

June 8, 2010 Special Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on June 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Adrian Shute, Supervisor
David Knapp, Councilman
Andrew Ohstrom, Councilman
Jerry Doolittle, Councilman

Absent: William McConnell, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Carleen LaRonde, Deputy Town Clerk

Others Present: Robert Demore, County Legislator, 12th District
Jim Rowley, County CFO and Clay Town Supervisor

1. Supervisor Shute called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and introduced County Legislator Robert DeMore. Discussion was held briefly prior to delayed entrance of Jim Rowley.
2. Mr. Rowley had handouts for the Board Members and Mr. DeMore regarding where we are and where we are going. Onondaga County is one of the most generous for sales tax in the State.

Councilman Doolittle asked Mr. Rowley the percentage and who decided. Mr. DeMore stated that every ten years it is looked at. Mr. Rowley said with the continued State fiscal crisis they will have to continue to cut budget to resolve the massive debt.

Mr. Rowley reviewed the document he passed out in detail with the Board Members. In Year 1 LaFayette will be cut 30% to 1/3 of where it was. Year 2, a 10% reduction will be made, and in Year 3 it will be eliminated. He also spoke about the school districts.

3. Mr. Rowley reviewed the last page of the document – rates. Current plan is based on population changing to assessment base. Initially, LaFayette goes down. For sake of argument, LaFayette would have to raise taxes or raising taxes at County level.
4. Councilman Doolittle asked why some towns/villages go up in the first year. Mr. Rowley explained it is population based. An example – Clay would be less and Skaneateles will benefit due to population lower and assessments higher. Half the sales tax goes to City using retail sales as a basis. Mr. DeMore stated that we don't have much choice in working with City.

Councilman Knapp said that everything is getting pushed on property tax and the residents are getting upset. We are doing our best to cut spending, approve purchases, not filing positions due to retirement.

Supervisor Shute said that times are touch and people are going to feel it when it comes to taxes. Mr. Rowley agreed that we have tough choices to make.

Mr. Rowley said that in 2-3 years we would be grateful. There is really bad news out there. This plan can be counted on. Credit rating is high for County to come up with a plan like this. Other counties are using band-aids.

Supervisor Shute reiterated that it is the extra dollars coming out of our own pockets and Councilman Knapp voiced that the community is wondering 'what the Town is doing to us'.

5. Legislator DeMore jumped in the conversation regarding layoffs and businesses closing in County could close County parks, etc. Mr. Rowley said in the Town of Clay, they just don't know what else to cut, and they have had to lay off personnel.
6. Councilman Doolittle asked about mandated programs – what do you do when you still have to provide for them. Mr. Rowley said that you must provide the service.
7. After all discussion, Mr. Rowley said that after the budget is set, then we can let everyone know.
8. Supervisor Shute said that he would put a piece in the Town newsletter, trying to prepare residents on how it is working and what to expect.

Mr. Rowley and Mr. DeMore were thanked by the Board Members for coming to their meeting.

Councilmen Knapp moved and Doolittle seconded the motion to audit and pay the following bills. Motion passed 4-0.

General Fund	#5883-5889
Highway	#5890 - 5895
Special District	#5956
Community Development & Capital Fund	#5897 - #5902

Councilman Knapp moved and Supervisor Shute seconded the motion to adjourn the Special meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

The Special Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carleen LaRonde
Deputy Town Clerk

Adopted 7/12/10 with following amendment: Page 1, 2nd from last paragraph should read "filling" not "filing".