

Town of St. Armand
Public Hearings
#1 - 2023 Budget
#2 – 2023 Water and Sewer Rates
#3 Local Law No. 2 of 2022 – Open Meeting Law
Thursday, November 10, 2022 – 6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Supervisor Davina Winemiller, Councilperson Donald Amell, Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell and Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer. Deputy Supervisor Karl Law attended online from Ohio. A quorum of the Board was in attendance.

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Town Clerk Barbara Darrah

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes (in person), and Josh Colby (online). Both are from the community

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Three Public Hearings were held on the above date and time at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY and virtually on-line. The purpose of the Public Hearings was to review the 2023 Preliminary Town Budget, to review the 2023 Water and Sewer Rates, and to review Local Law No. 2 of 2023 to adopt amendments to the New York State Open Meetings Law for the Town of St. Armand.

Notice was posted regarding the date of this meeting.

Supervisor Winemiller called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm and asked all to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Winemiller then asked Town Clerk Barbara Darrah to read the Public Notice.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND
2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR 2023
AND ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2022, “OPEN MEETINGS LAW”**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of St. Armand for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023 has been completed and filed in the Town Clerk’s Office, St. Armand Town Hall, 1702 NYS Route 3, Bloomingdale, New York 12913 where it is available for inspection by any interested parties Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand will hold Public Hearings thereon at the St. Armand Town Hall, 1702 NYS Route 3, Bloomingdale, NY, and via webinar on Thursday, November 10, 2022, beginning at 6:00 pm for discussion on the 2023 Town budget and the Water and Sewer Rates for 2023 and that at such hearings, any person may be heard in favor or against any item(s) contained therein.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY given that immediately following the 2023 Town Budget and 2023 Water and Sewer Rates Public Hearing, a second Public Hearing will be held on the Adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2022, entitled “A Local Law to Adopt Amendments to the New York State Open Meetings Law for the Expanded Use of Videoconferencing in the Town of St. Armand”.

The webinar link is: <https://meet.goto.com/323925693>
By phone: 1 (408)-650-3123 Access Code: 323-925-693

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the Town’s elected officials for 2023 are hereby specified as follows:

Town Supervisor (1)	\$31,440.00
Councilpersons (4)	\$5,793.00
Town Justice (1)	\$22,300.00
Town Clerk (1)	\$14,445.00
Tax Collector (1)	\$5,860.00
Highway Supt. (1)	\$69,982.00

By Order of the St. Armand Town Board
Barbara Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk
Dated Published: October 27, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023 BUDGET

Supervisor Winemiller reviewed the one change in the General Fund. The contingency emergency repairs account on page 3, account A1990.400. Last session, it was \$3,862.00 and she dropped it to \$1,861.00. The reason is on Page 9; the Bloomingdale Overlook went from \$2,000 to zero. The Overlook was audited and it was determined they were not supposed to pay tax. Winemiller stated it did not change the bottom line of the budget.

Winemiller asked if there any questions on the proposed budget?

Sandy Hayes stated he had several questions in order to understand the changes in certain fund accounts. Discussion ensued regarding the accounts and at the end, Sandy stated he better understood the changes and thanked Supervisor Winemiller for her thorough explanations and stated he appreciated her work.

Deputy Supervisor Karl Law stated one goal of the Supervisor and the Town Board was to make the budget transparent and he felt this goal has been accomplished.

Supervisor Winemiller asked if anyone else had any questions.

Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell asked what the \$500 to the Mt. Pisgah? Winemiller responded that Mt. Pisgah has a good ski program and a lot of children from our Town make use of that program.

Supervisor Winemiller asked if there were any other questions, comments or concerns with the proposed budget for 2023. Joshua Colby submitted a comment online, stating the Public Hearing on the budget was very informative and thanked the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 WATER AND SEWER RATES

Supervisor Winemiller reviewed the proposed 2023 Water and Sewer Usage Rates. Water Usage shall increase from \$7.12 to \$7.66 per 1,000 gallons. The Water Debt Service shall decrease from \$1.70 to \$1.68 per unit per quarter. The Water Improvement Capital Reserve Fund shall remain at .50, and the Water Emergency Repair Capital Reserve Fund shall remain at .50 per quarter per unit for properties that are connected to the lines.

The 2023 Sewer Usage Rate shall increase from \$15.32 to \$15.76 per 1,000 gallons. The Sewer Debt Rate shall decrease from \$69.20 to \$69.00 per unit per quarter, and the Sewer Improvement Capital Reserve Fund shall decrease from \$11.60 to \$10.50 per unit per quarter for properties that are connected to the lines.

In reference to NYS Town Law, vacant properties (lots) where the location of the lot runs along existing water and sewer lines within the Town of St. Armand Water and Sewer District are to be charged an amount determined by the Board for Water Debt service and Sewer Debt service. The Water Debt charge for vacant lots will decrease from \$0.85 to \$0.84 per quarter and the Sewer Debt charge for vacant lots will decrease from \$34.60 to \$34.50 per quarter.

The new billing rates shall become effective during the first quarter of 2023, which includes the dates of October 1st through December 31st of 2022, and billed in January 2023.

Supervisor Winemiller asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns with the proposed Water and Sewer rates for 2023. There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. 2 – OPEN MEETINGS LAW

The Local Law # 2 for 2022 - Open Meetings Law was introduced at the September 19, 2022 Budget Work Session. The Town Board reviewed the points of the Law and what it states is necessary for the Board members' actions if attending online verses attending in person. The law is a five-year law and Essex County just passed it recently.

Supervisor Winemiller asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns with Local Law No. 2. There were none.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Supervisor Winemiller announced there would be Budget Adjustment Resolutions done at the November 15, 2022 that would be for adjusting fund balances in the 2022 Budget.

Supervisor Winemiller discussed the AEDA Grant Bid for the installation of the 2nd floor lift. The grant was for \$233,000.00 and the only bid we received was from Terry Brannon Construction for \$288,000.00. Supervisor Winemiller stated she and the contractor would be discussing the work to be done and felt the Town and the contractor could figure out what items could be cut or adjusted.

QUESTION OR CONCERNS FROM GUESTS AND STAFF:

Supervisor Winemiller asked if there were any questions or concerns from anyone. There were none.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer made the Motion to adjourn the Public Hearings. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell. The Public Hearings adjourned at 7:08 pm.

I, Barbara J. Darrah, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Public Hearings held on the above-referenced date.

Dated: November 10, 2022

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

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