

**Minutes for Ticonderoga's First 2017 Budget Workshop Meeting held  
on October 14, 2016 commencing at 9:00 a.m.**

**Present:** Joseph Giordano, Supervisor  
Fred Hunsdon, Councilman  
Wayne Taylor, Councilman  
Dorcey Crammond, Councilwoman  
Chattie Van Wert, Councilwoman  
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

**Others:** Michael Richardson, Cindy Childs, Bill Ball, Mark Johns, Tracy Smith,  
Derrick Fleury

Supervisor Giordano opened the meeting and allowed Michael Richardson to head the discussion.

Michael Richardson gave a brief overview of the budget process as this is a little different from budget workshops in the past. We will be going through the budget using a reality base instead of incremental base. We need to look at you financially and put together a road map of where you want to be over the next few years. The budget should not be about 1 year, it should be about many years. This should lay the ground work for your next two, three, four or five budgets. One of the challenges working with this budget is that we really don't know for sure right now how much money you have. You find out how much money you have looking at two indexes - one is when you close out your books from your previous year and that would have been December 31, 2015 and when you do that it is called an Annual Updated Document - AUD. Your bookkeeper or Accountant will sit down at that time and put together your AUD. This will tell you what you actually did, did you under-spend or over-spend. Your AUD for 2015 was never done as required. We have no idea how much money you have in your unappropriated reserve. This has been a little bit of a challenge not knowing how much money you have in reserve or unallocated fund balance and not knowing how much cash you have on hand. However, we know you have money. It does take pressure off for this budget. In 2014, it looks like your 917 - General fund, unappropriated fund balance (your cash in the mattress) and 915 - Highway, unappropriated fund balance have two million dollars. In some ways, the State should have been up here saying you guys have too much money in your reserve with a five million dollar budget. They want you to have 5 - 12 percent of your budget in your reserve. He would recommend spending down that balance and you are not limited in what you can do with that balance. By the time this budget is done and we close out 2016, you will know everything you need to know in your budget process and from now on it will be a very routine budget process. Just so you are aware you will see a number in the Total fund balance and that will include all moneys - including your restrictive monies. Be ware of where you are looking in your AUD. The State of NY has a Financial Restructuring Board (FRB) in which would determine if a municipality is in fiscal distress or not. One way they determine this is the average full value property tax rates and they say that anything over \$7.1674 is stress. You are taxing your people more than this. The other is your average fund balance and they do not want to see your average fund balance over 5-12%. You are up over 40%. They should be in here telling you to take that money in your fund balance and lower your taxes. He likes to see fund

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balances up around 20%. Again, you should spend down this fund balance on a one time 20-30 year project - hello Highway Garage, but you must get your tax rate down.

Today is Phase 1 of about 3 phases.

A.1110 - Court

**Resolution #370-2016** brought by Wayne Taylor, seconded by Chattie Van Wert to accept the 2017 Tentative Budget for all A.1110 - Court items as the preliminary 2017 Ticonderoga Budget. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

A.3620 - Codes

**Resolution #371-2016** brought by Wayne Taylor, seconded by Chattie Van Wert to accept the 2017 Tentative Budget for all A.3620 - Codes items as the preliminary 2017 Ticonderoga Budget with the change of Code A.8010.498 to A.3620.498 and change the amount in A.3620.415 to \$1075.00. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

A.8010 and A.8020 - Planning/Zoning

**Resolution #372-2016** brought by Wayne Taylor, seconded by Joseph Giordano to accept the 2017 Tentative Budget for A.8010 - Zoning items as the preliminary 2017 Ticonderoga Budget. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #373-2016** brought by Wayne Taylor, seconded by Fred Hunsdon to accept the 2017 Tentative Budget for A.8020 - Planning items as the preliminary 2017 Ticonderoga Budget. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

A.7410 - Library

**Resolution #374-2016** brought by Wayne Taylor, seconded by Chattie Van Wert to accept the 2017 Tentative Budget for A.7410 - Library items as the preliminary 2017 Ticonderoga Budget. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

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SS05 - Central Sewer

**Resolution #375-2016** brought by Wayne Taylor, seconded by Joseph Giordano to accept the 2017 Tentative Budget for SS05 - Central Sewer items as the preliminary 2017 Ticonderoga Budget. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

SW06 - Central Water

**Resolution #376-2016** brought by Fred Hunsdon, seconded by Joseph Giordano to accept the 2017 Tentative Budget for SW05 - Central Water items as the preliminary 2017 Ticonderoga Budget. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

A session will be called next week with Michael Richardson, Mike McCarthy, Supervisor Giordano and Tracy Smith (Derrick Fleury will be at training) to discuss Revenues, Reserve accounts, Debt and Inter-fund transfers.

SF02 - Chilson Fire Department

The board would like a meeting with the department to discuss their budget.

A.3120 - Police

The board will look at the pay grade of the Chief and ask that he check with other like departments to get salaries. (Will also look at the expected Revenues - Stop DWI).

Other Business

**Resolution #377-2016** brought by Dorcey Crammond, seconded by Fred Hunsdon to exit into an Executive Session at 12:35 p.m. inviting Michael Richardson to stay to discuss qualifying necessities for staffing the Finance Department. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #378-2016** brought by Fred Hunsdon, seconded by Wayne Taylor to exit out of Executive Session at 12:43 p.m. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

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**Resolution #379-2016** brought by Joseph Giordano, seconded by Fred Hunsdon to offer provisional employment to Chattie Van Wert pending her resignation of Town Councilmember as account clerk at the starting rate of \$19.25 per hour, full-time, with benefits. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, **Opposed** - none. Chattie Van Wert - Abstain. **Carried.**

**Resolution 380-2016** brought by Wayne Taylor, seconded by Fred Hunsdon to authorize training for Joseph Giordano and Chattie Van Wert in November at Wappinger, NY for Intro to Governmental Basic Accounting. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Fred Hunsdon - Aye, Wayne Taylor - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Chattie Van Wert - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

Adjourn at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk