

Minutes of the Budget Workshop and Public Hearing Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mooers held October 27, 2020 at the Mooers Office Complex commencing at 6:30 PM

Present: Jeff Menard, Supervisor
Donald Perras, Councilperson
Christopher Bulriss, Councilperson
Irving Breyette, Councilperson

Recording Secretary: Kelly L. McDonald, Town Clerk

Others Present: None

Absent: Randy LaCount, Councilperson
Kris Gilmore, Highway Superintendent

Meeting: Supervisor Jeff Menard called the Meeting to Order at 6:30PM. Supervisor Menard asked Mrs. Kelly McDonald to lead them in the "Pledge of Allegiance," which she did.

Supervisor Menard stated the purpose of tonight's meeting was to have a Budget Workshop and Public Hearing on the Budget.

Supervisor Menard reviewed what was allotted to stay under the tax cap, and where that money was budgeted. The Board reviewed the changes in the budget and discussed various departments.

Councilperson Perras read a prepared statement from Councilperson LaCount who was unable to attend:

"Pursuant to public comment policy resolution #019-2013 I Randy Lacount request that the following be read at the Public Budget Meeting this Tuesday October 27th (7:00PM) in public comment in regards to my position on 2021 preliminary budget.

I would like you to take into consideration the following please. I have looked over the budget and although I have many questions I will keep it simple, Now isn't the time to raise taxes again and again as you know the whole country is in a state of economic crisis due to the covid virus, statistics show that one in three of the families in our Town have been either out of work or lost jobs since the onset of covid. Economically people just can't afford anymore increases in taxes, to say the least we all live in one of the most taxed states in the country. We all know that internal individual budgets have not been submitted from any department within our budget expenditures. Therefore, how can we raise taxes, and give an increase to any department who has not been fiscally responsible within their own budget! I implore you to stay status quo! Make internal departments and hold all departments fiscally responsible! Don't arbitrarily raise taxes because you can, I will not support any increase whatsoever this year, however some departments are well deserved and are in need of an increase but it's time to do the right thing, stay status quo with the uncertainties of the state and county aid/ funding, when they cut, we will be cutting. Again, now is not the time to enter into any long-term contracts with anyone. I will say in closing, I councilman Randy LaCount who can cast only one vote will not support any increase whatsoever or place anymore burden on our taxpayers this year. Therefore, I will vote "no" to pass the budget as written at the November meeting.

Respectfully, Randy LaCount"

There were several community members present that voiced their opinions of the Budget and asked various questions.

Adjourn: Supervisor Menard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Breyette made a motion, which was seconded by Councilperson Perras. All in favor, and the Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly L. McDonald, TOWN CLERK