

Town of Shandaken

P.O. Box 134, 7209 Rte. 28, Shandaken, NY 12480

“The Heart of the Park…Where the Eagle Soars”

Supervisor: (845) 688-7165

Police: (845) 688-9902

Town Clerk: (845) 688-5004

Justice Court: (845) 688-5005

Assessor: (845) 688-5003

ZBA/ZEO/Planning: (845) 688–5008

Highway: (845) 688-9901

Fax: (845) 688-2041

# Month of November 2013

Upcoming Town Board Topics & Activity

**Budget Hearing:** Tonight we have a Preliminary Budget to be considered for approval as the Final 2014 Budget for the Town. Again, this year we are providing a comparative budget showing the difference in revenues and expenditures from last year to this. As always there has been discussion between Town Board members and there are a few changes being suggested.

First, we are proposing increasing some of the elected officials’ salaries to round them out. The Supervisor, Town Clerk and Assessor Chair will go to $33,000 each; Highway Superintendent goes to $47,500; Justices will go to $17,750 each; and the Assessors will go to $5,250. All General Employees will receive a 2.5% increase. I’d like to thank Mr. Kalb for sitting with me to discuss the Museum, they will be helping to coordinate Shandaken Day activities which moves $1,000 to the Museum Contractual line and adding $500 more. We are also proposing increasing the Museum Director salary to allow for 11 months of operation. We have increased the contributions to the Veterans, Program for the Aging and Senior Lunch Programs by $500 each.

Reductions include the Town Board Contractual to $500, the Supervisor Contractual to $4,000 and Welfare Officer to $1,000.

It should be noted that we’ve reduced our use of fund balance again as it is our belief that we should become less reliant on these funds. We’ve reduced the usage by $10,000 again this year.

Overall, we have a budget that shows a spending plan increase of only 0.06% or $1,465 over last year’s figure of $2,358,962 that relates to a tax increase of 0.23% or $3,945 over last year’s total General taxes of $1,686,832. On the Highway we have an increase of 2.06% or $42,344 over last year’s figure of $2,056,597 that relates to a tax increase of 0.67% or $9,127 over last year’s figure of $1,360,338. Adding in all of the Fire, Water and Lighting Districts the overall tax increase is due to be roughly 0.60%. So, as an example: a homeowner who paid $1,000 in Town taxes last year, would pay $1,006 this coming year.

Of course, we are here tonight to hear all those in favor of and against the budget and proposed changes. We ask that if you wish to speak, please introduce yourself and where you live. The Board will hear all remarks and once all have spoken, we will take them all under consideration and discussion amongst the Board. As always there may be changes proposed, but ultimately it up to the Town Board to vote to adopt the budget following any suggested changes.

*Regular Meeting Information*

**Elections:** I’d like to congratulate Tim Malloy, Faye Storms and Pete DiModica on their election night wins. We look forward to working with them over the coming years be it on the Town Board or in the Assessor’s Office. Although we still have two months remaining I’d like to take the opportunity to thank both Doris Bartlett and Jack Jordan for their years serving this community. On a personal note, I’d like to point out that although I’m sure to see them over the coming years as we will remain friends, it’s always disheartening to see people who I think have represented their constituents well and performed their duties without hesitation leaving office. I will miss you both and wish you both the best in your future endeavors.

**Budget:** Having just completed the Public Hearing on the Budget we will be voting to approve a Final Budget for 2014 including any adjustments made following comments received.

**NYS Comptroller:** The final action we need to perform following a Report of Examination conducted by the Comptroller’s Office, is a letter responding to each of the recommendations made to the Town. This letter, referred to as the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) illustrates actions taken within the offices to correct inadequacies in internal paperwork and procedures. We will read the letter into the record prior to Town Board approval.

**Planning Board:** We have a resolution to re-appoint our members to the Ulster County Planning Board. Keith Holmquist is the Regular member and Bob Kalb is the Alternate member. Also, due to Ms. Storms election win, we will be advertising for the opening that will be created as she has to vacate the seat before taking office with the Town Board. The replacement will be appointed for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Recycling:** Our E-waste recycler informed us earlier this month that they are no longer taking cathode tube TVs free-of-charge. We have been released from the contract with them and secured E-waste recycling from a new firm, Maven Technologies, LLC. This change will not disrupt the availability of the service to the Town’s residents.

**Misc.:** We have other resolutions concerning renewal of our annual contract with the Ulster County Sheriff’s URGENT task force and we are advertising for bids for a new roller for the Highway Department.

You all should have received a mailer concerning the NY Rising communities funding being offered to the Towns of Shandaken and Hardenburgh to assist us flood mitigation and economic development strategies which will lead to shovel ready projects within our communities. I cannot stress enough the importance of your participation in these activities as it may affect you and your home directly. Please join us all at the Upper (Overlook) Lodge at Belleayre Mountain this Saturday, November 9th at 1 pm.

Lastly, Heather Roberts is here to talk about the highlight of Thanksgiving week in Shandaken – this year’s Turkey Trot event.

**Our next regular meeting is scheduled for**

**Monday, December 2, 2013 at 7:00 pm.**