

**Town of Murray Preliminary Budget Hearing**

October 30, 2024

Present: Supervisor Gerald Rightmyer, Councilpersons Elaine Berg, Randall Bower, Lloyd Christ and Michael Christopher, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Gail Christ, Dave Knapp, Mark Porter, Kevin Dann

Pledge to the flag.

Public Hearing opened at 7:03 p.m.

Supervisor Rightmyer went over the 2025 preliminary budget. There were several budget workshops held and the board has worked to try and keep tax rates down while still providing great service to our residents.

- The townwide tax rate increased 1 cent per thousand and the outside village tax rate remained the same as the 2024 tax rate.
- Most employees received a 3% increase in pay and some of the part-time clerks received more. We have been trying to get the part time employees pay to where they are supposed to be based on job duties. We have to keep our part time employees and in order to do that, their salary needs to be somewhat competitive.
- \$357,000 has been put into reserve for equipment to be purchased in the future.
- The amount put into employee HSAs has increased to match the deductible. This was a minimal increase.
- The town is going from two Judges and Court Clerks to one.
- A new Assessor will begin in January and will be preparing for reassessment in 2025 which is long overdue.
- The ambulance contract needs to be agreed upon.
- Funds have been set aside for a plow truck and a mower/trailer will be purchased.
- The Article 78 Proceeding filed by Ted Spada has cost the town over \$40,000 in attorney fees.
- The ceiling repair in the meeting/court room is almost complete. Materials were purchased with ARPA funds.

The fire department budget has increased 34% from last year's budget.

The Town has made some updates and improvements, including:

- Waterline on West Brockville Road and part of Hindsburg Rd.
- We received a new container from the county for our electronic recycling.
- New Facebook page for events within our town.
- Updated signage for the town buildings has been ordered.
- Planning and Zoning Boards have been working on a Sign and Subdivision Code.
- We have partnered with the Village of Holley acknowledging students with banners.
- New security cameras have been purchased with ARPA funds and installed around the town buildings.
- Our live streaming issue has been resolved so all meetings can be viewed by residents
- Long standing water contract issue with the Village of Holley has been resolved.
- The town donated \$25,000 from ARPA funds toward a new playground to the Village of Holley.
- The townhall parking lot will be repaved with ARPA funds.
- New water meter readers may also be purchased with ARPA funds.

Supervisor Rightmyer asked if there were any questions or comments from those present.

No questions or comments.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Christ to close the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.     Motion Carried

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Berg that the Town Board enter into executive session regarding a personnel matter at 7:20 p.m.                     Motion Carried

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Berg that the Town Board return to regular session at 7:55 p.m. with no action taken     Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2024-038

At a regular meeting of the Murray Town Board held on October 30, 2024, Councilperson Randall Bower moved adoption of the following resolution; Councilperson Lloyd Christ seconded the motion:

WHEREAS, the tentative budget for the year 2025 has been duly presented to the Town Board by the Budget Officer, and a duly publicized public hearing was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October at 7:00 p.m. on the preliminary budget prepared by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS at which time all persons desiring to be heard were heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 109 of the Town Law of the State of New York, the Town Board of the Town of Murray hereby

ADOPTS THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET, as amended, altered, and revised, as the Budget for the Town of Murray for the year 2025.

Upon being put to a vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Christ that the meeting be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.  
Motion Carried

So adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver