Public Hearings Scheduled:

7:10pm – Special Use Permit for Ulster Hospitality, P-742, 1581 Ulster Ave. Lake Katrine, NY, SBL 39.82-2-7.117, Zone OM, Resubmittal of a Previously Approved Project for a 100 room hotel.

7:15 pm – 2024 Preliminary Budget

MEETING HELD IN PERSON and VIRTUALLY THROUGH ZOOM BROADCAST VIA FACEBOOK LIVE

CALLED TO ORDER BY DEPUTY SUPERVISOR VAN KLEECK, at 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO OUR FLAG

ROLL CALL by Town Clerk, Suzanne Reavy:

TOWN COUNCILMAN CLAYTON VAN KLEECK TOWN COUNCILMAN ROCCO SECRETO TOWN COUNCILMAN ERIC KITCHEN TOWN COUNCILWOMAN ANNA HAYNER SUPERVISOR JAMES E. QUIGLEY 3rd - Excused

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

- 1. Jason Kovacs, Town Attorney
- 2. Tosca Sweeney, Comptroller
- 3. Warren Tutt, Building Inspector
- 4. Chief Kyle Berardi, Ulster Police
- 5. Frank Petramale, Highway Superintendent
- 6. Susan Kesick, Town Justice
- 7. Several In-Person Attendees
- 8. Bill Kemble, Daily Freeman

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA – Deputy Supervisor removes the Comptroller's Abstract to be presented at the next meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

COMMUNICATIONS – None

New Business:

Presentation of Resolution Adopting the Town Budget for 2024

Presentation Only

Motion to accept the resignation of Part Time Police Officer Reavy (2023-M-336)

Letter read by Councilman Secreto

MOTION: Councilman Kitchen SECOND: Councilman Secreto

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Town Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilman Kitchen

Town Councilman Secreto

Town Councilman Van Kleeck

Supervisor Quigley

-Yes

-Yes

-Yes

-Yes

CARRIED

Motion to accept the resignation of Owen Miller in the Sewer Department

(2023-M-337)

Letter read by Councilman Secreto

MOTION: Councilman Kitchen SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

CARRIED

Motion to authorize the hiring of one WWTOP Trainee for the Sewer

Department Presented by Councilman Secreto (2023-M-338) Jon Pomeroy: Grade 6; Step 1; \$ 18.45/hour; start date 11/06/2023

MOTION: Councilman Kitchen SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

CARRIED

Motion to authorize the hiring of three Part Time Police Officers (2023-M-339)

Presented by Councilman Secreto

Javier Quintero, Christopher Stinson, Robert Snyder

Part time; union; PBA; \$ 26.41/hour; start date 11/06/2023; requested by Chief Berardi

MOTION: Councilman Kitchen SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

CARRIED

Old Business:

Resolution Granting Special Use Permit and Site Plan Approval for Hurley Excavation and Landscaping Inc., Route 28, Kingston, SBL 48.13-2-16 (2023-R-340)

RESOLUTION TOWN OF ULSTER TOWN BOARD HURLEY EXCAVATION AND LANDSCAPING INC. Special Use Permit and Site Plan, P-919 Route 28 SBL 48.13-2-16 ZONE: HC

WHEREAS, the applicant, HURLEY EXCAVATION AND LANDSCAPING INC., seeks special use permit and site plan approval for a contractor storage yard. Improvements proposed to the approximate 0.602 acre property include a new pole building, gravel parking area and perimeter fencing. Contractor storage yard is permitted in the HC zoning district subject to approval of special use permit and site plan; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant has submitted a Special Use Permit / Site Plan application to the Town of Ulster including a submitted State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Short Environmental Assessment Form, Part 1, and,

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ulster has final review and approval authority for the special permit use in coordination with the Town of Ulster Planning Board while said Town Planning Board has final review and approval for the site plan application; and,

WHEREAS, said Planning Board has reviewed the application materials submitted, recommends conditional final approval pending Town Board review as well as pending any comments from the Ulster County Planning Board, and has issued a recommended approval at its regular meeting held on September 12, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Board held a public hearing on this matter on October 5, 2023 during which no public controversy was raised concerning the proposed action, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined it has complied fully with the procedural requirements of Part 617 of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Law; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Ulster Town Board herby issues a SEQR Negative Declaration and grants Site Plan Approval and Special Permit approval

to HURLEY EXCAVATION AND LANDSCAPING INC. subject to the conditions, limitations and restrictions set forth below.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Ulster Town Board herby issues a SEQR Negative Declaration and grants Special Permit approval to HURLEY EXCAVATION AND LANDSCAPING INC. subject to the conditions, limitations and restrictions set forth below.

- 1. All fees, including consultant fees, shall be paid.
- 2. Compliance with all applicable zoning and building laws, rules, and regulations.
- 3. In case of a violation of any of the aforesaid conditions, this permit may be revoked by the Town Board, provided, however, that after activities under this permit shall have been properly commenced, there shall be no such revocation until substantial evidence of such violation shall have been presented to the Town Board at a meeting of said Board called for the purpose of hearing such evidence on notice to the owner.

MOTION: Councilman Secreto SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING:

7:10pm – Special Use Permit for Ulster Hospitality, P-742, 1581 Ulster Ave. Lake Katrine, NY, SBL 39.82-2-7.117, Zone OM, Resubmittal of a Previously Approved Project for a 100 room hotel.

Present: <u>Kyle Ahearn</u>, LaBella Associates, Senior Civil Engineer On behalf of the owner of the parcel

Ahearn: History of the parcel – project originally approved 2019 as "Lot 2" of Ulster Commons project. Project is fully built out except for lot 2 and another pad adjacent to Smoothie King. Approved as 100-room hotel, four stories, 64.810 square feet gross. No changes from prior

approval. Applicant had applied for an extension on that approval through the pandemic and rising costs. Still committed to project, just obstacles to overcome.

Motion to Open the Public Hearing: 7:10 pm (2023-M-341)

MOTION: Councilman Secreto SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

CARRIED

Public Comment: None

Motion to Close the Public Hearing: 7:11 pm (2023-M-342)

MOTION: Councilman Hayner SECOND: Councilwoman Kitchen

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

CARRIED

Councilman Van Kleeck: Approval at next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

7:15 pm – 2024 Preliminary Budget

Power Point Presentation by Councilman Van Kleeck (Attached to Minutes Package) Handouts available.

Van Kleeck: Worked with the supervisor and comptroller, Tosca Sweeney. No time for back and forth, only clarification.

Brings to Attention:

GENERAL FUND -

- Total employee expenses 80% of the general fund. People providing services to our citizens.
- Negotiations with union and personnel. Transparent and clear.
- Employee benefits (health insurance and retirement) large impact on budget.
- Contractual expense is anything paid for with a voucher. Could be as simple as a Verizon bill or as complex as building repair (basic operational expenses). Town has to have agreement to pay these bills.
- 61% of general fund comes from property tax; 10% fund balance reserve and transfers.
- Non-property taxes and fees part of that is sales tax. County tells us what that figure will be.
- Interest rates were good this year and anticipated to stay there. Using interest income to apply to budget expense. Not building a larger fund balance. Not using non-recurring income to pay expenses (e.g. federal stimulus income)

HIGHWAY -

- Maintenance is larger part of expense.
- 65% of budget is in personnel.
- \$200,000 increase this year.
- Large portion (74%) from property taxes.

UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE -

- Increased by excessive revenues, less expenses; decreased by an excess of expenses, less revenues.
- Adopted a fund balance policy.
- Unappropriated fund balances over the minimum levels are appropriated to special reserves.
- Review took place in June.
- Can run out.

Resulting tax levy: 1.127%

We have seen an increase this year of \$763,000 in items that are not discretionary

How each parcel is affected is dependent on commercial vs. residential properties.

We attempted to work and manage this budget while preserving this government's function

Police, water, sewer, highway all involved. Everything needs maintenance. Significant purchases and upgrades are anticipated in advance. Eliminate surprises.

It is the board's obligation to listen to comments and response to the budget in the public hearing.

Motion to Open the Public Hearing: 7:29 pm (2023-M-343)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hayner SECOND: Councilman Secreto

Town Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilman Kitchen

Town Councilman Secreto

Town Councilman Van Kleeck

Supervisor Quigley

-Yes

-Yes

-Yes

-Yes

CARRIED

Public Comment:

1. Susan Kesick, Town Justice since 2006; employed in court since 1987
One of busiest courts in New York State and until recently, was highly functional. After the first budget was released, requested a meeting with the town board to discuss the budget and was not given courtesy. Has questions that no one has answered. Will submit copies of questions in writing. Currently four full time and two part time clerks. Budget has five full time clerks. Court is now divided since October 5.

Questions: 1. Who asked for a fifth full time clerk? Where will that fifth full time clerk go, and why? Sixth full time clerk would be needed to balance office out. Take out fifth full time clerk as it is not needed; 2. Will it be a civil service position?; 3. Are two part time clerks going to be out of a job on December 31?; 4. Requested a raise for Karen Gorski – no response 5. Department heads are getting a raise and judges are not; 5.

Training is important and would like that \$4500 line item restored. Will submit questions and would like them answered.

Councilman Van Kleeck: Yes they will be answered.

2. Larry Quick, Old Stage Road

In school, taught that budgets are based on number of people you have. The more people, the lower the tax per person, In reality, town hall is a cash cow. Benefits and raises are at the taxpayers' expense.

3. <u>Regis Obijiski</u>, Town resident, on behalf of townofulstercitizens.org Reads from handout (Attached)

Three points: 1. Our understanding of the budget; 2. How our town can close predicted a deficit; 3. Reflection on past fiscal performance by town board.

Motion to Close the Public Hearing: 7:43 pm (2023-M-344)

MOTION: Councilman Kitchen SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

CARRIED

Continuation of Old Business

Presentation of Resolution Authorizing Adoption by the Town Board of the Town of Ulster of Local Law No._of 2023- A Local Law to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on New Sanitary Sewer Connections in the Ulster Sewer District

Presentation Only. For the November 16 meeting.

Resolution Authorizing Adoption by the Town Board of the Town of Ulster of
Local Law No. of 2023 – A Local Law to Establish a Temporary
Moratorium on New Sanitary Sewer Connections in the Ulster Sewer District

WHEREAS, an introductory Local Law entitled "A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS IN THE ULSTER SEWER DISTRICT" was introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Ulster on September 21, 2023, and upon notice duly published and posted, a hearing was held on October 5, 2023 before the Town Board,

WHEREAS, public discussion was heard at such hearing concerning the merits and environmental significant of said introductory local law, and be it

RESOLVED, that the adoption of the introductory local law entitled "A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS IN THE ULSTER SEWER DISTRICT" is hereby determined to be a Type II SEQR action, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ulster hereby adopts said Local Law No. ____ of 2023 - A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS IN THE ULSTER SEWER DISTRICT, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and he hereby is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Law Book of the Town of Ulster, and to give due notice of the adoption of said Local Law to the Secretary of State of New York.

TOWN OF ULSTER LOCAL LAW NO. ___ of 2023

A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS IN THE ULSTER SEWER DISTRICT

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Ulster that the Town Code is amended as follows:

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose and intent of this local law is to adopt a moratorium on certain sanitary sewer connections in the Ulster Sewer District. The Ulster Sewer District is currently evaluating improvements to its wastewater treatment facilities, and is experience near-maximum capacity along the Ulster Avenue and Boices Lane sewer lines, and the Town of Ulster Town Board finds it is in the best interest of the Ulster Sewer District to suspend new sanitary sewer connections to the Ulster Sewer District's sanitary sewer system for a period of one year except as provided for herein.

Section 2. Moratorium

From the effective date here, and for a period of one calendar year, there shall be no new

connections or connections resulting in increased flow to the Ulster Sewer District sanitary sewer system, including but not limited to the Ulster Sewer District sanitary sewer collection system, except as follows:

- A. Replacement of existing sewer connection laterals shall be permitted upon approval by the Town of Ulster Wastewater Superintendent in accordance with Chapter 141 of the Ulster Town Code;
- B. New sanitary sewer connections for individual single-family residential homes upon approval by the Town of Ulster Wastewater Superintendent in accordance with Chapter 141 of the Ulster Town Code;
- C. New sanitary sewer connections as part of any project approved prior to the effective date of this article. For purposes of this article, "approved" shall mean any project for which a building permit has been issued prior to the effective date of this article, or any project which has received site plan approval by the Town of Ulster Planning Board and Town of Ulster Town Board prior to the effective date of this article; and
- D. New sanitary sewer connections that may be approved by the Town Board upon recommendation from the Town of Ulster Wastewater Superintendent in accordance with Chapter 141 of the Ulster Town Code.

Section 3. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this article or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order of judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this article, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 4. Effective Date

This article shall take effect upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State of New York State.

End of Regular Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

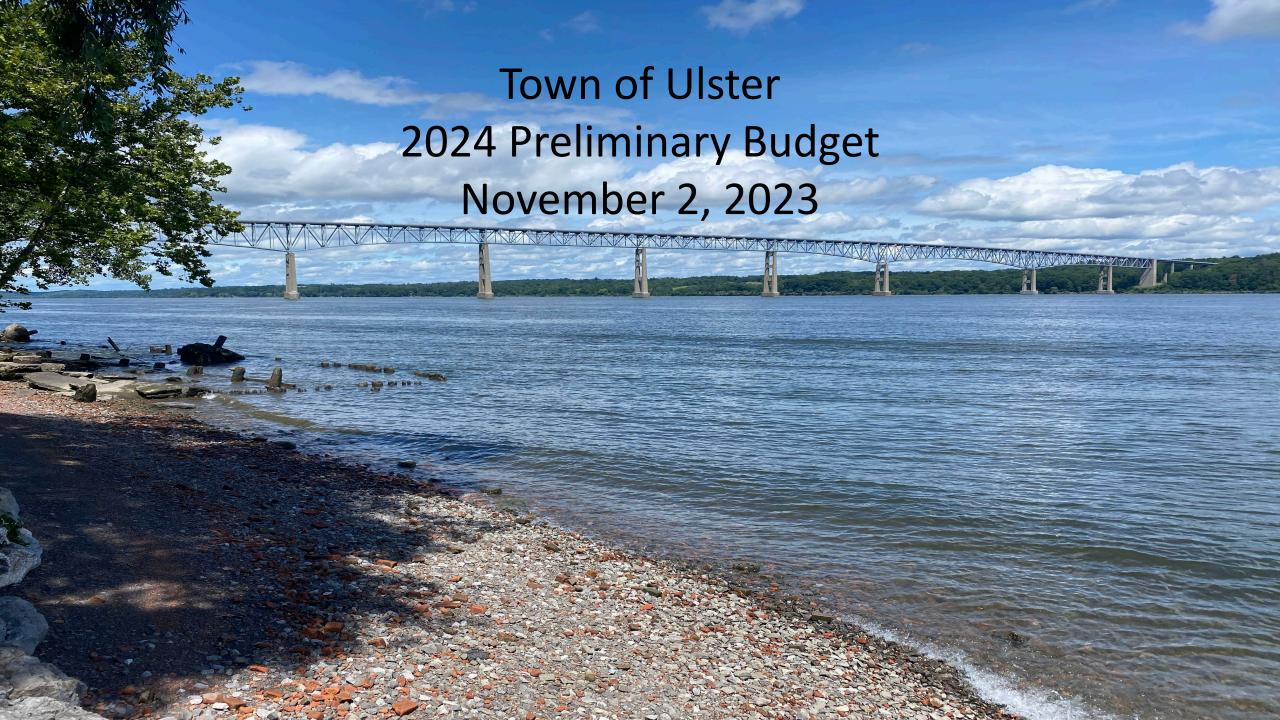
MOTION to adjourn (7:44 pm) (2023-M-345)

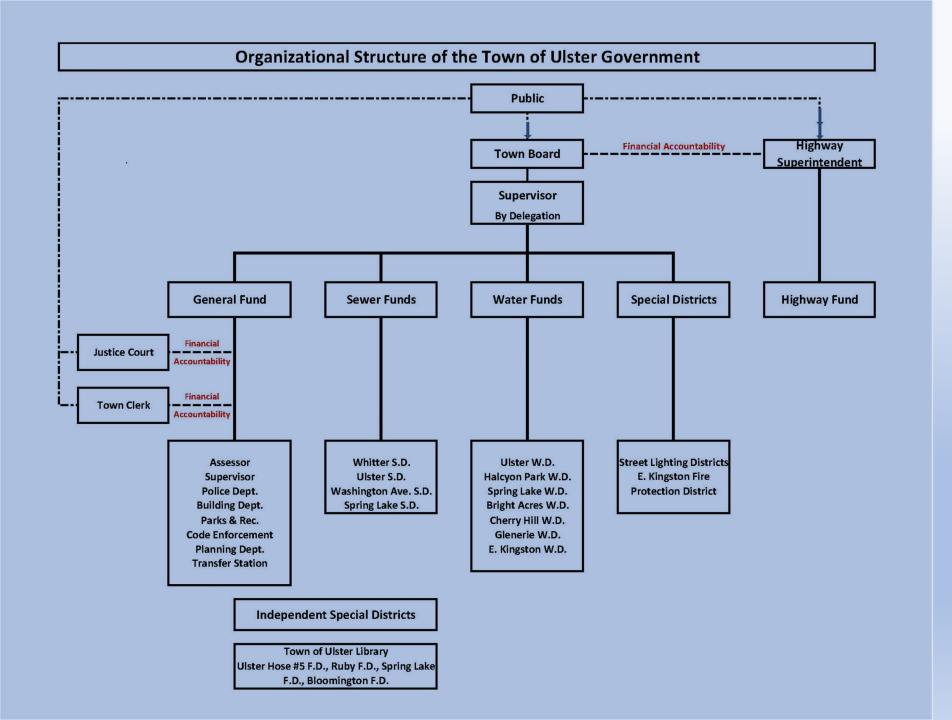
MOTION: Councilman Kitchen SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman Hayner -Yes
Town Councilman Kitchen -Yes
Town Councilman Secreto -Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck -Yes
Supervisor Quigley -Excused

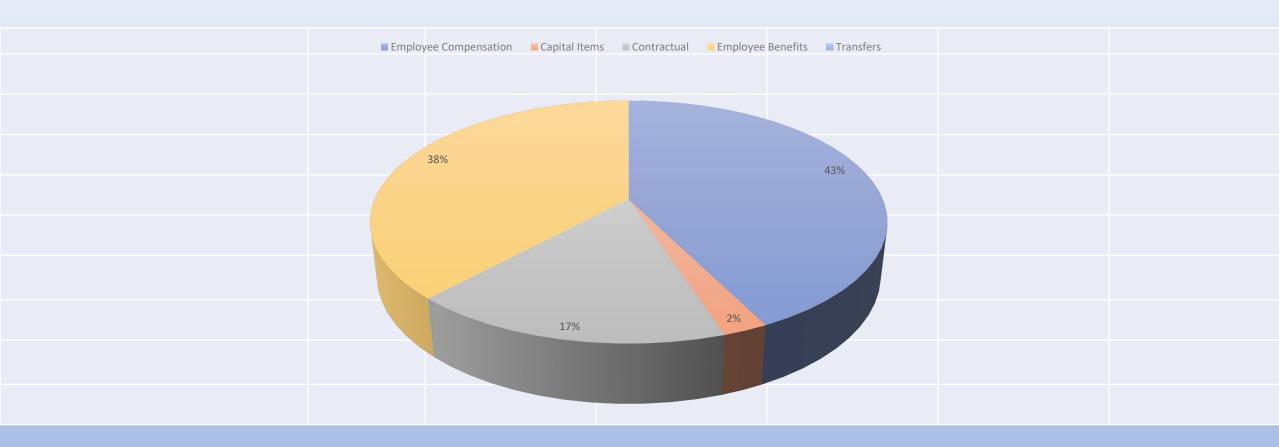
CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by Suzanne Reavy Ulster Town Clerk





Where do the Town's General Fund Expenditures Go?



Total Employee Expenses 80.65%

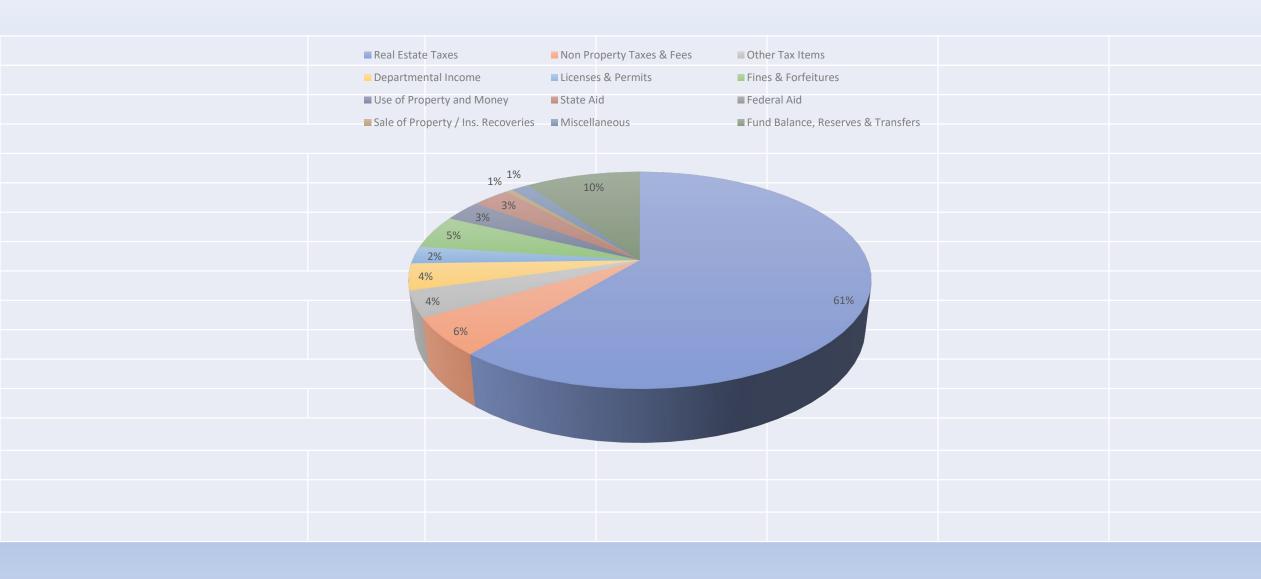
Where do the Town's General Fund Expenditures Go?

Where do the Town's General Fund Expenditures Go?										
			,							
2024 Budgeted Expenditures										
<u>Item</u>	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Change 23 - 24					
Employee Com	pensation \$ 3,920,666	\$ 4,160,635	\$ 4,442,463	\$ 4,491,006	\$ 48,543					
Capital Items	493,631	400,601	203,550	250,550	47,000					
Contractual	1,609,877	1,633,770	1,706,110	1,789,745	83,635					
Employee Bene	fits 2,587,364	2,822,909	3,492,386	4,013,950	521,564					
Transfers	<u> </u>	<u>584,037</u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>					
Total	\$ 8,611,538	\$ 9,601,952	\$ 9,844,509	\$ 10,545,251	\$ 700,742					
Total Employees Expenses - 80.65%										
Detail Schedule of the Changes 2023 - 2024 in Appendix										

Total Employee Expenses 80.65%

Detail Schedule of the Changes 2023 -2024 in Appendix

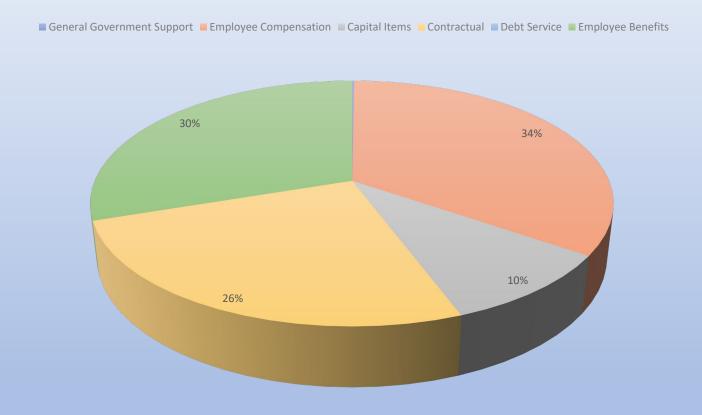
Where do the Town's General Fund Revenues Come From?



Where do the Town's General Fund Revenues Come From?

<u>Item</u>	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>Change 23 - 24</u>
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 6,160,937	\$ 6,374,680	\$ 6,326,163	\$ 6,435,000	\$ 108,837
Non Property Taxes & Fees	595,929	774,232	610,000	593,000	(17,000)
Other Tax Items	343,025	350,010	356,075	410,599	54,524
Departmental Income	455,494	532,254	545,200	419,740	(125,460)
Licenses & Permits	267,899	529,745	269,800	269,800	
Fines & Forfeitures	491,518	529,220	525,000	525,000	-
Use of Property and Money	37,422	163,251	75,200	333,000	257,800
State Aid	578,813	607,665	326,814	326,814	
Federal Aid	122,881	565,459	3,000	-	(3,000)
Sale of Property / Ins. Recoveries	66,917	181,732	61,000	61,000	-
Miscellaneous	95,609	60,989	16,257	162,015	145,758
Fund Balance, Reserves & Transfers		<u> </u>	730,000	1,009,283	279,283
Total	\$ 9,216,444	\$ 10,669,237	\$ 9,844,509	\$ 10,545,251	\$ 700,742
				_	

Where do the Town's Highway Fund Expenditures Go?

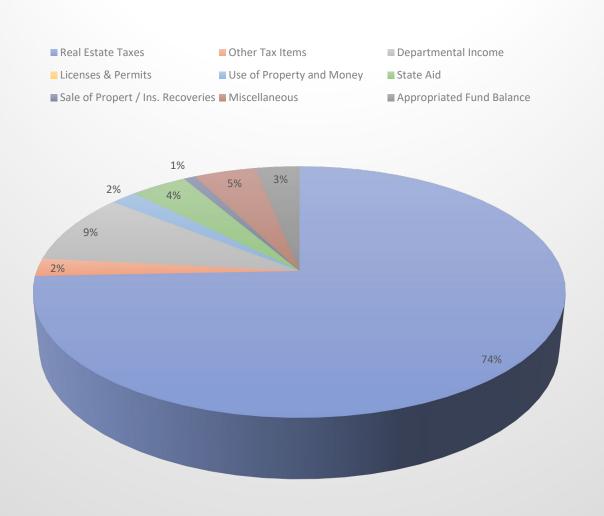


Total Employee Expenses 64.59%

Historical View of Town's Highway Fund Expenses

,	Where do t	he Town's	Highway Fu	ind Expend	ditures Go)			
,	vviicie do t	THE TOWNS	ingiiway i c	and Expend					
		2024 Ri	idgeted Exnen	ditures					
2024 Budgeted Expenditures									
<u>ltem</u>		2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	<u>Change 23 - 24</u>			
General Governr	ment Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5.000	\$ 5,000	\$ -			
Employee Comp	• •	1,076,007							
Capital Items		583,338		351,580					
Contractual			853,956						
Employee Benef	its	738,961							
Debt Service					<u>-</u>				
Total		\$ 3,016,894	\$ 3,673,354	<u>\$ 3,420,878</u>	\$ 3,622,221	<u>\$ 201,343</u>			
		Table 1		64.500/					
		lotal Empl	oyees Expense	s - 64.59%					
	Do	tail Schadula af t	ha Changas 2022	2024 in Annan	div				
	DE	tan Schedule of t	he Changes 2023	- 2024 in Append	XIL				

Where do the Town's Highway Fund Revenues Come From?



Historical View of Town's Highway Fund Revenues

Where do the Town's Highway Fund Revenues Come From?

<u>Item</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Change 23 - 24	
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 2,764,008	\$ 2,774,440	\$ 2,766,300	\$ 2,760,000	\$ (6,300)	
Other Tax Items	66,051	67,852	69,210	84,970	15,760	
Departmental Incom	me 227,642	191,245	302,936	335,341	32,405	
Licenses & Permits	150	50	200	200	-	
Use of Property and	1 Money 3,564	22,514	15,000	70,000	55,000	
State Aid	343,478	343,922	149,580	150,000	420	
Sale of Property / Ins	s. Recoveries 3,836	27,040	31,000	31,000	-	
Miscellaneous	9,320	10,876	86,135	164,481	78,346	
Appropriated Fund E	Balance		86,652	116,570	29,918	
Total	\$ 3,418,049	\$ 3,437,939	\$ 3,507,013	\$ 3,712,562	\$ 205,549	

Fund Balance: What is it?

- Unappropriated Fund Balance is increased by an excess of Revenues less Expenses. Decreased by an excess of Expenses less Revenues.
- The Town has adopted a Fund Balance Policy establishing a Minimum level of Unappropriated Fund Balance "Rainy Day Fund" by Fund.
- Unappropriated Fund Balance over the Minimum levels are Appropriated for Special Reserves. Capital Reserves, Pension Reserves, Compensated Absences.
- Fund Balance Review took place in June and the Town Board approved applying Unappropriated Fund Balance to the 2024 Budget.
- UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE CAN RUN OUT!!!



TownOfUlsterCitizens.org is a non-partisan, citizen-run organization focused on increasing citizen engagement and creating a better Town of Ulster NY.

November 2, 2023

To:

Town of Ulster Town Board

From:

Regis Obijiski (Vice-Chair of ToUC.org), 170 Ledge Road, Town of Ulster

regis.m.obijiski@gmail.com

Re:

Town of Ulster Preliminary 2024 Budget

Good evening, Members of the Town Board:

On behalf of the TownOfUlsterCitizens.org, I wish to offer the following comments on of the town's 2024 preliminary budget. We wish to make three points: 1) Our understanding of this budget; 2) How our town can close a predicted deficit; and 3) A reflection on past financial performance by our Town Board.

1. Thank you for this easy-to-understand Power Point presentation of the 2024 Budget for the Town of Ulster. We like the pie charts that explain where the money comes from to run the town, where it goes, and how things have changed. We also like the explanation of fund balances because each year we tell the town that our unassigned fund balance can pay for any potential increase to property taxes.

a. To be clear to everyone, this presentation concentrates on the town's General Fund and the Highway Fund which represent to homeowners about 65% of the taxes we pay to the town. The other 35% of our taxes represent four important

services: fire, library, water, and sewer.

b. This Preliminary Budget is an improvement to the Tentative Budget presented on October 5 in that it is a reduction of 0.42%. We appreciate that second look.

i. In the 2023 budget prepared this time last year, we enjoyed a slight tax

reduction for which we were grateful.

ii. This year, our Town Board sees fit to raise our taxes by 1.29%. By my calculations, a homeowner whose dwelling has a taxable value (not market value) of \$150,000, the increase in taxes for 2024, as they relate only to the General and Highway Funds, would be less than \$20. That's not much, but, as I said before, this is represents a part of the taxes we pay to our town.

2. The gap that the Town Board is seeking to close is \$902,085? Our Town Board predicts that a shortfall of \$902 K should be made up by an increase in taxes even though they also predict an unassigned fund balance of \$3.3 million (money left over from 2023).

What does this mean? It means that we will have the money available to fill a \$902K hole three times over without raising taxes. If taxes are raised, we will not be funding a deficit but rather a surplus. There is nothing illegal about building a rainy-day fund, and, in some ways, it is desirable to have extra money available. The questions are: whose money is it? And do we have enough?

- 3. If past is prologue, that is, if past behavior predicts future behavior, let's take a brief look at one aspects of our town's past performance.
 - a. The Town of Ulster has justly earned a positive reputation for its fiscal acumen and robust fiscal health. This just does not happen all by itself. It is due to smart, prudent management, and also it is due to generous taxpayers. For both reasons, the past is prologue in the Town of Ulster.
 - b. Over the past 7 years, EFPR, our independent auditors noted a steady growth in the accumulated unassigned fund balances:
 - 1. At the end of **2016**, it was **\$2.0 M which was 26%** of the General Fund expenditures.
 - 2. At the end of **2017**, it was **\$1.9 M which was 25%** of the General Fund expenditures.
 - 3. At the end of **2018**, it was **\$1.8 M which was 23%** of the General Fund expenditures.
 - 4. At the end of **2019**, it was **\$2.7 M which was 33%** of the General Fund expenditures
 - 5. At the end of **2020**, it **was \$3.2 M which was 41%** of the General Fund expenditures.
 - 6. At the end of **2021**, it was **\$3.6M** which was **42%** of the General Fund expenditures.
 - 7. At the end of **2022**, it was **\$4.5M** which was **46**% of the General Fund expenditures.
 - c. There are several short-hand ways to gauge the fiscal health of any municipality at the end of a fiscal year. One of them is called "current ratio," the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. This ratio answers the question of how well can a municipality meet its current bills. The current ratio is determined by dividing current assets (cash and cash equivalents) by current liabilities (current bills).
 - i. A ratio of 1-to-1 indicates a break-even between assets and liabilities.
 - ii. A ratio of 2-to-1 indicates twice the cash needed to meet its current bills.
 - iii. The Town of Ulster's current ratio at the end of 2022 was 10.6-to-1 which is almost 11 times break-even.

In summary, citizens are grateful that the Town Board is transparent regarding our finances. We are asking the Town Board to make a decision not to tax homeowners just to replenish our already high fund balance structure. We are asking the Town Board to close the potential gap of \$902,085 with less than one-third of our unassigned fund balance.

Thank you for all your conscientious work and for welcoming citizen input.