

TOWN OF CARROLLTON

Public Hearing

November 20, 2018

5:30pm

Municipal Complex

640 Main Street

Limestone, NY 14753

Present: Supervisor James Stoddard, Councilman Jay Little, Councilman Ralph Bottone, Councilman Brian Jacoby, Councilman James Rounsville, Town Clerk Julie Carlson, Hwy Superintendent Mike Fox. **Not Present:** Bookkeeper Mary Rhodes, Water/Sewer/Rentals Clerk Rosemary Fowler.

Public: Nobody in attendance.

The Public Hearing opened at 5:30PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Stoddard stated the Public Hearing is to present the 2019 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Carrollton and the Water Rate Increase for 2019.

Supervisor Stoddard stated that the Public Hearing was now open and as of right now we have no Public for comments.

Comments for or Against the Preliminary Budget and Resolution to Adjust the Water Rates:

Councilman Bottone asked if they got an equated rate increase on the Taxes. Supervisor Stoddard said 3 cents per thousand. Supervisor Stoddard said they gave everybody 3% raises except for the Board and himself. He and Mary worked hard to keep everything down. Supervisor Stoddard said he knows that Bottone was concerned about the Water Rate Increase. Bottone said it's not so much the Water Rate Increase. He said he is using himself for an example. before, years ago they put a \$20 fee for Fire Protection on empty places in the village. And if they would just increase that then that would be okay. It is more of paying the full Water Rate when there is a vacancy that he is concerned about. Using himself as an example, he has 3 rentals and say 2 are rented out they pay their Water/Sewer bills, but the 3rd is an empty apartment then will need to pay for that empty apartment. Bottone said he doesn't feel it is fair to ask a person to pay for empty apartment. Stoddard said his argument asked why should all the Town Residents have to make up the difference because you have a vacant apartment? Bottone said say for instance Tasta Pizza goes out of business you will have to pay their Water/Sewer Bill? Stoddard said yes. He said he feels that only fair. Bottone said So, you pay 2 Water/Sewer bills right now don't you. Stoddard said yes. Stoddard said say for instance you pay your taxes and because you have a vacancy in one of the places you don't pay your taxes on that vacant place? Bottone said well no, but if you would only have increased the Water Rates and not thrown in to pay the full Sewer Rates too. Stoddard said we have Bonds we have to pay. Bottone said he knows that, but the Sewer District is in good shape. Stoddard said well yes for now, because we had to raise the rates last year to get caught back up. Bottone said well he can understand the Water rates, but not the full Sewer Rates. Supervisor Stoddard said he would not have a problem with that, but when we have bonds to pay, we have to do it. Stoddard said he knows that Olean charges for vacant also. Councilman Rounsville said he knows Foster Township charges the same rate for Sewer no matter how much usage there is. Clerk Carlson said for example her parents

own a vacant building with a fire protection fee but is not hooked up into the Water to the building. Why is that fair. Stoddard said that is something they still need to look into, his opinion there should not be. Councilman Little said Sewer customers already pay for sewer frontage in the tax bill. Bottone said so if Tasta Pizza goes out of business then you will be stuck paying for a full Water/Sewer bill for an empty place. Stoddard, said I know, unfortunately we only have 120 plus customers we bill so we have to do something. Bottone said he knows but paying the full Water/Sewer bill. Councilman Jacoby asked so what is the question is here? Supervisor Stoddard briefly explained it. Councilman Jacoby said his thought is it's not his fault if somebody has rentals and has an empty place. Bottone said I know that am I not saying it is, I don't mind paying the full water because the Water is in trouble, but not the Sewer. Stoddard said but that is why the Sewer is not in trouble because we were in trouble last time and raised the rates. Jacoby said here is another problem is that people have their downspouts, etc. are tied into the Sewer. Supervisor Stoddard said they had to pay the Sewer Rates before if it is vacant. Bottone and Clerk Carlson said they did not. Bottone said he is okay with the Water Increase and paying full rates, doesn't feel they should have to pay Sewer. Supervisor Stoddard said we will look into the Sewer a little further if the Board is okay with that, but the Water Rates will be increased and charged full rates.

Supervisor Stoddard made declared the Public Hearing Closed at 5:45pm.

Motion made by Councilman Rounsville, 2nd by Councilman Bottone to adjourn the Public Hearing at 5:45pm. All voting yes, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Carlson –Town Clerk