

The Otsego Town Board held a 2014 Budget Workshop meeting on the 16th day of September, 2013 at the Town Building, Fly Creek, NY at 6:00PM.

Town Board Members Present:

Anne Geddes-Atwell	Supervisor
Julie Huntsman	Councilwoman
Bennett Sandler	Councilman
Carl Wenner	Councilman
Thomas Hohensee	Councilman

Also Present:

Marie Lawrence	Town Assessor
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell called the meeting to order.

Town Assessor Marie Lawrence suggested that the Board consider budgeting for a Town Assessment Revaluation. Lawrence conveyed that Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy “unequivocally” feels an assessment revaluation should be done. Lawrence listed the advantages of an assessment revaluation:

1. Equity re-established
2. All grievance assessment court cases will be based on today’s full market values.
3. Town may have fewer court cases,
4. Cases will be on even year real estate market.

Lawrence submitted assessment revaluation options available for consideration:

1. Trending
2. Valuation Only
3. Data Verification and
4. Full Revaluation

Lawrence felt Trending was not an option nor did she feel there was any reason to order a Full Revaluation. Valuation Only would consist of all land tables and individual properties being reassessed using current sale comparables. Data Verification would be the same as Valuation Only but would also include visiting and comparing each property against Town records, differences would be noted and the Town would be eligible for State Aid. Because a Full Revaluation was done less than ten years ago, Lawrence recommended the Board conduct a Valuation Only. It would be forgoing State Aid but would be still less expensive than Data Verification.

MOTION by Councilwoman Huntsman, seconded by Councilman Hohensee, to budget for a Valuation Only Revaluation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

With that, Lawrence announced that she will be resigning. She agreed with the Town Board’s decision to conduct a Valuation Only Revaluation but having gone through one Town revaluation she has no interest in going through another one. Lawrence submitted three options for the Board to consider. They were as follows:

1. Assessor stays until December 31 of this year at her current salary
2. Assessor agrees to stay until June 30, 2014 at \$27,000 annual salary for 2014-2015 with an increase of hours reported to NYS Retirement effective January 1, 2014
3. Assessor agrees to stay until December 31, 2014 at a salary for 2014-2015 equal to \$32,000.00 with an increase of hours reported to NYS Retirement to .75.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Sandler, to accept Lawrence’s option number 2 with the option to continue on with option #3 after June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

After a short discussion it was decided to hold another Budget Workshop on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

Meeting ended at 7:51PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Pamela Deane  
Town Clerk

