because they are the two that have Fire Protection Contracts as well as a Fire District. The total collected town wide for Fire Protection is \$1,918,372.00 an overall increase of \$86,854.00 or 4.74%. The percent increases for 2010 are all amounts Fire Departments have requested. The increases range from a decrease of 7.78% to an increase of 13.89% in Cicero. I have received several inquiries and I think the board has as well as to why the Cicero Fire Department's increase is so high. I have prepared a few slides and will try to explain what has happened over the last couple of years. In November of 2008, the board voted on a Fire Protection Contract for Cicero that gave them an overall increase of 2.25%, the same as all of the other Fire Departments. In 2009 the board's intent was to increase all Fire Departments in their total budget by 2.25%. These numbers show the amounts that were voted on at the time of the adoption of the 2009 budget for the Cicero Fire Department. What I show here, is the 2008 and 2009 totals, which are the amounts for the Fire Protection and the Fire District in total. The total, intended by the board was \$674,720.00 for 2009 for the Cicero Fire Department. That would have been an increase of \$14,850.00 an increase of 2.25%. The above is based on Cicero's budget request to the board for \$360,070.00 to be raised in the Fire District, which is an amount they alone determined. After the vote by the board, the Cicero Fire Department changed the amount to be raised in the Fire District, so all of those numbers are the same and now the Fire District number changes from \$360,000.00 to \$314,912.00. That makes the overall amount for 2009 \$629,562.00. That's a decrease of (\$30,308.00) or about 4.59%. At that point, the board could not change the Fire Protection amount as it had already been adopted in the budget. Cicero Fire Departments late

revision resulted in an overall decrease for 2009. The board has agreed to give the Cicero Fire Department what was requested for 2010. Here now are the numbers comparing 2009 to 2010. The total for 2009 is \$629,562.00 increases to \$716,985.00. The overall increase is \$87,423.00 or 13.89% total. The thinking on the board's part was, while this looks like a large increase, for 2010, it equates to approximately a 2% increase annually from the 2008 total. The board did not want to penalize the Cicero Fire Department for their mistake in determining the 2009 Fire District Budget. That concludes the numbers in the presentation that I've prepared for the Fire Departments.

Public hearing opened at 6:10 p.m.

Speaking for: None

Dave Kesel, Cicero Fire District stated that this hearing is regarding Fire Protection Contracts and not the Cicero Fire District or the Brewerton Fire District. As this gentleman said, we prepare our own budget and determine our own tax and our own tax rate. This hearing should only be on what you are going to contract with us to pay our portion of the protection district. We protect over 40% of that district and our people pay 40% of the money and we get 20 some percent of it. We're not asking for all of the money, we're asking for you to be fair and give us our share of the 40%. We don't care what anyone else gets, give them what they want. I don't understand why you want to tie the Fire Protection Contract with the District money as it is not the same thing. Last year you paid us \$372,000.00 and then you're trying to say, because we messed up our district budget, you only gave us \$314,000.00. The two things are not related. We're in the same business but, these are two separate entities. I don't think everybody understands it.

Tom Squires stated that we've had several conversations and asked how they present their budget to the board and if it is separated out by Protection and District. It is not. You present your budget in total to the board and the board looks at the budget exactly as you present it in total.

Dave Kesel explained that from now on they won't do that. We'll just give you a price for the Fire Protection District and say this is what we'll charge you for the Fire Protection. After we find out what you're going to give us, we'll figure out what we're going to get from the District.

Tom Squires – We talked about that and the need for information on both sides. We talked about allocating the Fire District and the Protection District. I think that may be a step in the right direction. Until that happens the board is going to continue to look at your budget exactly as presented. The way I presented it, is exactly the way that you gave it to us.

Dave Kesel – You shouldn't be looking at the Fire District side.

Tom Squires – Are you suggesting that we should look at your budget the way you presented it?

Dave Kesel – What you were going to charge for the Protection area is outside the District.

Tom Squires – The Board is going to look at the budget, the way you present it. Dave raised an interesting issue. He says that the Cicero Fire Department only received 22% of the total Fire Protection money collected in the town in their fire protection district, which is not the case. I have a break down that shows the total money collected town wide for fire protection. I have data that shows what each one gets and 2010 the Cicero Fire Department gets 37.4% of all of the fire protection money raise in the town which is the number you threw out and we have 37.5%.

Dave Kesel – That has nothing to do with what this hearing is about. It's only about the contracts.

Tom Squires – That's what you get and your numbers aren't right.

Jim Perrin, Cicero Fire Department stated that the figures on the screen amount to the full amount between the district and the protection combined.

Tom Squires – Correct

Jim Perrin explained that we're talking about what is raised and what taxpayers pay in the protection area, not including the district. Protection area alone is \$629,000.00 and we only receive 20% of that. You're combining the district and protection and saying we're getting a percentage and we're saying that we only get 20% of what the taxpayers in the protection area pay. It's a full 100% of what district people pay.

Tom Squires – Say that again, you collect \$620,000.00 in Fire Protection District and you get \$314,000.00?

Jim Perrin – That is what we got last year.

Tom Squires – That's not right. In fact, \$631,781.14 was collected in the Fire Protection District in 2009 and you received \$629,562.00.

Person – Take out the district money and we're only getting \$300,000.00

Tom Squires explained that they are including the district money in the \$620,000.00.

Person – We are not including the district number in the \$620,000.00.

Tom Squires – Absolutely, you are and your numbers are not correct.

Person - We got it off the County Tax website. Protection money was \$600,000.00 and we got \$300,000.00 of that.

Speaking Against:

Dave Pangaro, Cicero Fire Chief stated he actually wanted to speak in favor and referred to a document he got off the Town of Cicero website and on one of the pages, Exhibit A, One, Summary of Special Districts, has a list of districts, the Water Districts, Fire Protection Districts and the amount of \$1,458,431.00. Towards the bottom it says Fire Districts, \$469,940.00 in appropriations. The Fire Protection is separate from the Fire Districts, right here.

Tom Squires – Right

Dave Pangaro – It was added together up there, but they are separate here.

Tom Squires – We're talking about Fire Protection as in all of the Fire Protection money that's collected town wide. Both line items are part of the budget that needs to be passed. Tom asked if the Fire Department combines their Fire Protection and the Fire Districts that are presented.

Dave Pangaro explained that they have been combining them because that is what they have been asked for.

Tom Squires – You present your budget in total to the board and then you tell the board not to look at your budget the way you presented it and to look at it differently. That doesn't make a lot of sense.

Dave Pangaro – This year you're giving us roughly, \$380,000.00, so that what we requested, we want. You don't need to know what the district money is. Would that suffice?

Tom Squires – I need to understand what you're intending.

Dave Pangaro referred to page 8 under Fire Protection Districts. You have us listed for 2010 with a tax levy of \$314,029.00 plus the \$69,788.00 Service Award. No where else is Fire Protection and no where on this, is the district numbers combined. In your presentation, it's showing that we're getting \$629,000.00 which we are, with the districts added. I don't think anyone is clear on how this is coming together.

Tom Squires – Let's be clear, you're getting \$629,000.00 exactly what is collected in your Fire District and Fire Protection District.

Dave Pangaro – Protection and District.

Tom Squires - When you made the statement that \$620,000.00 was collected and you only got \$314,000.00. In your \$620,000.00 you're combining your Fire District and Fire Protection District. Look at your sheet that you just pointed out for the Fire Protection. What does it tell you, was collected in 2009? It's not \$620,000.00 and I'm telling you, your numbers are wrong. That \$620,000.00 includes the Fire District and the Fire Protection District.

Dave Pangaro – Correct, the \$629,000.00 that we're getting this year. We're talking about the total Fire Protection, not district dollars that were collected via the town from taxes.

Tom Squires – It's not that much. From 2000 to 2009, what is the amount? It's not \$620,000.00.

Dave Pangaro – This doesn't have our Protection area. We're talking about the residents who live in our response area. That dollar amount is what Jim pulled off of the County Tax, which was \$620,000.00. That's what he's talking about. We don't get all of that money. That's protection for people who live outside of that one mile diameter of the fire house, called the Fire District. So the people in the Fire Protection District, Lakeshore Heights, The Crossings, Bragman's new neighborhood, live in a Protection area. We pulled all those people off of the County records and it's \$620,000.00. The check I have here for 2009 for Cicero Fire District is \$314,912.00. That's for the protection.

Tom Squires – Yes, that's what was collected in the Fire Protection District.

Dave Pangaro, No it's not.

Tom Squires – Maybe we agree to disagree.

Dave Pangaro – The taxpayers are confused. You collected in 2010 expensed 1.458 million and we're getting \$383,780.00 in protection money, then you turn around and add what we collect which is the \$333,000.00 for the District and say we get 39% of the 1.4. That's incorrect.

Tom Squires – I didn't say that.

Dave Pangaro – Show me where the 39% is in that money because you're not adding the district money into protection 1.45 million you have on this sheet. Does the 1.9 include everybody's district?

Tom Squires – Yes

Dave Pangaro – You're saying 1.9 million, but, where are you showing that?

Tom Squires – It's combined. These numbers represent Fire Protection District money combined with Fire District money.

Dave Pangaro – There are two separate things, not all one protection district money. There is protection money and district money.

Tom Squires – Yes

Dave Pangaro explained that they are talking about protection money only. The Taxpayers in the protection area contract with the Town to protect them and it pays \$600,000.00 of the 1.4 million. We're only getting \$300,000.00 of that money. That's what we're talking about. I'm not talking about the \$333,000.00 from the District money because we get all of that. It's the \$600,000.00 from the people we protect.

Tom Squires – I think your numbers are wrong.

Dave Pangaro – I can give you copies of the sheets and you can add them up. It's from the County website.

Tom Squires – I'm telling you that the number that is given to the Real Property Tax people at the County that goes into the levy that is printed on the tax bill, starts with the numbers the town gives them.

Dave Pangaro – You can get it off the website. Take a look at it.

Tom Squires – I'd be happy to. Guys, I've offered a couple of times to come out over the summer or whenever we could and sit down and we could talk about some ideas and how the town and the Fire Department could get together. We talked about the need for information. The Town wants your district number before they have the Protection number. You want the Protection number before you get the District number.

Dave Pangaro – We don't feel like we're getting our fair share of the Protection money.

Tom Squires – Are you getting this year, exactly what you asked for?

Dave Pangaro – Correct

Tom Squires – It's a 22% increase on the Protection money and a 13.5 increase overall.

Dave Kesel – We got a decrease last year.

Tom Squires – Why is that? Why did the decrease happen?

Person – inaudible

Tom Squires – Whose mistake was it?

Dave Kesel – This department protects 40%. That's where that \$600 + comes from. We're only asking you for \$380,000.00. You're fair this year and we got it, but, for the last few years, we've had to fight for this. We're just trying to show people that we're doing 40% of the work and we're getting 22%.

Tom Squires – No, you're not getting 22% of the money, you're getting 37%. Of the total money collected in the Town for Fire Services you get 37.4% of it.

Inaudible response.

Tom Squires – This is your overall budget request combining the two amounts.

Dave Kesel – When we sat down with you 3 weeks ago we were at \$314,000.00 you weren't up to \$384,000.00. That's why they came out with that brochure.

Ms. Tarwacki – We need to have people use the microphones.

Tom Squires – You show \$14,000.00 of interest earned and my quick calculation tells me that you guys must have \$750,000.00 in the bank.

Dave Kesel – It's all reserve funds.

A Person stated that information is open to public notice.

Dave Kesel – We're just trying to explain this. When we met with you 3 weeks ago there was no \$60,000.00 raise or whatever you gave us. You were still at \$313,000.00 which is the same as we got this year.

Tom Squires stated it was the same previously. Now, Dave, lets talk about that. Why was that? You didn't turn your budget in on time. Four of the five Fire Departments came in and turned their budgets in on time. You guys were late. You did not turn your budget in until after the tentative Budget was filed. I had nothing from you in terms of a budget request at the time the tentative Budget was filed.

Dave Kesel – The only thing we changed was the Fire District Tax, because it would have made the tax rate go up. We're not that irresponsible that we're going to let that happen.

Tom Squires – At the time I had to legally file a Tentative Budget. I had nothing from you in terms of a request. I placed last year's number in there because I had to put something in there. I explained that to you when you came in finally, with your budget.

Dave Kesel – Thank you for finally giving us what we asked for. That's all we're asking for is a fair shake because this Fire Department does 40% of the work in this town.

Tom Squires – I think what you've said is important to note. The Board is giving you exactly what you asked for.

Rick Barling stated that the more he listens to this, the more disgusted he gets with the Town of Cicero. He showed a plaque from Oswego County stating it matches one at Onondaga County Fire. Several years ago, when he was part of Brewerton Fire Department and a former member of Cicero Fire Department and he put his tail feathers on the line to pull a guy out of a fire. That guy lived and although he suffered he made it. I think this board right now is doing everything in their power to take what these people deserve away from them. They put their lives on the line every day. My brother has also been awarded the Medal of Valor. You guys sit here and play your little games with your numbers, which is what you're doing. If all else fails you manipulate the data which is what you're doing every other time, like you do in Cicero. You guys mess up Wal Mart and when have you ever followed through? You've buried wetlands and to this day, Wal Mart has not done anything to repair any wetlands that they agreed to take care of. The town of Cicero fights every day to try and get through the Route 31 corridor. I watched a fire truck that could hardly get through that corridor because you guys can't be bothered to do what's right. I know it's a bigger picture then that and is part of the State, County and everything like that, but, it starts right here with all of you. You wonder why the voting went the way it did on Tuesday, is because they're getting sick and tired of being jerked around and having money taken away from them, just to do something else, by making a game out of it. They're putting their lives on the line to save your butts. You guys are the ones that will want them there as quick as possible with every piece of equipment they have. I've gone up through firefighter, Chief and training and everything like that and when I hear you guys sitting up here playing your little games, manipulating your little numbers, I get sick and tired of it. You guys ought to be ashamed of yourselves. You have a town you've been ripping off for how many years? You're getting ready to vote on a \$400,000.00 Bond issue, so you can pay for re-checking your taxes, after you messed up the first time.

Mr. Dudzinski stated that he would like to make a comment. As far as I'm concerned, being I was a 20 year life member of South Bay Fire Department. There is not one Fireman in this room right now that is any better than the other. I don't know how the other Fireman, feel but, to stand there and say that one department is better is totally ridiculous.

Audience – No one said that.

Mr. Dudzinski - South Bay or any of those men could get killed tonight if the alarm went out.

Audience interruption

Mr. Dudzinski - I have the floor.

Mr. Barling – Not right now and I'll tell you why. You just said something to me. My Uncle Walt served in the South Bay Fire Department for years.

Mr. Dudzinski - True

Mr. Barling stated that he wasn't saying anyone, is better than another. There wasn't just one person that was awarded Medals of Valor. Bud Schmunck, George Hart, James Bateman and myself, were the four guys who went into the fire. When the people were pulled out of the water, it wasn't just my brother Ronald. I'm only using them as an example as there are a lot of people who put their lives on the line. Don't try and shortcut it or candy coat it and try and make it your issues, because it's not your issue.

Mr. Dudzinski stated that it would include every Fire Department and not just one.

Rick Barling stated that every Fire Department, ambulance worker, Police Officer or anyone when somebody is in trouble, has to go and take care of them. He told of being assaulted in the Town of Cicero, thrown to the ground injuring his knee and shoulder and having to have surgery on both. They never found the guy and the reason is they couldn't do their job because they don't have enough money. You spend all you want for getting sued, or for being charged \$400,000.00 or by spending \$12,500.00 a month on

attorney fees. You guys can figure out how to spend money, unless it means protecting you and when it means protecting you, you guys get very tight.

Ray Shader - I don't understand these districts, but, the way I look at it, if the town collects \$1,378,000.00 and Cicero Fire District covers 40% of that, Brewerton covers, 15% . South Bay covers 35% or whatever comes up to 100%, why don't they take that percent and divide it into the \$1,378,000.00. That would be simple, wouldn't it? I don't understand the Fire Districts and the two coming together.

George Hart – To answer this gentlemen's question, the Fire Districts are headed by a five man Board the same as this town Board. They are a municipality in themselves. They set their own tax rates and they just hand that part of the budget to the town. The Town can not change that budget. We are responsible for that and I'm the Commissioner in Brewerton. We are responsible to that tax rate and that amount of money. We negotiate protection tax and I do four towns. Two are in the district and three are outside the protected district. Those are contract districts. We sign a contract with the Town of Cicero. No department can have all of the money and I don't care who it is. Divided by equal shares, 15%, 40% doesn't work, because you can take your tax money out of this particular area and they might get a rate of 17,000, because of their assessed valuation. You look at my assessed valuation in my protection district and 60% is swamp land, yet I have to have a fire truck just like Cicero. South Bay, Bridgeport and Brewerton, don't have the opportunity to have the large buildings and the assessed valuation that is in the whole Town of Cicero. We all go to Cicero fire sooner or later. We respond as firefighters together. Every one of these fire houses has to have a fire truck and every one of these fire Departments went to a Budget Meeting with the Town Board. We don't always get what we want. Many times we don't, but, you have to justify those taxes, because you pay for them. Right now, I think Cicero's tax rate is 17 something a thousand for Protection Districts.

Dave Kesel – It was 17.7 and this year it was 17.24.

George Hart – My fire district tax this year is \$34,000 because we are assessed valuation is low and I have to maintain a vehicle. I have a whole list over there, plus there are State Mandates like everybody else. That's the trouble today. We all have to meet those State Mandates. I don't care if it's Cicero or South Bay. We do, Clay does and I have to contract with Clay. Their rate is almost \$22.00 a thousand and it went up a little bit this year. The area I protect is again, a low percentage of the assessed valuation. The most percentage valuation is Moyers Corners. They have a million something budget and an \$85,000.00 budget. The guy who was Supervisor last year, sat me down and said, if we paid you, what you were worth, to that district, the tax rate would be \$45.00 a thousand and not 21. By pooling the money, so to speak, and I'm not sure if this is a true statement, but, by taking a full Protective District and dividing out what a Fire Department requires or wants and negotiates for, your tax rate is really low. It's only 17. People forget that. Yes, Cicero should have more money, but, to say you're doing 40% of the work in the town area wise or central wise, maybe. We still come to your fires and you come to ours. We have to maintain equipment and it costs money. We try to keep the taxes as low as we can. I've sat down with these other Chiefs and said, what are you going for? North Syracuse, surprises me sometimes. We have to do that. As a District Officer, I'm responsible directly to my taxpayers, just like this Town Board is to you. I have to show them what we spend and show them why we have to. It costs money to run a Fire Department today. We try to keep the taxes lower and one way to do that is to pool it. When I come into a budget meeting it's all laid out there. This is what I've got to spend and if I can get it, fine. I don't always get what I want and neither does North Syracuse or Cicero. Sitting here tonight and watching this big increase is good, but your Chairman told me he wasn't ready for that. He did have short notice, which we complained about. We did complain about the short notice on the taxes, but we came in and everybody did and negotiated the contracts. Nobody is taking anything from anybody. We negotiated the contracts and you have a relatively low tax rate, because that's the way it's done. If we did it otherwise, my tax rate in my fire protection would be around \$40.00 a thousand if not more. It would probably be a lot more and we'd probably lose a lot more. We had special problems and went to the Town Board and negotiated that. The other Fire Department's Chiefs did it the same way. I'll tell you right now, South Bay, Bridgeport and Brewerton Protected Districts do not have the opportunity of the assessed valuation that is in the middle of the town. If it was all out here, though I'm not sure, because of some of the buildings we've got, but, some of my tax money in my Protection District doesn't go to South Bay. I'm not sure. There are five Fire Departments in the Protection District in this town, not, one, not four, but, five. We negotiate those contracts. We sit down at a table and sometimes it gets a little heated. We tell those people what they want and why we want it. We justify every bit of it. We have to. That's the way it is today. You, the taxpayer deserve that. Coming here and saying we want it, because it's there, effects all five departments. Either we raise the taxes in the other part of the town and make that a separate tax district, then everybody's taxes will go up. Cicero should have more money, absolutely? If they think they need more money, justify it, just like everyone else does. Don't get me wrong, they do. You have a relatively low tax rate because of the way it's done. It is not fun going to that board meeting and sitting there and going item by item, justifying every little expense I've got, when I've got four towns to deal with. Thank You

Dave Kesel – George is correct and we've always agreed to on this particular format and we're totally, in favor of it as long as we all get a fair shake. The only thing I would like to say right now is to rid the town of all these negotiations and contracts and different districts, the best thing to do would be to make the town a town wide fire district and get the town right out of the business. Have a Board of Commissioner's for the whole town, with 3, 4 or 5 departments and work it that way. Everyone should sit down and get this straightened out and then we wouldn't be here doing this.

The public hearing was closed at 6:42 p.m.

Board Comments:

Mr. Conway – I will go along with Dave. We have been working on getting a town wide Fire Department and this is probably the only answer that we're ever going to get to settle this. It will probably take another 4 or 5 years to get it into place. We have worked for the last year with the Chiefs and for two years in trying to do this. I'm sure that it will come about, but, until such time as we get an agreement between all of the Fire Departments, I suppose we'll have to go through this argument every year. I know last year that Cicero's budget did get screwed up a little bit and I think this is why we came up with \$383,000.00 which is \$69,130.00 more than they got last year. This is something we are going to have to keep working on and we are going to have to take and consolidate the town into one Fire Department.

Ms. Tarwacki – I think that one Fire Department kind of takes away the identity that people feel of their group of folks taking care of them. But, I do think that combined cooperation and working together to reach a satisfactory conclusion regarding budgets and in regards to cooperating with bidding on things that are needed by each Fire Department and working together to reduce rates is something that all of the Fire Departments need to think about. I know there has been some work along those lines and maybe you can further work along those lines and maybe that will have things come out to a favorable decision for all Fire Departments.

Mr. Rybak – I think we have to get beyond the fact that everybody is going to lose their autonomy if we go to one Fire Department system in the Town of Cicero. The city has done it for years. They call it Station 6, Station 12, or whatever. If you want to keep the names and we have one Fire Department on various houses, so be it. We have to get rid of the fact that we all think that we have to have separate fire departments and five of them in the Town of Cicero.

Mr. Corl – I wish to thank all of the Fire Departments for coming in during the budget process. As we sit here and every time we go through the budget, the Town Board would love to give every department everything they want every year. When I was first elected, that's how it was. I don't think we asked any questions and for a couple of years, whatever anyone wanted, they got. Things have gotten tighter. Taxpayers want us to scrutinize, so we need to do it. I think the numbers and I think the Fire departments over the years have provided us more information in long term planning, which we have really appreciated. They have told us what their goals are and share that information, which helps us make decisions. Everyone this year was very reasonable. Some had decreases and others had small increases. I think everyone realizes we're in tough economic times and the residents are too. Everyone is trying to do the best they can to provide the best service at the lowest cost and we appreciate that. In regards to Cicero, I know that several members felt that Tom didn't explain it adequately. I think in the past, we have looked at the grand total of what the budget has been going back to 2008 and what was going to be allocated to each department. The year that really got screwed up was last year because there was a lack of collecting the \$60,000.00 through the Fire District. That is what skewed the numbers and that is why you see the skewing of the numbers this year. At the end of the day, I think we're providing each department with what they asked for and all of these requests are reasonable. We would love to come here every year and give every department what they've requested. I think at the end of the day, these are reasonable Fire Protection Contracts and I think the departments will be able to provide the services that the residents need with what has been asked and what has been requested. I think it would be helpful, if there was more communication with the Board as it would be helpful and that way, we'd be working together throughout the year, rather than doing it in a condensed month or six week period. Perhaps it could be a goal for next year. I appreciate everybody's time.

Mr. Dudzinski – My only comment would be that two years from this coming January, we did put a committee together, when Mr. Stassi was the Chief for Brewerton. His goal was to get the best possible service in the Town of Cicero with the least cost to the Taxpayers. His goal was to go out and find a way to get insurance, buy coats, trucks, and every thing else more cheaply. When he did go to this committee, there were people there who booed him out of the place. Mr. Stassi put his hands up in the air and left and never did come back, I don't believe. He went out and shopped for insurance and saved money. Mr. Dudzinski asked George Hart how much was saved.

George Hart – We saved \$24,000.00.

Mr. Dudzinski stated that if everyone had listened to Mr. Stassi, they may have saved \$100,000.00, but, no one wanted to listen. As everyone said, you could have the Cicero Fire Department, Station 1, 2, Cicero Fire Department /South Bay, Cicero Fire Department/Brewerton, Cicero Fire Department/Bridgeport and we'd have to build a station on the side. This is what we have to get through as things are changing and we have to come up with the times, but, nobody is really that interested. They've done it in Madison County and Town of Sullivan for years and it works very well. When they buy a truck, they buy three. When they buy equipment, they buy enough for three and that's how you save money. The days of everybody being separate are gone. When we realize that we're here to serve the Town of Cicero residents, then everything is going to become something that's worthwhile going forward.

Mr. Corl – Obviously, it goes without saying also, that all of us up here and everyone in this room, believes that each one of you, sacrifices your family time, you risk your lives, which we appreciate. As a board, and I know all of them very well, and each cares very much about the Fire Departments in the whole district within the town.

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Mr. Rybak, to adopt the 2010 Fire Contract Budget as presented by Mr. Squires, as presented.

The Preliminary 2010 Fire Protection Budget

Town of Cicero
Onondaga County

Fire Protection Contracts

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$ Chg</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
Brewerton	\$358,995	\$373,671	\$14,676	4.09%
Cicero	\$314,650	\$383,780	\$69,130	21.97%
South Bay	\$284,000	\$291,000	\$7,000	2.46%
Bridgeport	\$121,425	\$123,725	\$2,300	1.89%
North Syracuse	<u>\$299,551</u>	<u>\$276,255</u>	<u>(\$23,296)</u>	<u>(7.78%)</u>
Total	\$1,378,621	\$1,448,431	\$69,810	5.06%

Fire Protection Districts

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$ Chg</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
Brewerton	\$137,985	\$136,736	(\$1,249)	(.91%)
Cicero	<u>\$314,912</u>	<u>\$333,205</u>	<u>\$18,293</u>	<u>5.81%</u>
Total	\$452,897	\$469,941	\$17,044	3.76%

Total Fire Protection (Includes Fire Districts)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$ Chg</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
Brewerton	\$496,980	\$510,407	\$13,427	2.70%
Cicero	\$629,562	\$716,985	\$87,423	13.89%
South Bay	\$284,000	\$291,000	\$7,000	2.47%
Bridgeport	\$121,425	\$123,725	\$2,300	1.89%
North Syracuse	<u>\$299,551</u>	<u>\$276,255</u>	<u>(\$23,296)</u>	<u>(7.78%)</u>
Total	\$1,831,518	\$1,918,372	\$86,854	4.74%

Why did Cicero increase so much?

In Nov. 2008, the board voted on a Fire Protection contract for Cicero that gave them an overall increase of 2.25%, the same as all other departments.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>\$Chg</u>	<u>%Chg</u>
Fire Protection	\$372,120	\$314,650		
Fire District	<u>287,750</u>	<u>360,070</u>		
Total	\$659,870	\$674,720	\$14,850	2.25%

The above was based on Cicero's budget request to the board for \$360,070 to be raised in the Fire District, an amount they alone determine.

Why did Cicero increase so much?

After the vote by the Board, the Cicero FD changed the amount to be raised in the Fire District.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>\$Chg</u>	<u>%Chg</u>
Fire Protection	\$372,120	\$314,650		
Fire District	<u>287,750</u>	<u>314,912</u>		
Total	\$659,870	\$629,562	\$30,308	(4.59%)

At that point, the Board could not change the Fire Protection amount. Cicero FD's late revision resulted in an overall decrease for 2009.

Why did Cicero increase so much?

The Board has agreed to give the Cicero FD what was requested for 2010.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$Chg</u>	<u>%Chg</u>
Fire Protection	\$314,650	\$383,780	\$69,130	21.97%
Fire District	<u>314,912</u>	<u>333,205</u>	18,293	5.81%
Total	\$629,562	\$716,985	\$87,423	13.89%

While this looks like a large increase, it equates to approximately a 2% increase annually from the 2008 total. The Board did not want to penalize the Cicero FD for their mistake in determining their 2009 Fire District Budget.

Cicero Fire Department 2010 Fire Protection Contract Budget Request

Original Request	\$465,280
Change per email	<u>(81,500)</u>
Amended Request	<u>\$383,780</u>

The Board has given the Cicero Fire Department exactly what they have requested for the 2010 Fire Protection Contract. This represents a 22% increase over 2009, more than 5 times the next highest increase!

Email from Cicero Fire Department Executive Board President Jim Perrin, decreasing their budget request by \$81,500:

Date: Mon, 19 Oct 2009 10:38:32 -0500
From: jperrinj@xxxxxxxxxxx
To: tgsq@xxxxxxx
Subject: Cicero Fire Dist

Tom, Good morning. I am getting back to you with the new insurance number for the Cicero Fire Dist. The new number is \$97,500 in stead of \$99,000. I thought i would have changed a little more but our insurance company got back to us this morning with the new number for next year of \$97,500. We also have decided to take out the \$50,000 for the purchase of a new Rescue 3 and \$30,000 for the ne Chiefs Car. So the budget request would decrease \$81,500 from the amount we submitted. i believe the new number is now only \$100,000 increase over last year total.

Cicero Fire Department 2010 Total Fire Protection Budget Request

Original Request	\$812,485
Interest earned	(14,000)
Change per email	<u>(81,500)</u>
Amended Request	<u>\$716,985</u>

The Board has given the Cicero Fire Department exactly what they have requested for 2010 Fire Protection services. This represents a 13.89% increase over 2009, more than 5 times the next highest increase!

Claim: “The tax payers who reside in the Cicero Fire Protection district in 2009 paid at total of \$620,890.76 in fire tax to the town. The members of the Cicero Fire Department would like to inform you as a tax payer that we only received \$314,650.00”

Reality: The tax payers who reside in the Cicero Fire Protection district in 2009 paid at total of \$631,781.14 in fire tax to the town. Of that amount, the Cicero Fire Department received \$629,562.00. The remaining \$2,219.14 was collected to pay for refunds to tax payers relating to corrections to the assessment rolls. Any unspent funds remain in the Fire Protection District.

Conclusion: The Cicero Fire Department misstated the amount they received by \$314,912.

Claim: “However, in 2009 we only received 22.8% of the total fire protection money that was collected by the town.”

Reality: Cicero Fire Department received 34.4% of the total fire protection money that was collected by the town.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>%</u>
Cicero FD	\$ 629,562	34.4%	\$ 716,985	37.4%
Brewerton FD	496,980	27.1%	510,407	26.6%
South Bay FD	284,000	15.5%	291,000	15.2%
V North Syr FD	299,551	16.4%	276,255	14.4%
Bridgeport FD	121,425	6.6%	123,725	6.4%
Total	\$1,831,518	100.0%	\$1,918,372	100.0%

Conclusion: The Cicero Fire Department misstated the amount they received from the town.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
 Ms. Tarwacki: Yes
 Mr. Rybak: Yes
 Mr. Corl: Yes
 Mr. Dudzinski: Yes

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF ANNUAL PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Proof of publication and posting was presented to the Town Board by Town Clerk Tracy M. Cosilmon. Mr. Dudzinski offered to read the notice in its entirety. There was no request to do so, therefore the reading was dispensed with.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ANNUAL PRELIMINARY BUDGET. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual preliminary budget of the Town of Cicero for the fiscal year 2010 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Town of Cicero; that the Town Board of said Town will, at a meeting thereof to be held at the Brewerton Fire Department, 9625 Brewerton Road (Route 11), Brewerton, NY 13029, Onondaga County, and is available for inspection by any interested person during office hours. The Town Board of the Town of Cicero shall hold a public hearing on said preliminary budget on Thursday, November 5th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. showing such changes alternations and revisions as shall have been made therein by the Town Board of the Town of Cicero. At such hearing, any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled or for or against any item or items therein contained. The Town Board meeting will immediately follow the budget meeting. The following are the proposed 2010 salaries of certain Town Officers of the Town of Cicero to wit: Town Councilors \$11,013 each per annum., Supervisor \$46,371 per annum., Receiver of Taxes \$46,758 per annum., Town Clerk \$41,385 per annum., Superintendent of Highways \$56,280 per annum., Town Justices \$35,393 per annum. A copy of the 2010 Preliminary Budget will be available in the Town Clerk’s Office on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, where it may be inspected during offices hours. By order of the Town Board, Tracy Cosilmon, Cicero Town Clerk

Published on Syracuse.com and/or The Post Standard 11/1. Updated 11/1.

Mr. Squires presented a Powerpoint presentation for the 2010 budget. The budget approach in preparing the 2010 Budget was to hold the line on spending, reduce our reliance on Fund Balance and budget for a reasonable tax increase. The overall Budget are three funds combined in the Town. The gross budget total spending is 10.5 million dollars which is an increase of 8% over the 2009 adopted budget. The use of Fund Balance is up 16% for a total of 1.1 million. The tax levy is up 3% for a total of 5.9 million. Other revenue was up 13% for a total increase of 3.5 million. Property Tax Rates show a comparison from 2009 to 2010 and the property rates from the three funds being, the General Fund, the Part Town Fund and the Highway Fund. All Funds combined is a 3.37% overall increase in the tax rate. Assessed property values in 2009, 2010 look about the same with a slight decrease of .02% in assessed value in the town. Reserves are the Fund Balance used 2009 and Fund Balance for 2010. The estimated Fund Balance remaining after the

2010 budget, there will be 1.9 million dollars or about 18% of the total budget. This does not include the end year results from 2009. Major influences on the budget this year are salary and fringes. There is a 3.5% salary increase for most employees and an increase in retirement costs for approximately 18% and an increase in Health Insurance costs of approximately, 13%. The re-evaluation payment: The 2010 budget includes a payment of \$400,000.00 for the town wide re-evaluation which is in comparison to the \$200,000.00 for 2009. This is offset by anticipated borrowing for this payment. The Brewerton Grant: The Town will receive \$230,000.00 in Economic Development money for work in Brewerton. Highway Equipment, for 2010 includes two new Police vehicles and two large trucks for the Highway Department. Spending by Function: Highway spending consumes 44% of the overall budget. General Government Support consumes 18%, Police 12%, Parks, 10% and all others 16%. I would like to point out that almost all of the Parks Department Budget is funded by Grants from outside agencies and not the Taxpayers, locally. The bottom line numbers are: Gross Budget goes from 9.7million with all funds combined to 10.5 million a change from \$800,000.00 or 8.17%. The Tax levy increases from 5.7 million to 5.9 million an increase of \$200,000.00 or 3.28%. The General Fund tax rate increases 29 cents or \$9.14 which is an increase of 3.27%. The Part Town Fund tax rate increase is 65 cents to \$16.69 an increase of 4.06%. The Highway Fund rate increase is \$1.14 to \$37.93, an increase of 3.10%. These are calculations of what the overall tax would be in the town for assessed values listed there. As an example, for a house with a full value assessment of \$200,000.00 the 2010 overall Town Tax will be \$624.82 which is an increase of \$20.38. You see consistently the overall increase in the town tax rate is 3.37%. Special Districts total in all Special Districts decreases \$1,091,000.00, which is down 19%. Fire Protection was mentioned earlier and is up \$38,000.00. Sewer Special District is up \$290,339.00, the percentage looks huge, and there have been some breaks in some additional money that was needed in there. Drainage District is up \$103,000.00 which is about 50%. Refuse and garbage is down \$1,400,000.00 or 45%. The Lighting Districts are down \$86,000.00 or 26%. The Ambulance District remains the same at \$100,000.00. Refuse and garbage in 2008 the town took a note and borrowed \$850,000.00 and that was repaid in 2009. That's way 2009 looks much larger than 2008 and 2010. That is why we have such a big decrease from 2009 to 2010. The per unit charges for the three years are listed and the unit charge in 2008 was \$147 and change. The 2009 unit charge was \$199 and change and the 2010 per unit charge is now \$161 and change.

The Preliminary 2010 Budget

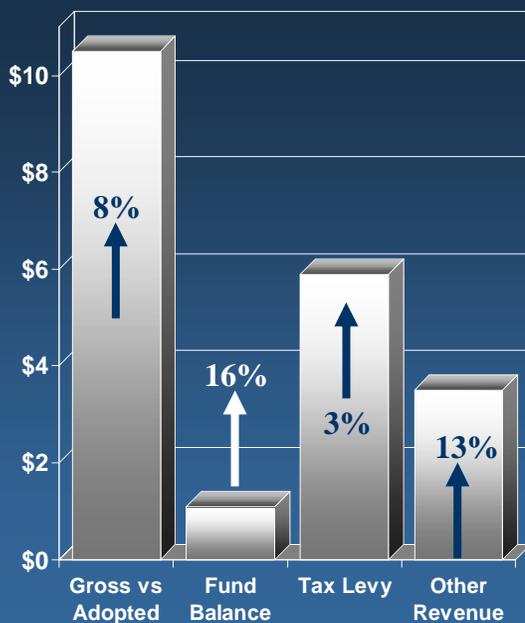
Town of Cicero
Onondaga County

The Preliminary 2010 Budget

- Budget Approach
 - Hold the line on spending
 - Reduce reliance on fund balance
 - Reasonable tax increase

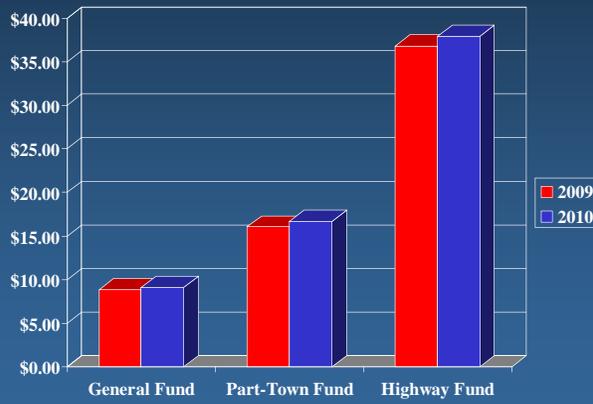
The Preliminary 2010 Budget

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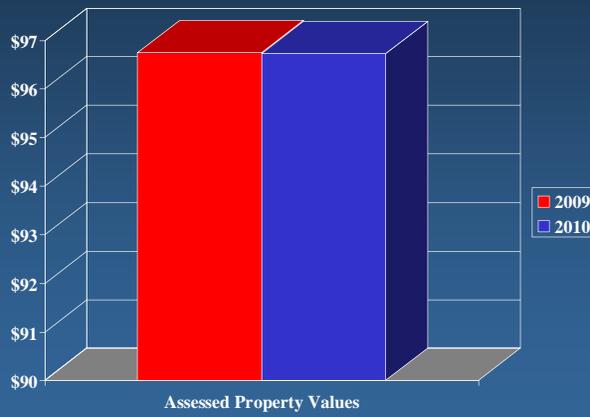
Overall Budget
All Funds
Gross Budget
\$10.5 million
Fund Balance
\$1.1 million
Tax Levy
\$5.9 million
Other Revenue
\$3.5 million

Property Tax Rates



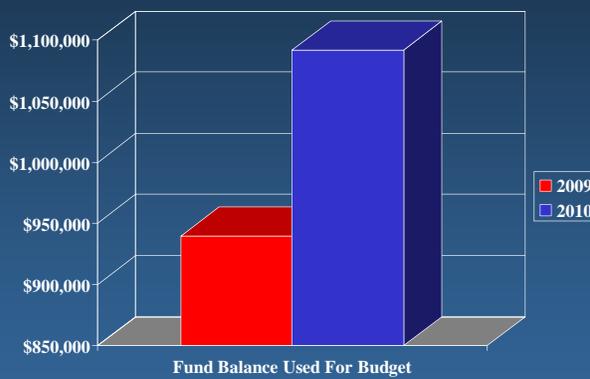
3.37% INCREASE OVERALL

Assessed Property Values (millions)

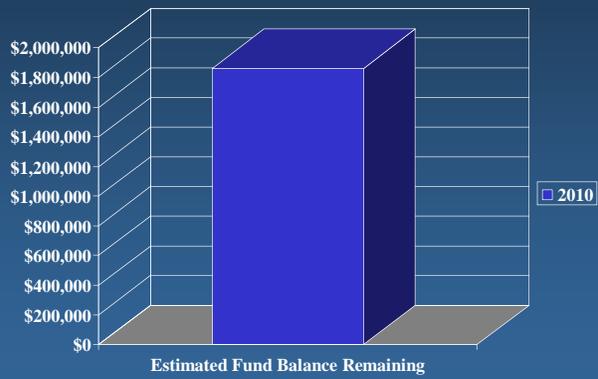


.02% DECREASE

Reserves



Reserves

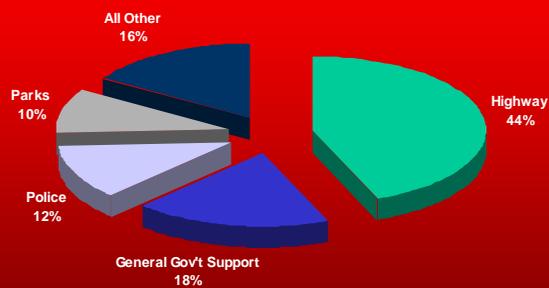


18% OF 2010 BUDGET

Major Influences

- Salary & Fringe
- Revaluation payment
- Brewerton grant
- Highway equipment (two trucks)

Spending by Function



Bottom Line

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$ Chg</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
Gross	\$9.7 M	\$10.5 M	\$.8 M	8.17%
Tax Levy	\$5.7 M	\$5.9 M	\$.2 M	3.28%
Gen Rate	\$8.85	\$9.14	\$0.29	3.27%
Part Rate	\$16.04	\$16.69	\$0.65	4.06%
High Rate	\$36.79	\$37.93	\$1.14	3.10%

Mr. Rybak asked Mr.

Tax Example Outside Village

<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$ Chg</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
\$75,000	\$226.67	\$234.31	\$ 7.64	3.37%
\$100,000	\$302.22	\$312.41	\$10.19	3.37%
\$150,000	\$453.33	\$468.61	\$15.28	3.37%
\$200,000	\$604.44	\$624.82	\$20.38	3.37%
\$250,000	\$755.55	\$781.02	\$25.47	3.37%
\$300,000	\$906.66	\$937.23	\$30.57	3.37%

Squ

Special Districts

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$ Chg</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
Total	\$5,783,136	\$4,691,774	(\$1,091,362)	(19%)
Fire Protection	\$1,876,676	\$1,914,680	\$38,004	2%
Sewer	\$82,023	\$372,362	\$290,339	354%
Drainage	\$206,441	\$309,729	\$103,288	50%
Refuse & Garbage	\$3,089,066	\$1,690,400	(\$1,398,666)	(45%)
Lighting	\$332,123	\$245,663	(\$86,460)	(26%)
Ambulance	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0%

Special Districts

- Refuse & Garbage
 - \$850,000 2008 budget note paid in 2009
 - 2008 Per unit charge \$147.79
 - 2009 Per unit charge \$299.41
 - 2010 Per unit charge \$161.56

Fire Protection

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>\$ Chg</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
Brewerton	\$496,980	\$510,407	\$13,427	2.70%
Cicero	\$629,562	\$716,985	\$87,423	13.89%
South Bay	\$284,000	\$291,000	\$7,000	2.47%
Bridgeport	\$121,425	\$123,725	\$2,300	1.89%
North Syracuse	<u>\$299,551</u>	<u>\$276,255</u>	<u>(\$23,296)</u>	<u>(7.78%)</u>
Total	\$1,831,518	\$1,918,372	\$86,854	4.74%

The Preliminary 2010 Budget

Town of Cicero
Onondaga County

Tom Squires to explain why that increase was necessary in 2009.

Mr. Squires stated that it was for the fuel escalation. When the price of fuel escalated in 2009, there was a clause in the Contract that enabled the collector to pass that charge along to the Town Taxpayers. When

the budget is adopted at this point and time, the rates are set. So, the tax bills go out, and when that escalation hits in the middle of the year, you can't go back and tax again in those districts. So, what the town did then in 2008, to cover that deficit, was they borrowed \$850,000.00. The borrowing needed to be repaid in 2009. That enabled the town to make the payment in 2008 and when prepared the 2009 budget, they could tax for that repayment of \$850,000.00. So, in 2010 or beyond that, we are back to essentially paying for what the annual cost will be. Does that answer your question Bill?

Mr. Rybak - Yes

Mr. Squires – Fire Protection consist of numbers we've seen before and that concludes my presentation of the 2010 Budget.

Public hearing opened at 8:00 p.m.

Speaking for:

Al Calfus, 6961 Lakeshore Rd. – It should be put into the record that all of the Fire Departments did a great job, especially South Bay and Brewerton, North Syracuse, and Bridgeport, in keeping their costs down this year. I also noticed that there is \$100,000.00 in the ambulance district. Will some one please explain that to me.

Mr. Dudzinski – I believe that is for Brewerton.

Heather Cole – There was a Special District created for ambulance services either last year or the year before, so that people, who live in that district area receive a special line item on their taxes to pay for that \$100,000.00.

Mr. Dudzinski – Brewerton had a referendum up there.

Al Calfus – I also noticed there was \$26,000.00 for NAVAC.

Mr. Dudzinski – That's to have an ambulance stationed on the eastern end of the town. They are usually in Cicero, or South Bay. It cuts down on response time by 15 or 20 minutes.

Al Calfus – Has anyone looked into an increase for that? I know, being and EMS myself that there is a shortage of providers, both volunteers and members and many times the Fire Department has gotten there and waited several minutes for an ambulance.

Tom Squires – We received requests from both Ambulance Companies in those amounts. The amounts in the budget are what they requested.

Speaking Against:

Roy Mallette, East Taft Road stated that we're in a deep recession and he hoped the board would consider cutting some of the smaller things in their budget.

Mr. Dudzinski asked what the tax increase would be this year.

Tom Squires – The overall tax increase is 3.37%. The increase in the tax levy and the amount of actual tax collected is 3.25%, which is about \$200,000.00 total in the taxes levied.

Roy Mallette – How much money has been spent for trips for education, in the budget?

Mr. Dudzinski – I think he means the Association of Towns and there are no other trips unless they are required or mandated by the State for Certification.

Heather Homer, Belnor Drive, stated this was her first budget meeting and noticed that there is a 3.5% increase for salary and fringe.

Tom Squires – For most employees.

Heather Homer asked how an increased could be justified when everyone is losing their jobs, herself included. Her husband will also be getting laid off and they will be losing their health insurance. They are having a problem buying food and don't qualify for assistance, but you're going to increase your employees salary and fringe benefits at the taxpayers expense. How do you justify that or the reassessment that is costing the town \$400,000.00, which will be an increase of \$20.00 per house. \$20.00 may not sound like a lot but, you're getting \$20.00 per house. It doesn't make sense to her and she wanted to know how it is justified to spend that tax money and take it from us to pay for it.

Tom Squires – The \$400,000.00 has no impact on the tax rate. There is a payment of \$400,000.00 and an anticipated borrowing of \$400,000.00. The impact on taxes of the \$400,000.00 is zero.

Heather Homer – How are you going to pay back the \$400,000.00 if you're borrowing it?

Tom Squires – It will need to be paid back in the future.

Heather Homer – It will be paid by the Taxpayers.

Tom Squires – In large part. In 2011 the town should see some revenues from the State. There is a State program when you go to full value assessment, where the State will reimburse a certain amount per parcel. Part of the theory in what we did is that we've pushed the payment of that reevaluation off into a future year, when we will start receiving revenue from the State that will then help us to repay that. It isn't dollar for dollar, certainly, and I'm not going to tell you there is no impact. We've tried to make every effort that we could to impact as minimally as possible on the tax levy. Regarding salary and fringes, they come from two different things. The retirement is the State Retirement System. Whatever the bill is, that they send, is the bill that needs to be paid. We're at the mercy of the State. The retirement increased 18% and is dictated by the State and the town has no say in that. The Town offers Health Insurance and the costs are going up 13%.

Heather Homer – I understand costs go up every year, but, people are losing their jobs, losing their health insurance and you're asking us to pay more money to give you a raise and extra benefits.

Mr. Rybak stated that the board isn't taking a raise and that they haven't in three years. We also have three Unions that we have to deal with and there are contracts in place, which is the same as the County just went through and they had to lay off 130 people, because the Union and the people within their Union wouldn't give up a 3.5% raise. We are at the mercy of the Unions and have to negotiate contracts that are in place now, for one or two years, before they have to be re-negotiated.

Tom Squires – The Teamsters Contract, that covers most of the employees, ends at the end of this year and is being negotiated now. We budgeted a 3.5% increase in salaries. What the actual increase in salary is going to be will be the result of the negotiations between the Town and the Union. It is by no means a unilateral decision on the part of the board to award that salary increase. That's a result of the negotiations with the Union. That covers most of the employees and there are a very few employees that are not Union, who are also receiving a 3.5% increase. The Board is receiving no increase and the Highway Superintendent is receiving a 3% increase and the Town Clerk is receiving no increase.

Heather Homer stated that she appreciated the Board not taking an increase, but thought the non union employees should be looked at.

Mr. Rybak – How can we justify that, when we have to give Union people the 3.5%. Do we tell them, they can't have it because they don't qualify for Union protection?

Heather Homer explained that she dealt with it in her Union and that they give a severance pay though she doesn't get it as she is non union. It's unfair, but, it's unfair to the taxpayers too, to give a raise when we're losing our jobs.

Don Snyder, Mud Mill Road, stated that he is looking at the estimated revenue sheet on Schedule B2, page 1. In 2010 you've added roughly a \$200,000.00 increase income from sales tax from Onondaga County.

Tom Squires – Yes

Don Snyder – You reduced the amount of tax money that goes to the Highway Department, by about the same number.

Tom Squires – They are exactly, the same number.

Don Snyder – Why did you do that?

Tom Squires – That is where we needed the money.

Don Snyder – It doesn't really matter where the lines are.

Tom Squires – Yes, it does matter. It matters greatly. The B Fund is the Part Town Fund and it does not apply to the Village. You can't mix money between A and B Funds. You can't even switch money necessarily and you can't transfer money during the year from the Highway to B. You can budget that sales tax money, wherever you like. The bottom line answer to your question is that the B Fund is where we needed the sales tax money. As you can see, that's over the last few years. In 2007 and 2008 none of the \$600,000.00 was in the B Fund. A good chunk of it was there in 2009 and now we've moved the entire amount over into 2010.

Don Snyder stated he was a little concerned about the other income numbers. Under Recreation Fees, you show that we've gone from \$36,000.00 to \$50,000.00.

Tom Squires – The head of the Parks Department is exceptionally good at managing her money. She brings in fees and she brings in Grants from outside agencies. Her budget is complex, it is tight and she hits her numbers year in and year out.

Don Snyder – I see, Jody, that you're thinking about raising the fees.

Jody Rogers – We're actually, not raising fees, we've just had an increase in folks using our programs and our offerings are being well received. We are also using businesses in the town, so our overhead is cut because we're not using schools and having to use hall monitors and security people. Our expenses are less and we're getting more attendance at programs. Our fees went up this year, and we just made an amendment to the budget at the last meeting, and I think we're at \$52,000.00 this year. I'm hedging a little bit and could raise that \$50,000.00 up a little bit, but, I decided to go with \$50,000.00 for next year.

Don Snyder – So, you are better than the budget.

Jody Rogers – We are already and we're at 52.

Don Snyder -Excellent.

Don Snyder - I have another question regarding Zoning Fees. We've gone from \$165 to \$86,000.00.

Tom Squires – Tell me about it and I'll tack on another one. I failed to mention this earlier. Interest in earnings is down \$130,000.00 from last year. You're talking about over \$200,000.00 in Zoning Fees and interest revenue that is not there this year. That number is down.

Don Snyder – A number of years ago, we paid \$50,000.00 a year for lawyer fees and you have \$175,000.00 budgeted for next year for legal fees. Is that the only place in the budget where we have legal fees or are there other places where we cover legal fees?

Tom Squires – Those are the only legal fees in the budget.

Don Snyder – There is no other place in the budget where we'll need to pay lawyers.

Tom Squires – I didn't say that.

Mr. Dudzinski – You should ask, is there another place like Economic Development.

Tom Squires – I'm not trying to play games with you, I was going to let you ask your question. There is \$175,000.00 in legal fees. On page 8, under Economic Development, you see \$100,000.00. That's paid to a lawyer, but, it's not paid through legal fees, it's paid for Economic Development Services.

Don Snyder – What do they do for \$100,000.00?

Tom Squires – They're Lobbyists.

Don Snyder – That's gotten us \$230,000?

Tom Squires – I think it's gotten us more than that, I think. I'm not any happier than you are about it. Onondaga County and most towns around the county have to hire Lobbyists to go to the State and Federal Government to get money back.

Mr. Dudzinski - That isn't exactly a true statement. They are not Lobbyists. What they do is represent the town to give us the opportunity to get Grants by being able to take us to places that normal people can't get to.

Tom Squires – I'm sorry if I misspoke.

Mr. Corl – Its \$100,000.00.

Tom Squires – The amount is \$100,000.00 and there is a small amount in salaries allocated from a Town Employee to Economic Development, which is the \$4,949.00 that you see there.

Don Snyder – Are there any other places in the budget where we pay a Lawyer?

Tom Squires –I don't think so.

Don Snyder – How about negotiations?

Tom Squires – That's paid out of the \$175,000.00. If you go back and look at that, there are lines and one is for Union Negotiations.

Don Snyder – Does that cover the Planning Board too?

Tom Squires – No, it doesn't.

Don Snyder – How much does this town pay, to do Lawyers business?

Mr. Dudzinski – I believe he has answered all of those questions. T Accounts that you may be thinking about are paid by the developers at the Planning Board, which do not cost anything to the Taxpayer.

Heather Cole – If you're talking about the fees that get paid to a Lawyer for services to the Planning Board, those are fees that are paid solely by the developers that appear before the Planning Board and not by the Town or the Taxpayer.

Don Snyder – If a Taxpayer went before that board, would they pay for those fees?

Heather Cole – If they paid a fee to have an application reviewed, yes.

Mr. Dudzinski – If you put a building up, you would be paying your people to come in and that fee would go to the attorney.

Mr. Corl – That isn't reflected in this budget.

Mr. Snyder – We need to be careful on what we spend and how we spend it and who we give it to and what they do for their job. I am also saying this to Ms. Boyke as she gets ready to sit up there in front. We need to make sure that we are really careful in what we're doing and really justify every dollar that we spend.

Mr. Corl – It's a good point that you made with Economic Development. I think everyone realizes that everything is a little lean right now for residents who are living pay check to pay check. If we were to remove that and put a hold on that program with \$100,000.00, what type of impact would that have on the budget?

Tom Squires – If you removed the \$100,000.00, it would decrease the overall tax increase from 3.37% to around a 2% increase.

Mr. Dudzinski - Let's take that out.

Mr. Corl – After the public hearing, we could consider that. It is something that the board may want to think about.

Roy Mallette – As you appropriate this money, I hope the new board coming in next year will look at these and appropriate it but, they don't have to spend it. I think they could save 15% of your budget.

Mr. Lang, 8108 Sloop Drive - You said that \$400,000.00 is money you are looking to get back from the State in two years.

Tom Squires – 2011, is when we anticipate that will start to come in.

Mr. Lang asked if everyone was paying attention to the cut backs that Governor Paterson has been making.

Tom Squires – Yes

Mr. Lang - Do you expect that \$400,000.00 back in 2011? Be realistic, I don't think it's all going to be there.

Tom Beaulieu, Palm Summit stated that last year, we had a budget of 9.7million dollars which was approved with an overall of 3.75%. If you recall last year, Mr. Supervisor, you did not support the budget and said you did not like tax increases and unfortunately couldn't cut more from this year's budget. One Councilor stated that she wasn't happy and fellow members voted 3 to 2. She proposed further cuts which were ignored. If the Supervisor wasn't for his budget, he shouldn't have proposed it and if he was against it, we should have gone back and made the necessary cuts and then vote on it. This year we have an increase of 3.37% and I would like to know if you are prepared to vote for your budget?

Mr. Dudzinski – Once we listen to all of comments, I'll make a decision at that point and time.

Tom Beaulieu – I would assume that if you didn't vote to increase taxes last year, you won't support that again.

Mr. Dudzinski – What makes you think that we may not cut things, once we close the public hearing?

Tom Beaulieu – Last year Councilor Corl stated there were some good ideas that you heard from us.

Mr. Dudzinski – We listened closely to Mr. Snyder who brought up some very good points.

Tom Beaulieu went through the budget line by line, he complimented the Court for only raising their budget \$5,000.00 despite their overhead, the Supervisor for not raising his budget. Tax collection is up over last year and he wanted to know where the 6K came from.

Tom Squires – You see the increase in salaries, that accounts for \$4,000.00 which is strictly salary and no benefits.

Tom Beaulieu – The benefits are somewhere else.

Tom Squires – Yes, and we can come back to that if you want. There is \$9,300.00 in postage. The postage used to be all lumped together. On page 5, you'll see Central Billing and mailing and the tentative Budget shows \$30,304.00. The \$30,000.00 is an estimate based on actual numbers from 2007, 2008 and the to date information for 2009. Previously, all of the postage in the town was charged to those budget codes, so the board this year, wanted to take the postage money out of the Central Location and allocate the postage to individual departments. The thinking here, is to reign in the costs for postage and take the postage and put it in individual departments budget, in an effort, to put the burden on the department to manage their postage money. In the Preliminary Budget, we have \$30,304.00 postage, and what you'll see in the tax collection, is a new budget line called Contractual – Postage. You will see that in several departments, because we've spread that postage amount out. That \$9,300.00 is part of the tax collection budget this year. It isn't new money we're spending but is a new way that we're budgeting and accounting for it.

Tom Beaulieu – Law Contractual has increased over the years and I am proposing that you cut that.

Tom Squires – It is down for 2008 and 2009.

Tom Beaulieu – It's down \$2,500.00. I wish to propose cutting \$9,000.00 a month times 12, which should cut it \$108,000.00. For Engineering, your contractual in 2006 was \$36,000.00 and it's increased to \$70,000.00 and I propose that you cut that \$30,000.00 down to \$40,000.00.

Sharon Edick stated that the Post Office has new regulations. Our Postage Meter calculates the cost of postage based on length and width of what is being mailed. We try to be careful to hold down costs.

Tom Squires – A full concerted effort has been made to get the postage cost down and the budgeting reflects that effort.

Tom Beaulieu stated he was talking about \$5,000.00 that was wasted by sending a letter out, regarding GAR Associates. We shouldn't be paying for that. We're spending \$930,000.00 to reassess this town and there was no reason this board should have sent a letter out to duplicate information.

Mr. Corl – We agree with you, but these funds came from the STAR Account, which were not levied by taxes.

Tom Beaulieu – Computers, installation, new equipment, software. Every year \$4,000.00 - \$9,000.00 is spent and this year it's \$5,000.00. Why don't we make a cut back at least half of it?

Chief Snell explained that most of that software cost is not the kind of software you or I would buy at a retail store for the whole town. We manage the server and the software, what we actually budget for is software that protects the integrity of the entire town and server which is expensive. We just had to renew our GFI Software, which deals with our e-mails and spam. That was \$900.00 alone to renew that for one year. Any time we replace a computer, we have to go out and purchase a license for the MS Software, which can be \$350.00. You can't just take a disc off the shelf and put it on someone else's computer as it is illegal to do that. We're kind of held hostage by the market.

Tom Beaulieu stated that it is expensive and when spread over 4 or 5 years, you're spending \$40,000.00 for a computer system.

Chief Snell - If you were to look at where we were 4 or 5 years ago and where we've come. We'd be in big trouble as far as the integrity of our system today without it and there is cost to it.

Tom Beaulieu – How can we have taxes on town property of \$1,033.00? Where are we paying taxes on town property?

Jody Rogers explained that it is for Special Districts and all of her parks, the Senior Facility.

Tom Beaulieu – We need to look to our Legislators for an exemption on those. We get double taxed because we're paying taxes to run the town and then we're paying taxes on the support system. That's something that we need to look at through Assemblyman Stirpes Office. My next question is regarding Traffic Control Contractual and at one point in 2006 it was \$27,000.00 and now we're pushing \$45,000.00. Is that for the antiquated traffic system that we have to consistently have upgraded, repaired or replaced? Is that for Syracuse Signals, the one who wanted to charge us for the traffic pole that was knocked down?

Mr. Dudzinski – It's when the County hit it with a plow.

Tom Beaulieu – Isn't there anyone else?

Mr. Dudzinski – I believe they're the only one' in existence.

Tom Beaulieu - NAVAC has done a good job and they are consistent remaining about the same. Why is that?

Tom Squires stated that he had no idea. They send a request and if it's consistent we say okay.

Mr. Dudzinski and Ms. Tarwacki stated they can do it, by having fund raisers.

Tom Beaulieu - What is the \$65,000.00 in Highway Contractual?

Tom Squires – It's for repair work that needs to be done. How do we come up with that number?

Chris Woznica - All of our oils come out of that as well as utilities, Nation Grid gas and electric and telephone.

Tom Beaulieu – Why isn't it broken down, instead of being a lump sum number?

Tom Squires explained that it's a matter of judgement. Your question is a good one, but, to what level do you go in the budget lines? You could break the budget down, so that there are 40 times the numbers of lines. I see other things broken down, such as the Historian for \$3,000.00, yet we can't break down a \$65,000.00 budget.

Tom Squires – I don't know if it's a matter of could you. I think it's a question of what additional information, does it give you, in doing so.

Tom Beaulieu proposed that next year, it be done differently, so that people can better understand. He also asked about Economic Development and if there was a contract for that..

Tom Squires explained that in going back in his note, he wanted to make a correction to a statement he made and to say that cost is not for Lobbying. It is primarily for Grant writing.

Tom Beaulieu – That could be considered Lobbying.

Heather Cole – There are very specific rules for Lobbying and the registering of Lobbyists and there are registered Lobbyists, that work for the Law Firm, but, that is not what that is primarily for.

Tom Squires – I spoke in error on that.

Tom Beaulieu – I want to propose to the board that they cut \$40,000.00 out of Economic Development for next year and make it \$60,000.00. Tom commended Jody for reducing Programs for the Aging about \$1,000.00. Culture and Recreation is up \$3,000.00 from last year and would like to see that at zero.

Jody Rogers – We took on two more parks, but, we are trying to hold the line.

Tom Beaulieu – For the Historian, I say keep the \$250.00 in supplies and offer \$500.00 if the person wants to keep the job.

Resident – We need the Historian.

Tom Beaulieu – I'm addressing the board and you can get and tell the board that you want to keep the money in the budget. You also have some high costs such as NYS Retirement, which is up and Medical Insurance which has gone up \$15,000.00 to \$16,000.00. Flex Administration is \$500.00. What is that?

Jeanne Kulesa – We currently have a Flex Plan, that we allow our employees to participate in and it does have a cost.

Tom Beaulieu – Under Real Property Taxes 3.5% tax increase.

Tom Squires explained that the numbers changed from what you have and the Preliminary \$884,340.00 and is at 3.25% increase in the tax levy in the A Fund.

Tom Beaulieu – It appears that the levy has dropped \$75,000.00, so there has been a decrease in the last two years.

Tom Squires – Interest is down. The budget for 2009 was \$65,000.00, but is now \$22,300.00 for 2010. We're getting killed in interest revenue.

Tom Beaulieu - What was that this year? If we are at \$200,000.00 short on last years budget, how is that going to get made up? Will it be carried over as a debt this year to service?

Tom Squires – No, it wouldn't be a debt.

Tom Beaulieu – How do you balance this year's budget if you're \$200,000.00 short?

Tom Squires – From the Fund Balance, typically.

Tom Beaulieu – So, we're going to take more money out of the Fund Balance?

Tom Squires – I'm not saying what you're going to do, I'm saying typically, if you're short in a fund at the end of the year, that's the go to place.

Tom Beaulieu – It's been the go to place for sometime now. It was 5.7 million dollars.

Tom Squires – 5.9

Tom Beaulieu – Miscellaneous Revenue – is the \$400,000.00 out of the reserve fund?

Tom Squires – That's changed as well. There was discussion all along, as to how to pay for that \$400,000.00 payment for the re-evaluation and the thinking was a couple of things. The benefit of the re-evaluation is not a one year benefit it's a multi year benefit. It leads you in the direction of spreading the cost over multiple years. The other thing that came into play was the anticipation of revenue beginning in 2011 for the re-evaluation, when the project is completed. The thinking was, if we borrow it and push the repayment off until 2011, we could accomplish those two things. We could spread the cost over multiple years and we can then match the cost against the anticipated revenue. In the Tentative Budget, I was 100% sure which budgetary account that needed to be in. So, you see it there, as unclassified revenues. In other words, I had to plug it in somewhere and so I plugged it in a miscellaneous account. When I filed the Preliminary Budget, it's pulled out of that category. I've created another category at the bottom called other sources. Technically, it's not revenue, so we want to show it under other sources. Now we show appropriated fund balance in an account called proceeds of Term Bonds in other sources for \$400,000.00. That's what the number is. It has changed account codes, from the version you have. Frankly it took me a little time to research it, to get it right.

Tom Beaulieu – Where is it coming from?

Tom Squires - It's a borrowing, sale of bonds. Technically, it is not a revenue, it is another source of income for the town.

Tom Beaulieu referred to Revenue sharing Mortgage Tax - With the drop in real estate sales. How can we anticipate throwing a number that we're not going to achieve into the budget that we will have to make up for at the end of the year, because we didn't get those revenues?

Tom Squires – That is what we think we will take in. The budget is an estimate and that is what I estimate the Mortgage Tax will be in 2010.

Tom Beaulieu asked what the Mortgage Tax will be.

Jeanne Kulesa – The Mortgage Tax is received in two installments, and it is kind of an odd timing. One is in July in the first half of 2009. We received approximately, \$365,000.00, though I don't have that in front of me. The second payment for the second half of the year won't be received until January, so I can't tell you what that will be until we get that money at the end of January. I will accrue for it when we close the books for 2009. I don't have a way to know what that is right now. I was happy with what we did receive for the front half of the year.

Tom Beaulieu – If that's the case and we got \$360,000.00 the first half of the year, if we equal that, we're still at \$730,000.00. We're \$270,000.00 short of what we put in the budget. How are we going to make that money up?

Tom Squires – If we take in \$730,000.00 it's not \$270,000.00 off.

Tom Beaulieu – If we collect \$730,000.00 we're still down \$70,000.00, plus the monies we didn't raise through zoning. How will we make that up? Will we borrow from the Fund Balance?

Tom Squires - It's not borrowing.

Tom Beaulieu - That would be the only way you could do it, because you can't raise taxes, so we'd have to dip into the balance. Tom stated we have an increase of \$52,000.00 plus or minus for the Police. Please explain.

Tom Squires – Two vehicles. The Police vehicles are old and we probably need to replace more. We talked about different options.

Chief Snell – We asked for 6 vehicles in June and next year I'll have 6 vehicles that will have over 100,000 miles. We have an excellent maintenance program which shouldn't be a huge issue. We negotiated and we will be getting two new vehicles and that is the cost of the new vehicles. We didn't buy any vehicles the year before.

Tom Beaulieu – I've sat down and spoken with you Chief relative to how you put your budget together compared to other towns. Per Officer, you probably get a bigger bang for your buck than the other towns do. Even though it's up, you do a good job. Tom went on to Parks & Recreation, and stated they were up \$14,000.00.

Jody Rogers explained that the major overage was because of programs and the cost of program supplies which went up. Our revenues went up substantially, which offsets a good share of this recreation budget.

Tom Beaulieu – What is the \$2,500.00 for?

Tom Squires – Special Activities and the miscellaneous is \$1,000.00.

Jody Rogers explained that Special Activities is their Fall Fest, Easter Egg Hunt and our Holiday Tree Lighting and without looking at my numbers I am unable to tell you what the \$1,000.00 is for miscellaneous.

Tom Beaulieu – I won't go into benefits and will pass on that as that is obviously something you don't have any real control over. Medical went up about \$16,000.00 and Police and Fire Retirement is around \$14,000.00. Is that something the State mandates?

Tom Squires - Yes

Jeanne Kulesa explained that they sent us an estimate of what they thought it might be, so we used those numbers that they provided to us.

Tom Beaulieu – We're up to in Real Property Tax out side the Village.

Tom Squires explained there is an increase of 3.96%.

Tom Beaulieu explained that last year we had taken about a half million dollars to balance the budget and this year you're proposing to take \$75,000.00 from the Appropriated Fund Balance, which is out of Part Town.

Tom Squires - Yes

Tom Beaulieu – 44% of our budget which is our Highway Department. I realize personal services which are salaries, have gone up as part of the Union Agreement.

Tom Squires – Yes, and there have been changes from the version that you're looking at. In total the salaries are down a little bit.

Chris Woznica - There was a change in positions, we switched an MEO to a Mechanic and who is an Apprentice for the first year, so the salary is a little lower.

Tom Squires explained that overall salaries are up for the Highway Department.

Tom Beaulieu proposed cutting the cost of runner crush from \$25,000.00 to \$15,000.00, Pipe and TYPAR Paper should be cut by \$25,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Miscellaneous, is at \$20,000.00. I propose cutting \$15,000.00 for catch basins and risers. We've been spending a lot of money for road side drainage and I propose you cut that by \$15,000.00. The number I gave you will all those cuts would drop the \$675,000.00 by \$75,000.00 to a \$600,000.00 budget.

Tom Beaulieu stated he had asked a question at the last board meeting as to how we were going to pay for two trucks that the Highway Department that was done with the millings that he felt should be used as a credit towards the cost of the asphalt. Hopefully, in the future it will be done differently.

Chris Woznica – Those credits were used to pay off the millings. We got all of the credits back which paid off the asphalt bill and we had extra money in that asphalt account. We didn't know we were going to get that much back from the millings. Every year it's different. Some years, you get a lot back and other years you can't sell the millings. We got the credit back and offset the asphalt bill which gave us extra money in the paving budget and that is what we used to buy the trucks.

Tom Beaulieu – When you say you had money left over, the millings sure didn't cover the cost of the asphalt, the cost is the mix. That money should have been applied differently then it was used and should have been used to pay for the asphalt.

Chris Woznica – It did

Tom Beaulieu – It could not have possibly because you can't pay for all of the asphalt with the millings. There was an overhead cost for the mix and you said you got a partial credit with x number of tons of millings. So, you bought two trucks. There shouldn't have been anything left over. It should have all been applied to the cost of the asphalt. It's like buying fuel and getting an adjustment for something, you shouldn't spend it on something else. You should spend it towards fuel.

Chris Woznica offered to speak with Tom later as I feel we're getting mixed up.

Tom Beaulieu – On fuel we've been carrying \$60,000.00 for summer roadside. Fuel is down about a \$1.00 and Diesel Fuel is a different rate then gasoline. Instead of leaving \$60,000.00 in there, why don't we look at cutting that to \$50,000.00 and save \$10,000.00. If for some reason fuel goes up, you'll have to take it from another part of the highway department budget. We continue to carry numbers and you had \$60,000.00 because fuel costs were high. If they are down this year either you're going to use X gallons more to keep that number the same, or that number should drop.

Mr. Dudzinski – They are starting to creep up again, the last time he checked. They could be as high again as they were last year.

Tom Beaulieu – We don't know that.

Mr. Rybak – It's up \$.25 in the last two weeks.

Tom Beaulieu questioned sweeper rental. We rent two each year and have one. Do we use that occasionally?

Chris Woznica – We use that in the Spring and Fall to sweep the entire towns roads and we also sweep the North Syracuse Schools that are in the Town of Cicero which offsets the gasoline prices for Police, Highway and Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Dudzinski – It's our Shared Services Agreement.

Tom Beaulieu - Salt is something that you're never going to know, what you will end up with. In 2008 you spent about \$465,000.00 and in 2009 we budgeted \$700,000.00. Does anyone have an idea of how much salt was used in 2009?

Tom Squires – If you look at 2007, we spent \$680,000.00. How do you know? You have \$600,000.00 in there and I think you could take \$100,000.00 of that salt.

Tom Squires – We've taken \$100,000.00 out from last year's budget.

Tom Beaulieu – It was never used and was money that was just sitting there that never got expended. There is no science to picking that particular number. In a bad economy, we can't be affording \$600,000.00 or \$700,000.00, when we could probably do it for half a million dollars.

Tom Squires – It's a fair point that you make, but, we can't afford to not salt roads in the middle of February.

Tom Beaulieu – I'm saying we could save \$100,000.00, because we don't know what that number is going to be. Obviously, we're not going to stop salting the roads.

Tom Beaulieu – Real Property Taxes this year in the Town Highway Fund was \$3,500,000.00 last year. You're basically appropriating of those Property Taxes to the Highway Department.

Tom Squires – No. The appropriations drive the tax levy. The Highway Account is for highway costs. Remember it's a Part Town Fund as well. When we come up with the budget in terms of appropriations and then we come up with the revenue to pay for it. You get Real Property Tax and other revenues in. You've got the Fund Balance, so you try to balance that as best you can.

Tom Beaulieu – To conclude, I'm looking at \$300,000.00 in recommended cuts in this years budget. I also don't know if you have to vote in a particular order, but, I think it would benefit all of us, if the Supervisor voted on his own budget first and then went down the line.

Mr. Dudzinski – No, we vote right to left as that is the procedure in which we vote.

Tom Beaulieu – I want to see if you're willing to support your budget, before they're committed.

Mr. Dudzinski – We'll have to wait and see, won't we.

The public hearing was closed at 8:25 p.m.

Board Comments:

Mr. Conway stated that the town received a letter from Joanie Mahoney where they were proposing to charge back the Election Machine cost to the towns. I do not know if this has been passed yet, but for the Town of Cicero, it will cost \$58,196.000 which we do not have in the budget. If this is required, we will have to come up with a way to pay for this. Not everyone has heard about this, but, this is money we would have to find.

Ms. Tarwacki – Some of the things Tom brought up, I completely agree with, but, I don't agree with getting rid of the Historian. I'm worried in regard to this budget that we're not going to have the revenue that we think we're going to have. Last year we began this recession and the National Government says we're coming back, but, for the local folks, we're not on the way back. We went through this and looked at things and cut some things. We talked about our financing and leasing in the most responsible way. I worry about the revenues.

Mr. Rybak stated that Mr. Conway mentioned the unfunded mandate from the County. That's just one of many that we're getting from the State, County and Federal Government. I think we have finally come to an agreement on the new radio system, which cost was going to be pushed back to us and the Chief will back me up on this.

Chief Snell – We are no longer responsible for the surcharge for the phone system, but, with the new radio systems that are coming out, they are already coming up with additions and modifications which will be a cost to us down the road.

Mr. Rybak – It's another unfunded mandate. The other radios were fine, but, somebody came up with a new idea and once again the cost comes down to the town level. I want to thank Tom Squires for the job that he did as he made the process a little easier by explaining a multitude of things to us over the course of negotiations.

Mr. Corl stated that we have been talking about unfunded mandates and one thing we have to be concerned about is that we rely on Sales Tax Revenue. Those monies are monies that we take from the County which is \$600,000.00 a year. In 2010 the County Legislators, will decide whether or not, that program will continue or if we will remain the same. We could have taken more than that, but, we've always taken that amount. If we took more, your County Taxes would increase. A couple of years ago, the board made the decision to keep that level the same and not take more. Next year, the County Legislature will decide, if they take it all. We could be out another \$600,000.00. We need to be cognizant of that and contact County Legislators and let them know that we need those funds and rely on them and not to institute a program where they would remove those funds from us. I think Tom has some good points. I think we should have some discussion on some of the points he brings up, especially, with the woman who is unemployed and whose husband is soon to be unemployed. Several years ago, we instituted an Economic Development Policy and expended funds. Perhaps we should look at revising those figures. We budgeted for \$100,000.00. Engineering, we budgeted for \$70,000.00 and I talked with Jeanne earlier. I think if we budget \$50,000.00 we would be on track next year as it doesn't look like we are going to go through this year, what was budgeted. Obviously, the legal fees which have been subject to a lot of discussion could be revised and amended. I do not want to revise the Historian, as Mr. Mafrici does a lot for this town. The next time I see him, I will ask him to come to a meeting. The \$3,000.00 for Mr. Mafrici is more or less a stipend that we provide him. It is not a salary. Keeping those types of records is important for the History of our town and the future of the town. That is more of a token of our appreciation. I think the other things were in Highway, that we can discuss. Economic Development should be a subject of discussion and revising the provisions. I don't know if anyone has any thoughts on those or if they want to discuss what we budgeted for.

Mr. Dudzinski asked what the number is right now.

Mr. Corl – I'd like to see us get to a zero percent tax increase.

Mr. Dudzinski asked Tom Squires to give the board that information.

Tom Squires – If you cut just over \$200,000.00 in total from the budget and from the levy, somewhere between \$200,000.00 to \$230,000.00 probably, it would get you to zero. Economic Development is \$100,000.00. The total Attorney fees are \$175,000.00. To get to zero percent if you were to start with the \$100,000.00 and you included the personal services of \$5,000.00 and if you cut the legal fees by 60%, or \$105,000.00 out of the legal fees, and you took the Economic Development and you found another \$20,000.00 and I think you mentioned the Engineering Fees, that would bring you to a total cut of \$229,000.00, which would get you to a decrease of a half a percent.

Mr. Dudzinski asked what the final amount would be for the attorneys once it was pushed down.

Mr. Corl – What is 60%?

Tom Squires - \$70,000.00

Mr. Dudzinski suggested pushing it down to 50%.

Ms. Tarwacki – I don't think you can be that unreasonable.

Mr. Corl – 60 % would do it.

Tom Squires – 60% of the \$175,000.00 is \$70,000.00.

Mr. Corl asked Tom Beaulieu if he had written down the numbers he was looking at in the Highway Department and asked Chris Woznica if he had any comments on what Mr. Beaulieu had brought up.

Chris Woznica stated that he would have to go back and review it.

Mr. Dudzinski explained that with the experience he's had in working with Chris, there is a lot of unknowns out there. To actually take a majority of money from the Highway Department is more dangerous than taking it from engineering.

Chris Woznica stated that he didn't want to offend anyone, but it is very hard to take suggestions from people who come to a board meeting for two or four hours a month, to tell any department how to run their departments. I will go back and look at my budget and I'm sure we could probably cut, more money, but, at the end of the year, don't chastise me if I come to you and say I need to make an amendment or do some budget modifications. I have always told the board that. If you want the money, take the money and if I can live with it, fine, but, I get a lot of phone calls from people requesting that they have their roads swept weekly. We do that, but, it costs money.

Tom Squires – when the Highway Department submitted their budget, we sat down and spoke with them about it and they went back and looked at it and took some money out to get us to the Tentative Budget. If

you look at the difference between the Tentative Budget with the Highway Department and the Preliminary Budget, they are down an additional \$40,000.00 or so. After the Tentative Budget we went again to the Highway Department and encouraged them to try and find more savings in their budget and they did that. Not only did they do that in the tune of \$40,000.00 in the Preliminary Budget, but, they found money in this year's budget to purchase those trucks that we needed. They found additional money within their budget that we could re-allocate from some budget lines, to pay for those two big trucks. In my view, we've squeezed the Highway Fund as hard as we felt comfortable squeezing it at this point and time.

Mr. Corl stated that the Budget has been scrutinized and has been gone through by Mr. Squires, the Supervisor and the Board and we've cut a lot of things.

Tom Squires stated that we've had at least two formal sit down times and this has been through additional scrutiny that has been ongoing. I have had conversations with Mr. Woznica, as well as other personnel in the Highway Department.

Mr. Corl explained that two workshops were also held and that he felt that they have all done a very thorough job, not only with Highway, but, with all departments. He also felt that all the departments should be applauded for being reasonable and understanding in these tough economic times.

A resident stated that we have the numbers we need to get down to zero, so we should leave the Highway alone.

Mr. Corl – I think we do and we are just taking into consideration the public input and Department Head thoughts on this issue.

Mr. Rybak – We've always gone after Highway and cut them to bare bones, every year. What he has given us, is what he needs.

Tom Squires – The reality is that within that fund, if there is money that is unspent at the end of the year, it stays in the fund. Likewise, if you cut them back and they need additional money, it comes out of that fund.

Tom Beaulieu – If you look at that pie chart, I'm picking on the numbers. When you look at the size of the budget, it is 44% of the money we're spending. If that continues to grow and you don't raise your taxes, then some other part of that pie is going to have to shrink.

Tom Squires – I don't think that's true. The Highway Fund is a separate fund.

Tom Beaulieu – The pie is only that size. If that portion of it grows, the pie is either going to have to get larger by raising peoples taxes, or, if it stays the same, other components in that pie are going to have to decrease.

Tom Squires explained that is true but that's only a function of the percentage that we're looking at. In dollar terms, the pie would grow, it wouldn't change proportions would remain constant.

Tom Beaulieu – It's something you have to be concerned about. I know they cut all the money out of gutters and we're not doing gutters. We've got roads falling apart. There is no argument on that, but, you can only pay for so much at a time or have to raise taxes. I'm just pointing out that it's 44% of the budget and is something you need to be concerned with.

Mr. Dudzinski – You're suggesting that if we have a developer or builder come into the town to start building homes, our costs will go up. Is that what you said?

Tom Beaulieu – They pay for the installation of the roads.

Mr. Dudzinski – But, we have to maintain them, with the gutters. Once there in, they are ours.

Tom Beaulieu – Once there in, I agree, we pay for them, but, we're not paying for them right now, only on paper and that is 44% of the Town Budget.

Mr. Dudzinski explained that once the roads are ours, we have to fix them.

Tom Beaulieu – We generate tax revenue from homes that are put into those neighborhoods.

Mr. Dudzinski stated that it is only on commercial development and not homes. He also stated that this is not the public portion of the meeting as we have already gone through it. This is the conversation between the Town Board and that's where we are.

Mr. Corl – I think with what we've discussed, if we take away Economic Development and reduce engineering to \$50,000.00 and reduce Legal, by 60% or \$70,000.00 we come up with a zero % tax increase. Is that what I'm hearing?

Tom Squires – Yes

Mr. Dudzinski – I'll compromise. Let's go for 60% for the attorney.

Ms. Tarwacki – I don't think that's reasonable.

Tom Beaulieu – You can't cut them down to nothing.

Mr. Dudzinski – You said to cut, cut, cut.

Tom Beaulieu – I didn't say, cut his legs off.

Mr. Dudzinski – You said, find the money and I'm looking.

Tom Beaulieu – Take some from Highway.

Mr. Dudzinski stated that Highway has been squeezed hard enough.

Ms. Tarwacki stated that you need to be reasonable but she understands that this is an argumentative issue and there needs to be enough money in there to operate.

Mr. Dudzinski – I need the consensus of the board. Do you want to go 50, 60 or 70? I suggested 50, but, what is your compromise.

Ms. Tarwacki - 90

Mr. Dudzinski – That's unreasonable. What's the number?

Mr. Corl – Charlotte is saying 90, you're saying 50 and I think 70 is the number that you're going to come up with.

Mr. Rybak – I'll take the middle of the road.

Mr. Dudzinski – What's the middle.

Mr. Rybak – 70

Mr. Conway – 70

Mr. Corl asked Charlotte if she was comfortable with that.

Ms. Tarwacki – No

Mr. Dudzinski – Sounds like 70, is it.

Mr. Corl asked if everyone was comfortable with 50 for Engineering and asked Jeanne Kulesa if she had any comments about what they are discussing.

Jeanne Kulesa – No comments

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Mr. Dudzinski, to pass the 2010 Annual Town of Cicero Budget as presented with the following amendments, that we reduce the Legal Fees, to \$70,000.00, Engineering to \$50,000.00 and to do away with the Economic Development Program, so that at the end of the day, we will have a zero % Flat Tax Rate for the residents of the town.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Ms. Tarwacki:	Yes
Mr. Rybak:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Dudzinski:	Yes

Being no further business the budget meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with the Regular Town Board Meeting following immediately afterward.

Tracy M. Cosilmon
Town Clerk