

STATE OF NEW YORK  
ONONDAGA COUNTY  
TOWN OF CICERO

SS:

The Cicero Town Board held A Special Town Board Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. relative to the Budget for 2012, at the Cicero Town Hall, 8236 Brewerton Road, Cicero, NY 13039.

Present: Judy A. Boyke, Supervisor  
Jessica Zambrano, Councilor  
C. Vernon Conway, Councilor  
Lynn Jennings, Councilor  
James Corl, Jr. Councilor  
Tracy Cosilmon, Town Clerk

Others Present: Christopher Woznica, Highway  
Joseph Snell, Police Chief  
Toni Lyn'Brauchle, Parks & Recreation  
Wayne, Dean, Director of Planning & Development  
Shirlie Stuart, Comptroller  
Linda Losito, Secretary to the Supervisor  
Brad Brennan, Assessor  
Anthony Rivizzigno, Town Attorney  
Douglas Wickman, C & S Engineers

Absent: Sharon Edick, Receiver of Taxes  
Jody Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation

The meeting was opened at 1:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.  
A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of our men and women serving in the Armed Forces in harms way.

Ms. Boyke 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 clearly into the microphones to enable all to hear.

S.E.Q.R.  
(State Environmental Quality Review Act)

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Conway, that all actions taken tonight are Type Two (2) actions under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act unless otherwise determined.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes  
Mr. Corl: Yes  
Mr. Jennings: Yes  
Ms. Zambrano: Yes  
Ms. Boyke: Yes

APPROVAL OF TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Corl, to approve the minutes of the November 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 town board meetings.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes  
Mr. Corl: Yes  
Mr. Jennings: Yes  
Ms. Zambrano: Yes  
Ms. Boyke: Yes

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT #22 OF 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Zambrano, to approve Abstract #22 of 2011 as follows:

General Fund Voucher #2185 to Voucher #2298 In the amount of \$ 507,214.93  
Highway Fund Voucher #667H to Voucher #697H In the amount of \$ 80,422.42

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes  
Mr. Corl: Yes  
Mr. Jennings: Yes  
Ms. Zambrano: Yes  
Ms. Boyke: Yes

NO BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

PARKS & RECREATION PURCHASE APPROVALS

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Boyke, to authorize an expenditure of \$2,352.00 to VP Supply, for plumbing supplies for the Skyway Project, Budget Code A71110.459.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes  
Mr. Corl: Yes  
Mr. Jennings: Yes  
Ms. Zambrano: Yes  
Ms. Boyke: Yes

HIGHWAY PURCHASE APPROVALS

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Conway, to authorize an expenditure of \$4,875.00 to Native American Tree Service to remove various trees, Budget Code DB5140.42 and an expenditure of \$1,200.00 to Allied Springs for king pins for truck #18, account code DB513044.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes  
Mr. Corl: Yes  
Mr. Jennings: Yes  
Ms. Zambrano: Yes  
Ms. Boyke: Yes

Ms. Boyke stated that the following is a list of wing people for the 2011-2012 season.

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Conway to approve the list of 2011 - 2012 seasonal wing people as follows:

Alexander, Wayne  
Alley, William  
Carey, Kevin  
Coon, John  
Cooper, Cheryl  
Cretaro, Brad  
DeFuoco, Michael  
DeVaul, Donald  
Devine, Thomas  
Elderbroom, Harvey  
Ferstler, Michael  
Garvey, Brian  
Goettel, Tom  
Harrington, Ronald  
Henderson, Robin  
Hogan, Allan  
Hyde, Zachary  
LaDue, Brandon  
LaMacchia, Jason  
LaRochelle, Ian  
Leonard, Anthony  
Lottermoser, Jeffrey  
Mautz, Julius  
Mayers, Laura  
Mayers Nathan  
McLaughlin, Richard  
Nadeau, Samantha  
Piagentini, Jeff  
Reardon, Ronald  
Repko, Gary  
Salanger, Robert  
See, Kathy  
See, Randy  
Slate, Ray  
Taylor, TJ  
Ventre, Roger  
West, Frederick  
Wicks, Terry Jr.  
Wood, Brett  
Woznica, Bridget  
Woznica, Frederick  
Woznica Pamela  
Zech, Carlton  
Zegarelli, Chris

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

#### BUDGET WORKSHOP

Ms. Boyke opened the Budget Workshop and started with an amendment to her previous budget that was at 2.75%. She stated that she had gone back through her budget and reevaluated the fund balances. Fund Balance B, is an emergency fund for the Police Department and the Parks & Recreation Department and there are never any emergencies, so she requested that we move \$250,000.00 from that balance, which will reduce the rate for our budget this year, down to .65% or an increase of \$2.88 per \$100,000.00 assessed value. I am presenting this to the board and am opening it to the board for discussion.

Mr. Corl – Since there's been a lot of focus on the budget this week and the crisis within the town, I'd like to comment that the budget that was voted down, by 3 members of this board, on Wednesday, was a vote against an irresponsible budget. It was not a vote in favor of a 14% tax increase. It was a vote against a budget that was presented to this board which went down 3 to 2. Per NYS Law, if the budget is not adopted by today, we would revert back to the Preliminary

Budget, which is on file and was submitted by the Supervisor on September 28, 2011. Since last Wednesday's meeting, Ms. Zambrano, Mr. Conway and I have worked very diligently on a budget that is reasonable for the long term planning and goals for this town. It's not just raiding a fund balance and applying it to reduce a tax rate. We have a proposal that makes the tough decisions and not just taking the money from the fund balance but making the hard decisions, we as people make every single day. Our proposal is to have a 2% increase in salaries for Non – Union employees.

Ms. Boyke stated she wasn't finished talking about her budget.

Mr. Corl stated he wasn't in favor of Ms. Boyke's proposal.

Ms. Zambrano asked Shirlie Stuart, that with Ms. Boyke's proposal, how much money would be taken out of the fund balance.

Shirlie Stuart - \$1,066,942.00 million.

Ms. Zambrano stated that's taking a million dollars out of the fund balance and I'm not in favor of that. We have a proposal that restores money to the fund balance.

Ms. Boyke asked Mr. Conway how he felt. She stated that with no reduction in any services or in any personnel other than reallocating services to the town and if we amended the budget from 2.75% it would bring it down to .65% by using \$250,000.00 out of the Fund B , which is the emergency fund balance that we don't use. How do you feel about that Vern?

Mr. Conway – We've never used the money, but, we do need some monies in the fund balance. We may not need that much, but we do need some.

Ms. Boyke – There are two other fund balances being Fund A, and Fund DB, which go to the buildings, the Highway for sewer or water breaks or emergencies of that nature. I believe those accounts have a million dollars each, in them.

Shirlie Stuart – Around that.

Ms. Boyke – That is still 2 million dollars that we have in the fund balances and it doesn't do anything at all, than to remove \$250,000.00 from Fund B.

Mr. Jennings – The \$250,000.00 in question is Parks & Recreation and the Police Department. It has been stated that this has not been used in the past, but, there could be bond issues, if they are needed. There is more money in the balance than there was two years ago. It is money that we've never used, and is money that could be going for the good of the residents to bring this down to a .65% with a \$2.88 increase in the tax levy.

Ms. Boyke – I just received this, but Mr. Corl has a budget to present. Also, Mr. Conway, Mr. Jennings and I, never received any of this information until one hour ago.

Mr. Corl – None of us have, because the Comptroller has been working diligently all weekend on this and we appreciate Shirlie and Diane's efforts.

Mr. Corl explained that it's easy to raid fund balances, but, the underlying problem is making the tough decisions.

Ms. Boyke asked if any of this has to do with personnel reduction.

Mr. Corl – Absolutely

Ms. Boyke – We need to go into Executive Session immediately.

Mr. Corl – No, I'm going to present my proposal first to the public.

Ms. Boyke – Mr. Corl, This budget can not be presented until we go into Executive Session if it has to do with personnel reduction and they have not been notified.

**Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to enter into Executive Session and will ask Toni Brauchle, Wayne Dean, Shirlie Stuart, Bill Alley, the Attorney's and this board to enter into Executive Session, now.**

**Discussion**

Mr. Corl - I would like to have the opportunity to present this to the public.

Ms. Boyke – You can't present it, without a discussion.

Ms. Zambrano – We have not voted to go into Executive Session.

Ms. Boyke – Tracy, call the Roll

Ms. Zambrano – Excuse me, this budget that he is proposing has not been proposed. He is trying to detail some of the conditions of this budget. There is no discussion here. You asked him to talk about his proposal and I would appreciate it, if you would let him talk about his proposal. You interrupted him two times.

Ms. Boyke – There are two line here, that I see, that he can not discuss without going into Executive Session. Eliminate those and introduce your budget and then we will go into Executive Session after we take a vote.

Mr. Jennings clarified that they are going to allow Mr. Corl to go over his budget that he is proposing, and not mentioning anything to do about employees. At that point, we will go into Executive Session according to Town Law.

Mr. Corl reductions are as follows:

Reduction of the drainage budget by \$200,000.00  
Reduction of the salt budget by \$50,000.00  
Reduction of the Town Historian stipend by \$1,000.00  
Reduction of Bingo Inspector stipend by \$137.00  
Removed cold patch line item, \$2,750 (out dated technology)  
Closure of William Beach (beach only-park to remain open for use)  
Reduction of Director of Planning and Development  
Reduction of one Park Laborer  
Reduction of one highway employee salary (2 retirements proposed)  
Reduce in salary increase for non-union employees to 2%  
Elimination of raises for department heads  
Elimination of raises for any elected officials  
5% pay cut for Town Councilors  
5% pay cut for Town Supervisor

With the above cost saving measure the following monies restored to certain line items  
Paving budget = \$50,000 (our roads are in bad repair)

Economic Development = \$100,000

Fund Balance/ less reliance to balance this year's budget = \$176,458

Overall Result: 1.75% Tax Increase for Residents or \$20.00 per \$100,000 home

Mr. Corl stated that next year we'll be losing our sales tax revenue in the amount of \$600,000.00 from Onondaga Count and if we don't appropriately plan we will be left next year in laying off many people, because the citizens of this town can not afford tax increases. If this board would accept this proposal for the long term planning and long term goals of this town, it would be a 1.75% tax increase or \$20.00 per household for a \$100,000.00 home. It's not easy, but, it's a plan. It's not just taking fund balance money and reducing the tax levy to get to 0%. A lot of thought has gone behind this. I would be happy to discuss the personnel issues in Executive Session.

Mr. Jennings – We mention this term fund balance which is our savings account. We're talking \$800,000.00 and again I asked the question that I've asked many times before, that the previous board over four years, with the raises that were granted through the contracts, that we depleted, about \$5,000,000.00 in a fund balance over four years of which those years, you were Deputy Supervisor of this Board.

Mr. Corl – Last year I think we used about \$750,000.00 and the proposal here is to use \$820,000.00. If that holds true, that would be over 1.5 million dollars used to balance the budgets over the last two years of which you were a part of. I'm proposing a long term plan for the town and not just looking at next year, but, for years, down the road.

Mr. Jennings – That equates to \$3,000,000.

Ms. Boyke – In 2009 when they balanced the budget, when Mr. Corl was Deputy Supervisor, and we came on board, they depleted Fund B and the Fund DB, so that when we came on board, we had zero in those two reserves. We have since recouped those balances and obviously, all of you know when you are in hard times, you try to do the best you can and you do without, yet there are times when you have to turn to those reserves. When those reserves do not have any impact on the services of this town, there's no reason why you shouldn't use them in an emergency, which this is.

Ms. Boyke – Tracy call the roll, so we can go into Executive Session.

Ms. Zambrano – The discussion isn't quite finished yet.

Mr. Corl – The people who came here today want to talk about the future and not look at what's been happening in the past. We're in a situation right now and my proposal does call for use of some of the fund balance, but in an appropriate way, so that in the future years, people aren't saddled with larger increases.

Ms. Zambrano – This proposal looks to return \$176,000 back to the fund balances. We need our savings accounts for the future and we need to speak about the future. This proposal that I have helped to work on makes our decisions about how we use our resources and how we can plan for the future. There is no way that we can't cut expenses and services. We have to do that. As it is, we have a 6% increase in operating expenses and a 5% decrease in revenue. We have got to make some serious cuts. Judy's proposal continues to have raises of 3% for everyone except the town board. We can't sustain that, we are going to have to look at cutting services as well as employee benefits. That's the truth of it.

Ms. Boyke – Are we done with the discussion? Tracy, call the vote.

**Continuation of the vote:**

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 1:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Jennings stated that he made the motion to return to open session and it was seconded by Ms. Boyke.

Mr. Corl – The balance of the presentation other than what I previously discussed regarding the positions were discussed in Executive Session and are the reduction of one Park Laborer, reduction of the Director of Planning & Development, due to the fact, that there is little development and permits and a reduction in the drainage account. There is also the reduction of one highway employee's salary however there are two retirements proposed which will lead to no one losing a position over there, should those move forward. That's the entirety of my proposal which will result in a 1.75% tax increase or \$20.00 per \$100,000 assessment on a home. Less reliance on the fund balance would be \$176,458 and additional monies for pavement and economic development. With that being said I will make a motion.

**Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Ms. Zambrano, to approve the Budget as presented by Mr. Corl.**

**Discussion:**

Ms. Boyke – I am going to ask for discussion from the board and then I will open this for public input. I would ask not to be redundant in your statements, in order to allow others to speak.

Ms. Boyke stated that the board has not had a chance to discuss the budget because they just received it and I received mine as I was coming up on the dais. Ms. Boyke addressed the budget by going line by line through Mr. Corl's proposal. The first pertained to the reduction of drainage

and stated we all know the issues we have with drainage in this town and it will never go away. Reducing the budget in this area isn't going to help this town.

Mr. Conway felt we could live with a \$200,000 reduction in drainage, because we normally don't go over that amount in a season.

Ms. Zambrano - \$700,000 has been budgeted for drainage in the last 2 years. With \$200,000 we can still do maintenance on those areas that have been identified that need to be cleaned out. We've also had problems with how drainage projects are done, so we're looking into what really needs to be done. I know people in the audience are upset, because we spend so much money on drainage, and it is a lot of money. We need to look at the whole drainage program and set some criteria that town board members can live with and how we schedule drainage projects. We probably need a comprehensive drainage plan that I've been advocating for. Those are some of the reasons why I think we could cut the drainage budget and taking a year and going out and doing site visits of problem areas and then having one year to plan very thoroughly for the following year. Perhaps I can ask Mr. Wickman to give us some feedback as to how the contracts for drainage projects have run. It's not been a perfect system and last year the board was dissatisfied with it and this year they are also dissatisfied with it.

Mr. Jennings – During this process of the line by line, I'd suggest that any Department Head that can substantiate or add to this, to speak up.

Ms. Zambrano stated she hoped that we could have a dialogue without interruptions.

Doug Wickman stated that using the approach of collecting and going through the year 2012, and thinking about projects for 2013 does make some good sense. You would end up with a relatively large contract potentially for the beginning of 2013. Perhaps you could get some really good bids because the projects being undertaken would be larger. The idea of taking one year to assess and to plan for the drainage projects in 2013 makes sense to him.

Ms. Boyke stated that Mr. Wickman was on the Drainage Committee and put the drainage proposals together for the projects. We went through some red tape getting the proposals out which got us behind, but, we did do quite a bit of work. I wanted to make it clear that drainage is a major part of the repairs in the town along with the highway. She asked Shirlie for the costs spent.

Shirlie Stuart stated that currently we have a budget of \$400,000 in Ms. Boyke's budget. If the budget is reduced \$200,000, there are also salary costs.

Ms. Boyke- Last year we were fortunate not to use the left over salt from last year.

Chris Woznica explained that salt is a gamble. We could have an easy or a hard winter. I'd rather see that left in the budget. If it means saving someone's job, by all means take it. We'll find money at the end of the year. You know my feelings on that.

Ms. Boyke stated the Town Historian's stipend is proposed to be reduced to \$500.00 and knowing Mr. Mafri, he'll do it, even though he hasn't been contacted. There is a reduction of the BINGO Inspector's stipend by \$137.00 from his salary of \$4,000.00, which is required and is State mandated as long as we have BINGO in our township.

Mr. Corl asked Shirlie when the submission has to be done.

Shirlie Stuart – Today, by midnight tonight.

Ms. Boyke asked Chris to address the reduction of cold patch, due to outdated technology.

Chris Woznica – The town purchased an asphalt recycler which will be taking care of any cold or hot patch they use. Whenever we pave, there is blacktop left over, that can be reused to patch roads and it will stay indefinitely compared to the cold patch and we can live with the \$2,750.00 being removed.

Ms. Boyke – Next is the closure of Williams Beach, which means there would be no life guards, but, we would still need to maintain the park and the responsibility of the park. What is the savings on that Jim?

Jim Corl - \$36,000 to \$40,000 savings. This was on the table last year too.

Mr. Jennings – I am the liaison for P & R and I've spoken to Jody extensively on this. In this climate, families that want to use our facilities in our town need to have that access as the money isn't there, for a family to jump in their cars and go to Fair Haven., Cayuga Lake, etc., when we have something here. I'm against closing the beach. If we closed the beach and put up a sign that swimming is prohibited, would that eliminate our liability for that park? If you have to put up a fence, you haven't saved a thing. We need to think about our residents and families, the economy and what the people have locally. We need to support that as much as we can.

Ms. Zambrano – Closing the beach is a tough decision to make that will affect a lot of people. In the future, we may have to consider closing more parks, because we're not going to have the money to do this. That's the reality of it. We're going to lose \$600,000 more in sales tax revenue, so, we have to make tough decisions. Many people over the years have said, having a Parks & Recreation Department is superfluous. I happen to think it is a quality of life issue. The only thing we're proposing right now, is closing the beach and perhaps if we realize some savings, through the year, opening the beach is still months away. Perhaps we would be able to be open on the weekends or for a few days, but, not throughout the week. It is a potential savings.

Ms. Boyke – I don't know how you'll realize any savings, when this budget is stripped, unless you go into the fund balance. I'm against closing the beach.

Ms. Zambrano – In Executive Session, we talked about opening negotiations with the collective bargaining units. I did mention the possibility of shared services and consolidation of services and these are the kinds of things that we're considering for next year. We have to look to see how we can cut our operating expenses. There is nothing on this list, about which I am crazy about doing, but, we have to make tough choices. We can't keep taking money out of the fund balances.

Ms. Boyke – Next is reducing salaries for non-union employees to 2% from 3%. How much are we talking about? There are 15 people.

Mr. Corl – They'll get a 2% raise. In the original proposal, it was 3% and proposing that it be brought down to 2% and I have no objections in making it 0%.

Ms. Boyke – The next line item is the elimination of raises for Department Heads.

Mr. Corl – No Department Head will receive a raise.

Ms. Boyke – The next line item is the elimination of raises for Elected Officials and that's already been discussed.

Mr. Corl – In the original proposal, that's on the table from the Supervisor, included raises and I'm saying there shouldn't be any raises. The last two items on my list, are a 5% cut for Town Board Members and a 5% cut for the Supervisor, which I will be taking over in January. I also will not be receiving any Health Insurance Benefits which will save another \$13,000.00 for the town.

Mr. Jennings – I didn't see this until this afternoon and didn't have any input. I have no problem with a 5% cut for the Town Board or Supervisor. I have no problem with the other two items. I did make a motion for the non-union or for those who have no retirement or benefits. They came forward as a group and asked and I have no problem with that. The people that met yesterday and I was not part of, made these and it looks like they really want this. That's wrong and we should have had this collectively as a town board and not two councilors getting together and making changes that make us look like fools.

Mr. Corl – If you remember there was a proposal on the table that was voted down and these are counter proposals.

Mr. Jennings – By two individuals, Mr. Corl.

Mr. Corl – Mr. Conway was meeting with us.

Mr. Jennings – I didn't see him, when I stopped by the Town Hall.

Mr. Corl – Three of us can't meet, because it's a violation of the Open Meetings Law.

Mr. Jennings – No one called me, confided in me or consulted me. This is not transparency in my book.

Ms. Zambrano – Non-union employees do get retirement and every employee in this town contributes to NYS retirement.

Mr. Jennings – I stand corrected, but, I meant benefits.

Ms. Boyke asked if there were any more comments before she opened this to the public.

Ms. Zambrano – Is that proper protocol?

Ms. Boyke – It's a Special Town Board Meeting and I have the right.

Ms. Zambrano – Usually at a Special Town Board Meeting there is no public input.

Ms. Boyke – I know that.

Ms. Zambrano – I think the budget I was involved in, is a much better budget because it looks at cutting services and expenses. It does not provide for raises for employees of this town.

Mr. Jennings – As the Supervisor stated in the very beginning, her budget, which is down to 0.65 % or \$2.88 verses their \$20.00 is saving another \$18.00 for the Taxpayers. As Judy stated, there were no services lost. We still have our Police and Highway and could still leave the raises if you wanted to. The budget that Judy presented, as the revised budget, gives us the best of both worlds. We still have everything we want and are not losing and you're not paying another \$20.00.

Ms. Zambrano – The budget we're proposing is a 1.75% increase which is still under the 2% cap.

Ms. Boyke – So is mine. As I said, I will allow you to speak as long as people are civil and respectful.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Joan Kesel asked Mr. Corl if he was proposing the elimination of some positions in his budget.

Mr. Corl – Correct

Joan Kesel - How many?

Mr. Corl – Three

Joan Kesel – What is your plan regarding Unemployment Insurance?

Mr. Corl – That's been budgeted.

Joan Kesel – Does the town still self insure for Unemployment Insurance?

Mr. Corl – Yes

Joan Kesel – What is the overall savings for the Unemployment, verses keeping people employed? What is the true savings? You're going to be eliminating jobs but, you're going to have to pay Unemployment, because we're self insured.

Mr. Corl – One of the positions is about \$57,000.00.

Joan Kesel – How much is the Unemployment Insurance going to cost us?

Mr. Corl – With Health Insurance on top of it, you're probably looking at about \$70,000.00.

Joan Kesel – How much is the Unemployment going to cost us?

Mr. Corl - \$400.00- to \$500.00 per week for 26 weeks.

Joan Kesel – What is more important to the people in the Country today? It's keeping people employed. Some of you have the luxury of having more than one job now and are collecting salaries from more than one place. Yes, Jim, you gave up Health Insurance, because you don't need it.

Mr. Corl – I pay for it myself, out of my pocket.

Joan Kesel – I never took Health Insurance when I worked here either, but, was something that changed when I left. My concern, is if you're really saving money and if you are really doing justice to the people that live in this community that are struggling to make a living everyday. I don't think people understand that the town is self insured when it comes to Unemployment Insurance and I wanted to bring that up.

Joyce Filmay stated that it is unreasonable to close a park and take away services to children and families of this town while maintaining an emergency fund for the park.

Mary Venesky asked if Mr. Corl's suggestions could be put together with Judy's as we're in a crisis mode. We can look at how we're going to address William Beach in the future.

Ms. Boyke stated it could happen.

A resident stated she appreciated all the hard work the board has gone through, but, people aren't looking at losing the County Sales Tax next year. The new budget presented by Mr. Corl, includes that and we need to look forward and not backwards. We need to plan and he is at this point.

Susan from Matilda Gage stated that Mr. Corl stated that the more commercial building that is done, the less the residential taxes will be, but, mine has done nothing but go up. I can't get my easement fixed. She also wanted to know if the commercial properties pay taxes.

Mr. Corl explained that the Commercial Tax base helps ease the tax burden for homeowners and they pay taxes on whatever their assessment is.

Carrie Tugman bought a house here 13 years ago, and stated her taxes have continually gone up. She understood that with the cost of services and things going up, taxes have to increase, but this has been like a perfect storm for many residents of Cicero due to the tax levy for those who live in the North Syracuse District and the reassessment of our homes. Where is all the money going from the reassessment?

Brad Brennan - The reassessment project, just did a reevaluation of all the property values. Based on that, they do not raise any more funds than are budgeted. The tax rate is adjusted to reflect the values of the properties, so the project did not increase or raise anymore money than was budgeted and it never does. It's never the reason for doing it. There is no increase, but, sometimes there is a shift in what an individual property owner pays, but the total that's collected is a budgeted amount.

Shirlie Stuart - You have to look at this as if it were a pie and the pie never changes, but the size of the slices change. That's what happened with the reevaluation.

Resident asked Brad, if the aggregate quantity of monies accruing to the district and municipality is the same, but, the distribution is changing.

Brad – Absolutely

Resident stated that from year to year, that could change based on variables that nobody knows.

Brad Brennan – Yes, there are some things like equalization rates and shared school districts. Some of those things would have impact also.

Resident stated that he has lived here for 30 years but feel threatened and inundated with fear that I'm going to lose my home from increased taxation, not only from what's happening here, but, on a national level. Is there anyway you can reassure me and other people in this room that we can maintain our homes without fear of excessively high taxes.

Mr. Corl – The biggest cost you have is government and that's why we need to shrink the government. The costs are enormous, when we talk about personnel, retirement and Health Insurance. We have to do more with less.

Resident – You are a republican, usually associated with low taxes and your ideology usually reflects this type of philosophy. The budget under Ms. Boyke is 2.75% which was the proposed budget and was voted down by you and the other Republican Members of the Board.

Ms. Zambrano – I am not a Republican.

Resident – The point is, the 2.75% increase was voted down therefore a default budget went in, which was 14.5%, which is more than the 2.75%. Why did that happen?

Mr. Corl – I'm advocating for a responsible budget. The original budget on default was originally the Supervisor's Preliminary Budget. The one that came in on Wednesday, which had a 3 to 2 vote on, was not a responsible budget and that's why we're proposing for long term planning on this plan.

Mr. Jennings read an article from the Post Standard dated November 18, 2011 which said, Jim Corl stated that his vote was totally on his distaste for the budget and that he is never in favor of raising taxes. I agree 2.75% and 14.5% is a heck of a spread.

Mr. Corl – I don't think anyone up here is in favor of raising taxes.

Ms. Boyke – The fact that you bring it up that it is not a good budget was incorrect. You said that the \$50,000 that was coming out of the Police was going to take away the safety and security of the people of this town and that's not correct. It was not taken away from that. Joe Snell came forward as a Department Head and volunteered that much of a reduction from his department. Each department that I spoke with personally, came forward with reductions to the best of their ability to bring the best budget to this town, which I presented at 2.75% and not reducing any liability, any safety, any security at all. I want to make that clear.

Mark Venesky stated he was angry and disgusted with what he was seeing and also stated he'd be attending future meetings. We get to the last final hours when we have to submit a budget and wait until the last minute with no compromise. This should have been handled and discussed and we should have had a budget on the table. I expect the right thing for the town and the taxpayers will be done today.

Sue Timmons – Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday Vern.

Vern Conway – Thank you

Sue Timmons stated that Vern as a senior citizen should know the right thing to do for the residents of Cicero or he should consider retirement. She thanked Mr. Jennings, for answering her question over the telephone and the Supervisor for answering her question after she did her research with Time Warner. She stated that Mr. Corl, was proposing a lower tax increase after an 11<sup>th</sup> hour study session yesterday and was concerned about the message he was giving to the voters. A mailer went out with your picture that said you had a town vision and said all those figures were correct. There was a 15% increase on my cable bill which is a couple hundred dollar increase a year. Is this another surprise way to raise revenue for the town on the residents back?

Mr. Corl - Absolutely not. What I'm looking forward to is the future and I'm actually proposing a 1.75% tax increase.

Sue Timmons – I understand that. You said the cable bills went up 15% and I went to Time Warner and they don't know what you are talking about. The average bill went up 5 cents to 15 cents.

Mr. Jennings stated that he was the one who made that motion and it was not your cable bill, but it is the revenue for the town franchise fees and actually, it was 50 cents per household. It was .5% increase, not 15%. When I did that, I also made the comment that I thought if residents had cable, they could probably afford 50 cents, which would help put revenue back into this town that we lost in the previous 4 years.

Sue Timmons stated that Mr. Corl's mailer indicated that the cable bill was 15% and that he said that on the news that that figure was correct.

Mr. Corl – There is a cable franchise that the town receives and I'd be happy to make an appointment with you to discuss how it works with this facility and Time Warner.

Sue Timmons asked Jessica how long she has been on the board.

Ms. Zambrano stated this was the second year of this term and had been on the Town Board in 2007 for one year.

Sue Timmons was very upset and expressed her frustration regarding the proposed budget.

Ms. Zambrano stated that at one of the workshops she proposed to cut the drainage budget by \$200,000.00 and that was dismissed out of hand and called a ridiculous proposal, but, believes the drainage budget should be cut next year, by \$200,000.00.

George Taylor asked Mr. Corl why he wanted to take the park away from the kids.

Mr. Corl – I don't want to take the park away.

Deborah Gardner – The reason the Town of Cicero exists is to provide services to the town residents that they can not provide for themselves and it is not to provide employment.

Ray Shader asked Jim and Jessica why they couldn't have come up with their ideas during the workshops, so that the entire board could discuss it and come up with something before this fiasco.

Ms. Zambrano – At the time, the Department Heads came and made their presentations, there were several of us on the board who had wanted to discuss what had been presented at that time. We were advised that would not be allowed and the Supervisor preferred to hear all of the presentations at the very end. That discussion did not happen. When I tried at one of the more recent workshops to set the board up in for a round table discussion so that we could go through the budget, line, by line, that also was dismissed and we were not allowed to do that. 60% of this budget is beyond the control of this board. 60% of this budget is mandated through collective bargaining, employee benefits and those kinds of things. We can not have any effect on 60%, so we have 40% of the budget that we're trying to deal with. So, you tell me, when expenses go up, and revenues go down.

Shirlie Stuart stated that budgets are flat, revenues are flat and depending on what budget you're referring to and if you're referring to Madame Supervisor's, her expenditures are 2.18 and Jims are 1.30.

Ms. Zambrano – The point is we only control 40% of the budget. Expenses are going up and revenues are going down. We've got to make hard decisions here. When you don't get discussion at the earliest opportunity, it's pretty hard to come to some kind of compromise.

Mr. Jennings - I've sat here, like the rest of you and I have heard both sides of this. I think we need to mesh these two budgets together and come up with a compromise that has to be done by midnight and we can do it without the 3 layoffs. Some have jobs that are State directed that they have to do and you can't just throw them out the door and hope it will work. We need to mesh these two and we'll come up with a good budget and something everyone can live with. Two of my neighbors, said, that the Cicero Town Board have made a mockery of the political system and that they are the laughing stock of Onondaga County and I agree with them, 100%. We need to move on and we need to get this budget approved. We have two good proposals, but, I am not in favor of laying off any employee's at this point, to make it better down the road.

A resident stated that at the budget workshop on Monday, before the vote, Jessica addressed the issues line by line.

Ms. Zambrano stated that it was obvious that my input was not welcome, nor was it solicited.

Dan Curran stated that it looks pretty close to where he would like this to be and would like the two sides to bring it together and wrap it up.

Kristin stated she was a member of a bargaining unit, that has nothing to do with this town but her bargaining unit re-opened their contract when they were in budget difficulty and they took a zero percent increase because they wanted to give that money to the group. This is something we need to look at in the future. I am a member of the community whose taxes increased because of the re-assessment and am having a hard time with this pie thing. As we build new homes and bring in new businesses, we're bringing in new tax revenue. So you're telling me the pie is going to remain the same. It seems that there should be some revenue that is extra, that you haven't been counting on. We haven't heard figures and there seems to be a lot of people in this room, who's taxes went up significantly, \$1,000.00, \$2,000.00 or \$3,000.00. I expect my town taxes to be doubling.

Ms. Boyke – They won't.

Mr. Corl explained that your tax bill is about 10% of the total Town, County and Village and of that 10% about 8% goes to the town itself.

Kristin – It still comes out of our pockets and there are many people in this room that will have to consider selling their homes within the next two years, which is a very real possibility.

Ms. Zambrano explained that there are 3 collective bargaining units in the town and one of them is currently under negotiations. The other two are going to get a 4 ½% increase starting January 1, 2012 and the other one is going to get a 3% increase in 2012. She stated that she has not been involved in any negotiations with the collective bargaining, but has been advised that the collective bargaining units were asked to come back to the table and have chosen not to. Perhaps, if we reduce the number of people, because we can't afford all of this, they will come back to the table and we can negotiate. I would like to see some active negotiations and discussions with the collective bargaining units as we can not sustain this growth.

Joanne from Mystic Woods asked if we are bringing in tax revenue with all the growth in the town and from businesses, like Target, Walmart and Driver's Village.

Brad Brennan – Absolutely and they are all assessed at market value and they do pay their fair share, but, it isn't enough to lower your taxes. As the budgets go up each year, the taxable values are divided into that and it gives us the tax rate. All of those people are paying taxes.

Mark Venesky stated that he has a problem with the collective bargaining and that a 4 ½ % increase in wage is unacceptable in this economy. He appreciates the job the employee's do in the town, and doesn't begrudge people earning a living. He worked for UPS for 36 years in sales and traveled to Delhi, Utica and other areas. Many people have gone through another year where they are working a 4 day week. He has spoken with many business owners who haven't taken a pay raise in the past year. He would demand that the collective bargaining unions come back to the bargaining table. If we're going to live here together as neighbors, we need to have a shared sacrifice, even if it means some of us don't get a 4% raise next year, when others may not have gotten one at all. UPS increase was 2% and I have a hard time not pressing our union neighbors to accept the same.

Ms. Zambrano – Not all of the board have been involved with the collective bargaining, so yes, you are right. I think this is a wake up call that we all get involved and I did make that point in Executive Session.

Dave Christian stated he was a member of the Cicero Highway Department and is the Union Steward for CSEA and at no time in his dealings, have they been asked to go back to the bargaining table by anyone on the Town Board. He stated that he is pretty low on the totem pole and his job could be at stake. This is something that his where his Union Brothers would need to come together to see if there is something they could give back. He felt they would gladly sit down, but they have not been approached to go back to the bargaining table.

Mr. Corl commented that Dave and his entire crew do a fantastic job for the town as our roads are one of the best in Onondaga County for snow removal. Earlier this year, this board approved a contract with the CSEA which was a 3 to 2 vote, which set forth raises and what not. It was a fairly new contract, so there wouldn't be re-negotiation of that yet, but will be something we should look at, if it means lay offs. I voted no.

Ms. Zambrano explained that the CSEA Contract was approved by this board 3 to 2 and that she did not support it. It was a 3 year contract at 3% per year, which was a 9% increase over three years.

Ms. Boyke explained that Jim Corl was involved in the negotiations with the Teamsters and she didn't have any problems with union. Everyone needs to know that he voted for the Teamsters and their 4 year contract. The first year increase was at 3 ½%, the second at 4% and this year it is 4 ½%. Next year it goes back to 3 ½%. We are all in hard times and we're talking about losing jobs. My husband has lost his job and obviously, I'm losing mine, so I'll be on the same side of the street as those who are in the same situation. Trying to get through this and opening the contracts with the Unions I'm sure, can be opened, but doesn't happen over night and belaboring it, isn't going to make any difference right now.

Mr. Corl stated that when the Teamster's Contract was entered into, we weren't facing a \$600,000.00 shortfall and if you look at their salaries at that time, some of the Teamsters Employee's within the town, were at the poverty level and significantly under paid and that is why that contract was entered into. It was a fair and reasonable contract at that time and if we negotiate in good faith, they will be happy to look at that. We need to be reasonable.

Ed Fry stated that the board needs to learn to get along regardless as this isn't High School. The public needs to fix this problem, whether they like each other or don't. Go sit in an Executive Session and fix this and move on and get it done.

Ron Ince wanted the board to look into duplication of services in an effort to save money.

Steve Brown stated that the board is acting like high school kids, and he reminded them that regardless if they are Democrat, Republican, or whatever, they are in office to serve the people and not their own agendas.

Ms. Boyke stated that she appreciated everyone's comments and concerns.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Boyke stated that if they took into consideration, the two budgets, and took \$200,000.00 out of the drainage, reduced the salt by \$50,000.00, the Historian by \$1,000.00, the BINGO Inspector by \$137.00, and take the \$2,750 for the cold patch and leave the beach, the Director of Planning and Park Laborer in. It's difficult to determine the highway yet, because of potential retirement going on in there. I had proposed a job freeze other than for the Clerk's Department, as she will have a retirement there and has to hire a Deputy, but, I'd say leave the Highway alone. A proposal to layoff can be done, if they choose to in the future. Ms. Boyke asked Shirlie, if reducing the salary increase to 2% for non-union, employees and eliminating raises for Department Heads, and Elected Officials and cutting Town Councilors and Town Supervisor's salaries by 5% would do anything to the fund balance.

Shirlie Stuart – I'd have to run the numbers. You're going to take Jim's budget and put the beach back in and the Director of Planning, and the laborer and everything else is the same?

Ms. Boyke – Yes

Shirlie Stuart - Did you speak on drainage?

Ms. Boyke – I did. I said to leave it at \$200,000.00. That's the repair maintenance part of it, correct?

Shirlie Stuart – No, it's the maintenance that he has in his budget and it's the improvement part that he eliminated.

Ms. Boyke – So, this is maintenance and not improvements. Is everyone in agreement with this?

Ms. Zambrano – No

Mr. Jennings stated that we need to mesh these two budgets and feel we are doing a fine job. We have taken what Judy has done on her budget and have accepted a lot of Jim's, without the lay off and Williams Beach. I think we're coming to a percentage that our Comptroller will have to work out. I think it's a reasonable offer to put to the residents of Cicero and put closure and move on. I think there has been some give and take and we need to finalize this and move on.

Mr. Corl told Shirlie that he had no problem with her running the numbers, but, the major expenses in the proposal are the positions.

Ms. Boyke – Overall, it appears that it will be around \$100,000.00.

Ms. Zambrano stated she was opposed to taking the \$250,000.00 out of the fund balance. That means we're taking a million dollars as her proposal was to take \$850,000.00 and our proposal is to restore \$176,458.00.

Ms. Boyke – I disagree and think that it's reasonable when it's a fund that is available to use in an emergency and I feel this is an emergency.

Mr. Corl explained that next year, we're going to be in more of an emergency, when we're under the 2% Tax Cap, by law and we can't raise taxes and we lose \$600,000.00 in Sales Tax Revenue. We will be in crisis and we will have to have major lay offs.

Ms. Boyke – That's next year, and I would think you would look at streamlining your budget during the course of the year and we will have a better handle on it. We've known about this tax problem for over a year and that is the reason we cut back. I found \$200,000.00 in our budget in the very beginning of this year. Every Department Head is streamlining their budget and they

will continue to do that as they are aware of that. The Department Heads have been working diligently and are thinking about the residents of this town. We need an operating budget and we don't need to save so they can dip into it later. Let's dip into it now.

Mr. Jennings explained that we can apply for the 2% Tax Cap every year as it is not for just this year. Next year if Jim wants to go above that, it will take a local law. I am the liaison to the Parks Department and the person, we're talking about, does a lot of maintenance to the vehicles, so they don't have to leave this property and go to a local garage that is getting \$75.00 to \$100.00 per hour labor, plus parts. Maybe, we're saving just his salary, but, we're saving his job with that salary and saving the town money as well. There are a lot of things that can be read into this, as everybody doesn't see it the same, but, I feel we can bring this together.

Shirlie Stuart stated that with doing the reduction in Mr. Corl's proposal which is to put back in the two full time positions, and putting the salary line back into the Special Districts for drainage, you're looking at a 1% increase.

Ms. Boyke asked if that is putting the beach back in.

Shirlie Stuart – Yes, it is putting the beach back in and is taking \$900,000.00 from the fund balance. Mr. Corl's proposal was \$640,136.00 and Ms. Boyke's was \$1,066,942.00 and we have compromised and are now at \$900,000.00 which is a 1% increase, which amounts to \$14.00 per \$100,000.00 home.

Ms. Zambrano – As a point of clarification, we're taking \$900,000.00 total out of the fund balances?

Shirlie Stuart – Correct

Ms. Boyke – So, from the 2.75% that I originally proposed, I believe the fund balance was \$850,000.00 and now it's up \$50,000.00.

Shirlie Stuart – It's up to \$900,000.00.

Ms. Boyke – The bottom line is, that it's about a 1% tax increase or \$14.00 for a \$100,000.00 assessed value home.

Mr. Corl – My concern Shirlie, is that it's almost a million dollars to supplement this budget.

Ms. Boyke – No, it's only \$50,000.00 if we were at 2.75% in the original.

Shirlie Stuart – No, he's talking about the fund balance.

Mr. Corl stated that taking almost a million dollars to balance this budget is going to have a long term planning for the town that's not reasonable. It's depleting our reserves and could affect our bond rating if there was an emergency.

Mr. Jennings - I guess next year this means we'll have to work a little harder and a little sooner. Meshing these two, is a compromise that we have to look at and I appreciate the work that Shirlie and Diane have done. We're at a point now, where we could all learn to live with it.

Mr. Corl asked Shirlie if she could run a balance regarding each fund balance and how that would affect that if the \$900,000.00 was taken out.

Shirlie Stuart – That would be next year. I could certainly give you this year's but, this affects next years budget. Any balances, I get, I'd have to give you a forward sight of what your fund balance will be like, with this \$900,000.00 taken out.

Mr. Corl – Is that possible to do?

Shirlie Stuart explained that right now, we're staying at 1.5 % in fund A and DB and we're taking out what we need to balance the budget. I think \$800,000.00 is what we're going to end up with in Highway and about a million dollars will be left in A and possibly \$400,000.00 will be left in B, at the end of the year, but, that has nothing to do with this and we're going to have to appropriate more money from this. At the end of next year, you're probably looking at about \$700,000.00 in fund A and close to \$700,000.00 in DB which is a Highway Fund and you will be looking at bottoming out the B fund, which is the Police Department and Parks, where the money doesn't come out, as there is no emergencies.

Mr. Corl stated that he was still concerned about the \$600,000.00 next year and potential lay offs.

Mr. Jennings – Maybe they’ll reconsider the Sales Tax.

Mr. Corl – They certainly aren’t going to do that. I do believe that we that there was a motion to approve my budget and it was seconded. I would suggest that we call the roll on that and go from there.

Ms. Boyke – That doesn’t make any sense. We’ve worked here in the workshop and compromised and come forward with a comparable budget, that is palatable. I would make a motion to rescind the motion for Jim Corl’s proposed budget.

Mr. Corl – You can’t do that.

Ms. Boyke asked Tony Rivizzigno what they should do.

Tony Rivizzigno – If you want to adopt the proposal that you just came up with, you have to vote down Jim’s motion and make another motion for the new budget.

Mr. Corl – I made a motion to approve my proposal.

Tony Rivizzigno – Before any changes were made.

Mr. Corl – There was a second, so, you’re suggesting that we vote on it.

Tony Rivizzigno – Vote on it and if the board doesn’t want to approve your budget, without the changes, they would vote, no. They could then make a motion to approve your budget with the changes and adopt that as the budget.

Mr. Corl – Because the motion is on the floor, you’re saying to vote on it. The motion is to approve my budget as proposed.

Tony Rivizzigno – Right and if the board doesn’t want to do that, you make another motion.

Mr. Corl – I’m still in favor of my budget.

Tony Rivizzigno – Alright, I understand.

**Continuation of the vote pertaining to Mr. Corl’s Budget that was also seconded by Ms. Zambrano, earlier.**

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	No
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	No
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	No

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Boyke, to accept the budget, compromised on, by the five members of this board at a 0.90% or \$14.00 per \$100,000.00 home.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Zambrano – I’d just like to say that we did not all agree on a compromised budget. What we did was to ask Shirlie to run some new numbers to see if they were palatable and to see what the fund balances were going to be and to see if it was for discussion. So, this is not a compromised budget.

Ms. Boyke – Tracy, please call the roll

**Continuation of the vote:**

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes

Mr. Corl: Yes, however, I will note that we're going to have some major problems next year.

Mr. Jennings: Yes

Ms. Zambrano: Yes, I will vote for this budget, as it is untenable to go back to a default budget and should never have been presented.

Ms. Boyke: Yes

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to adjourn the Town Board Meeting.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes

Mr. Corl: Yes

Mr. Jennings: Yes

Ms. Zambrano: Yes

Ms. Boyke: Yes

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

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Tracy M. Cosilmon  
Town Clerk

THE FINAL ADOPTED BUDGET WILL BE ADDED AS AN ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES.