

STATE OF NEW YORK
ONONDAGA COUNTY
TOWN OF CICERO

SS:

PRESENT:

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| Jessica Zambrano | Supervisor |
| Mike Becallo | Councilor |
| C. Vernon Conway | Councilor |
| Dick Cushman | Councilor |
| Mark Venesky | Councilor |

OTHERS PRESENT:

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| Christopher Woznica | Highway Superintendent |
| Joseph Snell | Police Chief |
| Robert Germain | Germain & Germain, Town Attorney |
| Stephen Snell | O'Brien & Gere, Town Engineer |
| Jody Rogers | Director of Youth Bureau and Parks & Rec. |
| Tracy M. Cosilmon | Town Clerk |

Supervisor Zambrano welcomed everyone to the 16th Regular Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Zambrano opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. by noting the locations of the three emergency exits and asked that all cell phones and electronic devices be silenced. She then urged all who wished to address the board to utilize the microphones, and to let them know if any adjustments needed to be made.

Councilor Conway led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then requested a moment of silence for our troops overseas.

TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Councilor Conway made a motion to approve the Town Board meeting minutes for September 9, 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT NUMBERS 37 & 38

Councilor Cushman made a motion to approve Abstract #37 (dated 9/14/2015), and Abstract #38 (dated 9/22/2015). Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

Abstracts can be viewed on the Town's website: www.ciceronewyork.net

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS/AMENDMENTS

Councilor Cushman moved to accept the budget modifications/amendments as presented and posted on the web. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any questions from the Board, of which there were none.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

Budget Modifications/Amendments can be viewed on the Town's website: www.ciceronewyork.net

LOCAL LAW TO EXCEED TAX CAP

- Continuation of the Public Hearing to consider passing a local law to exceed the tax cap for the 2016 Budget

Supervisor Zambrano said this tax cap was imposed by Governor Cuomo to limit increasing taxes. It started out as 2 percent, but now it's either 2 percent or the rate of inflation, or as determined by the state comptroller. This year, the tax rate/tax levy limit is 0.74 percent, which is three-quarter's of 1 percent, so it's significantly reduced from the 2 percent and it affects all of us.

Supervisor Zambrano continued the public hearing and asked anyone who wanted to speak for or against it to go to the microphone.

Speaking for –

My name is Deborah V. Gardner: I am requesting that the Town Clerk enter these remarks into the official record:

We pay a lot of taxes. We have federal and state income taxes, state and county sales taxes and county, town and village taxes. We fund our schools and fire departments through property taxes. We pay for our sewers and lighting as part of our tax bills, even though these are not truly taxes. We fund our libraries through property taxes.

What do we get for our taxes? We are protected by the strongest Armed Services in the world. We have government entities that do their best to help Americans by passing laws and regulations. In Cicero, we have three different law enforcement agencies to come to our aid. Our schools attempt to provide quality education for free to our young people. Our libraries, especially NOPL, have all sorts of learning resources for people of all ages. Our roads are plowed when the snow falls. If a water main breaks, it is repaired.

Most of us agree that our money is not always spent wisely. For example, I do not like paying what I consider outrageous school taxes. The last time I availed myself of a public school was when I was 17 years old. Yet, in our society, I am expected to pay my share.

Our Town government allows us to interact with our local governing agency, the Town Board. I appreciate the opportunity to give you my suggestions for saving money. I hope you will consider each suggestion before discarding it as unreasonable or not possible. Also, I understand that contractual obligations may not make some of these suggestions immediately feasible, but please consider them for the future.

1. Plow roads only when there is a significant snow accumulation. A dusting of snow does not qualify for plowing.
2. Salt when the roads need to be salted. As Councilor Venesky as stated in the past: we cannot rely on weather forecasts. Just because Wayne Mahar says we will have freezing conditions does not mean that the salt trucks have to make four passes on Vernon Road South before any precipitation falls, especially when the forecast is incorrect.
3. When negotiating the next union contracts, ask that the members pay any increases in health insurance premiums. They will still be obtaining insurance at a bargain rate.
4. Stream or digitally audio record the town board meetings and ask the Town Clerk to record only those items that are necessary by law. This will drastically cut down on the amount of time personnel take to prepare verbatim minutes. Besides saving thousands of dollars in time each year, the Town will have a better representation of what takes place at these meetings. Tone of voice and volume can contribute a lot to a dialogue.
5. Close one park.
6. Fold the Tax Receiver's office into the County and have a satellite office here twice a year.
7. Lay off one police officer. Remember, the Sheriff's Department and the State Police are very active in our town.
8. Help save our roads. As you know, vegetation growing in concrete and asphalt aid in the breakdown of roads and gutters. Household vinegar with 5% acidity is a safe way to control these weeds. Add table salt to the vinegar and nothing will grow back. (I am not in favor of using salt; I am just attempting to be complete in my suggestion.) Use this to control the weeds and, perhaps, slow the deterioration of some roads and gutters. This might make a good community service project for volunteer organizations such as the Boy or Girl Scouts. Young people often have to preform community service as part of their religious training or academic requirements.
9. The Highway Department has three take-home vehicles. Reduce this number by one. Only the foreperson on call should have one.
10. Use college and high school interns.
11. Continue to use volunteers when possible. For example, I helped install software on computers and Messieurs Snyder and Bloss have been hard at work on the Highway Department barn.

I have one suggestion for increasing revenues: Ask the judges to do the job they committed to do when elected. When someone violates an ordinance enough times to warrant a court appearance, that person, if found guilty, should at the very least be fined the amount of the town's cost plus 10 or 20 percent.

In conclusion, if you can find ways to cut costs to 2015 levels, do not vote to exceed the tax cap. If you believe you have done everything possible to cut costs and must exceed the tax cap to meet the Town's obligations, than vote to exceed the cap. Please base your vote on what needs to be accomplished, not because of a political agenda and not because you do not want to increase taxes.

Thank you.

Don Snyder: I feel I am in a unique position today because:

1. I am not running for office
2. I refiled as a long-term Republican, and what I am about to say today I am saying to the Board, I am also saying to Mrs. Boyke, and any other people that are running for office in this town ‘I’m not going to place blame on anybody.’ “I want to pretend we’re the city of Detroit, and we were given a situation that we now have to get out of” and I will indicate what I think we need to do. I appreciate the things that Deborah said, but I’m sorry gang if we did every one that Deborah talked about we would still not be able to pay our bills. I need to remind you that back in 2009 we got \$430,000 from the County for sales tax, and we took \$600,000 in 2010, 2011 and 2012, and then in 2013 we only had \$40,000. We knew the sales tax was going to disappear a number of years ago; the previous boards did not do anything to prepare ourselves for that. Also, and by the way, that money was shown as income to the B Fund. It was not shown as income to the Highway department, and that’s because of my next comment:

- In 2009, the DB 5112.55 (which is paid to roads) had \$600,000 in the budget item; meaning our taxes paid \$600,000 that year to fix the roads,
- 2010 was \$670,000
- 2011 \$600,000
- 2012 \$650,000
- 2013 was only \$150,000, and
- 2014 \$75,000
- 2015 \$0

Now one of the things that past boards have said, *well, we lost the \$600,000; therefore, we can't pave the roads.* My comment is we lost the \$600,000. We should have been looking at the whole budget, and in fact, if we looked at it the way you would at home you would say *well that came out of the B fund, therefore, the B fund has got to bite the bullet and lose \$600,000, or we have to raise the taxes \$600,000 to take care of that.* The highway needs \$800,000 a year to fix the roads based on the Cornell Roads study. They cannot possibly fix enough roads in a year that the \$800,000 is a 5 year plan, a ten year plan – it is *forever*. Therefore, \$800,000 should not be borrowed. It should be paid for by the taxpayers if we want to have our roads fixed. We need a highway garage. Now, if anyone walks in the garage you know that we need a new highway garage. That’s a half-a-million dollars a year for 30 years folks - that’s a lot of money. So we need at least \$1.3 million dollars. The 2015 Budget, when we were doing it last year (and this number may not be exact), but I think for about every 1 percent increase in taxes we were going to get about \$118,000 income; that number may be low but if it is then it makes my numbers not so horrible. If you take \$1.3 million, which is only for those two items, it has nothing to do with healthcare, nothing to do with employees’ salaries, nothing to do with healthcare; just those two numbers would require us about an 11 percent tax increase. This does not include any of the fees in the operating areas, and we still have to take money from the fund balance. Now you say ‘wow, 11 percent’, we do a bad job in telling our taxpayers what that means to them. I look at my tax bill; my tax bill for the town, things this town has responsibilities for is a total of \$1,064. My tax bill I get that has that included is like \$2,500. If I take the Town costs and I take the Highway costs, forget about the sewer lines, the lighting lines; let’s say that all stays the same. Say the garbage number stays the same at almost \$200, that says that I am only paying \$628 dollars for things that the government gives me; that includes the police department, the fire departments, all the services of Parks & Rec., the fact that I can come here to pay my taxes, we have a zoning and planning office that makes sure that codes are being done. Well, 11 percent Don, what does that mean? Eleven percent means I am going to pay \$9.76 a month more for those two items, and I may pay as much as \$15 a month because of increases you all have to make for healthcare and insurances. Now, we either agree we are going to pay for what we have or we are going to eliminate something There’s only one item, and the Chief and I talked about this, there’s only one item that’s in our budget that somebody else has the responsibility to do also, and that is the County has the responsibility of a Sherriff’s department and to serve and protect our community. Do I want our police department to disappear, absolutely not! However, if we look at the budget and if we say that we are in this problem and we gotta deal with it then you have, in a way, a no-brainer - 2.3 million dollars this year. 2.3 million dollars, let’s figure that

out real quick, 2.3 million dollars means I pay \$800,000 for the Highway. I pay \$500,000 dollars for the new garage. I still got a million dollars left. I can pay down debt, I can stop using the fund balance, I can lower taxes, I can increase the fund balance. So if we want to consolidate our police department with the Sheriffs, it's a no-brainer. Should we do that, I don't think so? But what we've got to do is we've got to say our taxes cannot continue to be going at the rate they are going and provide the services that we are providing. Therefore, I say to anybody that is running for office this year 'You've got to come up with a plan that says that within the next 2 or 3, or 3-5 years, we will no longer take money from the fund balance. We will back pay for those things we've got to give to the community, and we will give to the community what it is they want.' Do I think there should be a vote on our police department, I don't know? That, to me, is a scary thing because it becomes very emotional, and I don't think emotions can play a part in an election, or in a vote to see whether we should be doing "a" or "b". But we cannot sit here this year and continue to provide a balanced budget that says 'I am borrowing \$800,000, which I've got to borrow forever gang, and I'm going to take and I'm going to use four or five-hundred thousand dollars from the fund balance' – we can't continue to do that. I'm just begging you to do one of two things – you either cut costs or you raise taxes, or you do some of both.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any further questions.

My name is Doug Wickman. I would like to express my opinion in favor of this local law.

- The Town of Cicero owns 130 miles of roads. Spending in recent years for surface treatments, repaving and reconstruction has been about \$800K. That is an average of about \$6,150/mile/year.
- Onondaga County owns about 800 miles of roads and their capital plan for surface treatments, repaving and reconstruction is currently about \$19,450,000 per year. That is an average of about \$24,350/mile/year.
- County roads are bigger and have more traffic. I am not saying the County spends too much or that the Town of Cicero doesn't spend enough.
- I am saying it takes money, our money to maintain our infrastructure.
- Based on my experience as a civil engineer, I believe \$800K is a reasonable budget for road maintenance in Cicero. Spending at this level will keep our roads from deteriorating over time. Spending less or reducing this effort will greatly increase costs in the future.
- I know more about roads and sewers and drainage than I know about maintaining our security, our excellent parks, and the built community of Cicero.
- I do know that maintaining these assets and services is vital.
- Town government is complex and important. You, our Town Board, are always considering options and evaluating alternatives in an effort to keep Cicero thriving.
- One of the options you have to consider as you work through this budget process is whether or not to exceed the tax cap.
- At this point it is too early to say whether or not it will be necessary, but as a taxpayer and a resident for over a decade, I believe it is important for you to have this option.
- I believe that you need to give yourself flexibility and allow for exceeding the tax cap, if it is necessary, to maintain the Town's assets and the levels of service we all depend on.
- Thank you.

Supervisor Zambrano thanked Doug Wickman.

Tom Beaulieu: I'll reiterate my position from the last meeting, and maybe going back to 45 years ago when the 2 percent tax giving came into play by the State of New York. All these things that Mr. Wickman said, now regarding the roads, unfortunately for the Town if certain retired engineers, such as myself, had brought up that point 4 or 5 years ago we would still be looking at a lot of roads that are falling apart; which were neglected for about 20 years. You can't build roads and not put a dime into maintaining any of them. And I think that we all agree that's certainly something we have to continue to work on. Secondly, the road repaving program is a borrowed item, am I correct, (*Supervisor Zambrano said yes*) borrowing money to do that? That money is sitting outside the budget, correct, for borrowing that money? So it's not part of the (let's round it off to)

11 million. Technically, we are spending \$11,850,000 right now, and we borrowed \$850,000 to make it look like we have a budget of eleven [million]. Sooner or later, and I think I remember reading the article, Mr. Cushman I think you were quoted in it, "The Town's going to run out of money in 2019," I think that's where we are. Well, I guess the only way we're not going to run out of money is if we stop spending at the rate we are. Believe me; I have been involved in this process. You've seen me here Vern, I've been here for ten or twelve years arguing points on the budget, and I'll come back in and argue some additional points. I understand it's an extremely difficult job; you're not up here trying to waste our money, and you're not being exorbitant in your spending but, you are the lowest people on the totem pole. The State, the school district, they just keep jacking the rates up and they don't care if you want to leave the state because they'll take you out of town. You have a difficult task this year; you have the least amount of money to draw from. We've talked about it, you know you're going to have to make some extremely difficult decisions; you're going to either have to raise taxes, cut spending, cut personnel, or cut taxes. You have some difficult choices, and I hope that you all come out on top.

Councilor Cushman and Supervisor Zambrano thanked Tom Beaulieu.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any further questions, of which there were none.

Supervisor Zambrano closed the Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m.

Supervisor Zambrano stated they had put together a budget which likely may not stay under the 0.74 percent in its final form. She said this is a preliminary budget that we're going to expose a little bit later today. It does have an increase in the tax levy, but if we do not enact a local law to give us a protection to exceed the tax levy then we will probably be facing additional penalties from the state for exceeding the tax cap, if we in fact we do that in the final budget. As everyone has acknowledged, it is difficult to stay under the tax cap when virtually all costs of doing business are going up. The comptroller informed me yesterday that virtually seventy-five percent of our costs are either mandated costs by the state, by union contracts, by just the cost of doing business. It's difficult, you know, to run a town on a year-to-year basis and cut costs unless we cut services, so I agree with the intelligent comments that have been made tonight, but at this point and time I think we need the option and protection to enact a local law in the event that we do in fact exceed the tax cap.

Supervisor Zambrano asked Councilor Cushman to lead them through an up or down vote on enacting a local law to exceed the tax cap.

Councilor Cushman moved for the adoption of a resolution for the Town Board of the Town of Cicero to enact a local law as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent: It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Cicero pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Cicero to adopt a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 2. Authority: This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of at least sixty-percent (60%) of the town board.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override: The Town Board of the Town of Cicero, located in the County of Onondaga is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2016 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability: If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgement shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgement or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a roll call vote by Councilor Cushman seconded by Supervisor Zambrano which resulted as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Councilor Cushman | YES |
| Councilor Venesky | YES |
| Councilor Becallo | NO |
| Councilor Conway | YES - "I am not in favor of it, but I feel that we've got to do it." |
| Supervisor Zambrano | YES |

Ayes- 4 and Noes - 1. *Motion carried.*

Supervisor Zambrano thanked the Town Board. She said they will do their very best to keep the budget under control and spend the tax dollars as wisely as they can. They will be filing the paperwork with the Secretary of State showing that we did in fact pass this local law tonight.

PERSONNEL MATTERS – ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Supervisor Zambrano said it was her understanding that there were some questions or concerns regarding this. She did put out a memo to the board outlining how we would be able to save money by appointing our assessor to a full-time basis and hiring a part-time clerk.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any discussion.

Councilor Cushman said the comptroller had sent him some numbers; they all had them, and this actually will save us about \$11,000 a year. The increase for moving the current assessor from a part-time to full-time and the benefits that go with that as compared to a full-time clerk to a part-time clerk (he believes that position will be 20 hours a week or less), so we will end up with a net gain of about \$11,000, so it's the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any further comments from the board.

Councilor Becallo stated he would like more time, and that he doesn't believe that they should even be talking about this because it's personnel. He said he would like it if they could set up an executive session so that they could all talk about it and that he would not like to vote for this tonight; he would like more time with the information that he has.

Councilor Venesky said he supported Councilor Becallo in his request asking for more time. He asked Supervisor Zambrano that they put this on the next agenda and they will come to a resolution at that time. He said he doesn't think it's unreasonable for a councilor to review the [information].

Supervisor Zambrano said she was a little bit confused; Councilor Becallo had asked for an executive session.

Councilor Becallo said he doesn't really want to talk about personnel matters in public; that's mainly for an executive session. But, if he doesn't get that he would at least appreciate more time.

Councilor Venesky asked Councilor Becallo if he wanted to discuss with the board, if it was agreeable to the board, to discuss it that evening.

Councilor Becallo said he was not prepared to have one that night.

Supervisor Zambrano tabled the issue and stated they would schedule an executive session for the next meeting.

The issue was deferred until the next meeting to be held on October 14, 2015.

CNY STORMWATER COALITION FOR THE 2016 PROGRAM

Steve Snell – O'Brien & Gere stated that the work will be completed by the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board (CNY RPDB) and will help fulfill the public education & outreach component that is a requirement of the Town's MS4 SPDES Permit.

Councilor Conway made a motion to adopt a resolution for the Town of Cicero to participate in the 2016 Central New York Stormwater Coalition as [with] a participation fee of \$3,600.00. Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Councilor Conway made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the following:

- \$3,000.00 to Steel Sales for the purchase of 30"x120' drainage pipe for Gillette Road
- \$2,000.00 to Genuine Parts for Auto parts and supplies for the month of September

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

**BREWERTON REVITALIZATION: BENNETT STREET
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – TREE Program with National Grid:**

Supervisor Zambrano said we have some ongoing projects with Brewerton Revitalization, that we keep moving forward, and we are very pleased with what we have done.

Jody Rogers explained that this is a tree program that National Grid offers with its reimbursement program, fifty dollars per tree. You have to be in on the front end of planting the trees in order to be on the tail-end to receive the fifty dollars. The National Grid program is "10,000 Trees...And Growing," and basically we will be planting some trees as part of the Bennett Street improvements; five (5) in this phase. She stated she would like to be able to be involved in that program so we have to submit an application and then we give them all of our information (the planting), and then 4-6 months after the trees are planted they come out and review, and if the trees are still healthy and thriving they will then issue the town a check for \$50 per tree.

Supervisor Zambrano asked Jody if she had decided on the types of trees yet.

Jody Rogers replied yes. National Grid has a list of compatible trees, we have selected the Japanese Tree Lilac, which is on the list, and we will be getting them from Northern Nurseries.

Supervisor Zambrano asked how much the trees cost.

Jody Rogers replied each tree is \$275. The trees will go in this year. The reimbursement won't come until probably summer of next year; with that money we may invest in another tree in the next season.

Supervisor Zambrano asked Jody if she had to complete an Environment Assessment Form (EAF).

Jody Rogers replied that's not part of the trees, but that is part of the Bennett Street Improvement Project.

Councilor Becallo asked Jody if the tree type was a good choice for something that chances are will last six months.

Jody Rogers said yes.

Councilor Becallo commented he would help water if he had to in order to get the fifty dollars back.

Public Input:

Helen Carroll, Chairperson for Brewerton Revitalization said on agenda item no. 11 you will see that they have \$1,375 for the five (5) trees for the Bennett Street Project. As of tonight, she has collected the \$1,375 that we needed for the last tree. She stated she would give a final report when she has all the funds in hand.

"That's awesome", said Councilor Venesky.

Supervisor Zambrano thanked Helen Carroll and told her the board would do a resolution at that point.

Councilor Venesky pointed out that the people on the board and Jody Rogers are under budget on this project; they have dug deep, they have sat with the engineer, they've reviewed each cost, each item line-by-line, and he's proud to say he thinks Jody has done a good job with this.

Councilor Venesky read the following:

As part of the Bennett Street Improvements Phase I (LWRPIII), the Town will purchase 5 trees as part of the overall project. Selected trees must meet the utility-compatible low growing trees and be planted under overhead primary and secondary electric lines. Municipalities can apply for a reimbursement contribution (application to be submitted). The reimbursement is \$50/tree for each tree that survives when National Grid does a site audit 4-6 months after planting.

- **10,000 Trees...and Growing**

Councilor Venesky moved for the adoption of a resolution to authorize the Supervisor to file an application for contributory reimbursement funds as part of the **"10,000 Trees...And Growing!"** tree planting program, and upon approval of said request, to enter into and execute a project agreement with National Grid for such financial contribution to this municipality. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

- **SEQRA**

Councilor Venesky moved the adoption of a resolution that the Town of Cicero "Bennett Street Improvement Project" and accompanying actions are an Unlisted Action for the purposes of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act. The proposed actions do not involve any permit granting authorities outside the Town of Cicero. The proposed actions and Project *will not* have a negative impact upon the environment, and therefore does not require the preparation and submission of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Before making a motion Councilor Cushman thanked Helen Carroll for her efforts and said because of that they could eliminate one of the three purchases that they originally needed to approve that night. [\$1,3750.00 to Northern Nurseries for five (5) Trees for the Bennett Street Project LWRP III grant project – trees specific to National Grid \$10,000 Trees...And Growing" Reimbursement Program]

Councilor Cushman moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following purchases:

1. \$6,535.20 to Caccamise Electric to purchase and install a light at Riverfront Park as part of LWRPII grant project
2. \$147,555.25 to Environmental Paving Solutions (EPS) for the Bennett Street Improvement – LWRP III grant project; including sidewalks, curbing, and lights (County Contract #21815 and 21915)

Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

EQUIPMENT TO COUNTY AUCTION

Councilor Conway moved for the adoption of a resolution to dispose of and declare as surplus and send to Onondaga County Auction the following items:

1. 1988 Ford LGT riding tractor from the Parks and Recreation Department
2. 2002 Ford Windstar, formerly used by the Dog Control Officer

Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*³

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Robert Germain told the Board that even though the Town was going to accept a donation for the trees they still needed to approve the expense.

Councilor Cushman moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the following purchase: \$1,375.00 to Northern Nurseries for five (5) Trees for the Bennett Street Project LWRP III grant project – trees specific to National Grid \$10,000 Trees...And Growing” Reimbursement Program. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, and Abstentions-1. *Motion carried.*

“I have to abstain because I donated”, said Councilor Becallo.

Supervisor Zambrano asked Robert Germain if she had to abstain because she had donated money also.

Robert Germain told Supervisor Zambrano she didn’t have to.

Supervisor Zambrano stated she was voting yes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilor Venesky explained that one of our police cars was hit, but it was not our fault. Actually, the way the accident was described to him by eye witnesses is our police officer drove very well and saved the lives of the people who hit the officer by his quick actions. In looking at the insurance check that we received of \$22,160; we are going to use \$9,047 from the DWI reserves, which is a proper use of that money, and then we have \$5,000 from the equipment budget for a total of \$36,207.36.

“Moving forward, the Town of Cicero will be looking at leasing vehicles in the future, we are not going to be purchasing,” Councilor Venesky said. “Our plan right now is to lease.”

Councilor Venesky moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following:

- \$36,207.36 to Carbone Auto Group for the purchase of a 2015 Ford Police Interceptor
- \$1,499.35 to Driver’s Village for August vehicle repairs

Motion was seconded by Councilor Becallo.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Presentation of the 2016 Preliminary Budget by the Town Clerk to the Town Board. A copy of this budget will be available in the Town Clerk’s Office where it may be inspected during regular business hours. It will also be posted on the Town’s website. Supervisor Zambrano said this budget was put together with input from every department head; there were very few changes to the requests that were submitted by them.

Supervisor Zambrano stated the preliminary budget also includes special districts, including the fire protection district numbers; however, this weekend they will be starting with a workshop with the fire departments to review their budgets. We only have a couple of those budgets in so the numbers that you will see in this preliminary budget are numbers that show the increases from last year. Being that this is a preliminary budget she expects that numbers will change.

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to accept the 2016 Preliminary Budget as presented by the town clerk. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Supervisor Zambrano stated she is in the process of preparing a memo for the town board, which will also be shared with the public that outlines some of the expenditures within this budget. She said the budget process is a long process; we have until November 20th to adopt a final budget, so we have two months to work on this. They have scheduled workshops with all five fire departments. The notice was sent to the newspaper to be published; they are open workshops.

- Public workshops with the five (5) fire departments to discuss their budget presentations have been scheduled as follows:
 1. **At the Town Hall on Saturday, September 26, 2015:**
 - 9:00 a.m. South Bay Fire Department
 - 10:00 a.m. Brewerton Fire Department
 - 11:00 a.m. North Syracuse Fire Department
 - 12:00 noon Bridgeport Fire Department
 2. **The workshop with the Cicero Fire Department will be held at their Station #1 on Route 11 on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 5:00p.m.**

Supervisor Zambrano stated that she wanted to set a public hearing for the next town board meeting for comments and feedback on this preliminary budget first.

Robert Germain said instead of calling it a public hearing they should call it an ‘informational hearing’ to solicit comments from the public.

Schedule an Informational Meeting for the 2016 Preliminary Budget:

- Supervisor Zambrano moved for the adoption of a resolution to schedule an informational meeting at the Town Hall for the 2016 Preliminary Budget, including the special districts (primarily for Fire Protection) for October 14, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Supervisor Zambrano asked the board if they wanted to schedule a workshop at that point and time.

Councilor Becallo told her to just wait.

Supervisor Zambrano said she had a note that stated that the final deadline for adopting the final budget is November 20th. The only meeting in November is November 18th, so if we haven’t passed a budget before that date that’s probably the date that they should probably plan to adopt the budget.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Flu Vaccine Clinic** – is scheduled at the Town Hall on Wed. October 7, 2015 from 9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. - \$25.00 fee for those uninsured is requested.

Jody Rogers said it would be helpful if people preregistered for the clinic.

- **Bid Date**
Onondaga County has set the bid deadline for October 15, 2015 at 2:00p.m. regarding the demolition of 8045 Thurston Dr. Cicero

Supervisor Zambrano said the Town Clerk wanted her to mention the bid date.

PUBLIC INPUT

Don Snyder asked the board if they could share what the proposed percentage increase is, and also how much that budget takes out of the fund balances.

Supervisor Zambrano replied 7.54 percent is the tax levy, and the amount to be taken out of the fund balance (*stressing that this was all proposed*) is \$483,194.

Don Snyder asked is we were still borrowing \$800,000 for highway.

Supervisor Zambrano told Don that’s the plan.

Deborah Gardner said she received the Senior Citizen newsletter. It’s very informative, it’s really a great publication that has a lot of information in it, and it’s visually appealing; she’s on the mailing list. She questioned why the town board doesn’t do this. She said the Committee for Open Government had suggested a newsletter, and we got one. Deborah Gardner said she would volunteer to help with it.

“An electronic town newsletter,” Supervisor Zambrano asked.

Deborah Gardner replied yes. She was sure that even NOPL (Northern Onondaga Public Library) would put it on their website.

Supervisor Zambrano commented that it was a good idea.

Deborah Gardner said she had a question that she guessed should be directed at Councilor Becallo. She said Councilor Becallo voted against the public hearing for the local law to exceed the tax cap, which she understands that he did not want to exceed the tax cap and is not surprised by that vote, but her question is “why would anyone not want to hear the residents’ opinion”? Deborah Gardner asked Councilor Becallo if he could tell her why he didn’t want to hear our opinions.

Councilor Becallo said it was because he goes door to door, quite a bit, on a weekly basis, and he does hear from the public.

Deborah Gardner asked Councilor Becallo if he heard from Mr. Snyder, Mr. Beaulieu, or from herself.

Councilor Becallo said he hears from them every meeting and he knows where they stand.

Deborah Gardner said she thinks it’s very sad. In her opinion every public hearing should have a unanimous vote.

Judy Boyke said the diggings for Brewerton Revitalization were changed because she accidentally came upon them when they were digging. She said we’ve never had any postings of the results; nobody has spoken about it since. She asked if there were any results from that.

Supervisor Zambrano said she did not have a report, nor did she see anything yet.

Jody Rogers said all she could say is that they were still accumulating the information from the company that did the dig.

ADJOURN

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to adjourn the Town Board meeting.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Becallo.

Ayes - 5 and Noes - 0. *Motion carried.*

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Tracy M. Cosilmon
Town Clerk

