

**Town of Veazie
Town Council Meeting Minutes
12/17/2012**

Members Present: Chairman Tammy Olson, Councilor Chris Bagley, Councilor Joseph Friedman, Councilor Brian Perkins, and Councilor Jonathan Parker. Town Manager Joseph Hayes, Secretary Julie Strout, Tax Assessor Ben Birch, Town Attorney Thomas Russell and various members of the public.

Members Absent: None

Item 1: Call to Order

Chairman Tammy Olson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Item 2: Secretary to do the roll call

All present

Item 3: Joseph Hayes stated that around Nov. 27th, Julie Reed came to him and said things didn't look quite right in the tax commitment and Mr. Hayes and Julie Reed went over the numbers but were having trouble finding the sewer assessment. He called the assessor, Ben Birch, who was getting ready for surgery, said its fine, the numbers are in there. They got together this past Friday, December 14th to go over their figures and realized they had a problem. We discovered that the sewer district assessment was omitted from the total budget. Apparently last year it was included in the municipal budget. Manager Hayes took the sewer assessment, just like the school and county because it's a special assessment, he couldn't change it so he handed it over to the assessor for Ben Birch to add to the total package. In fairness to Ben, last year Ben received the municipal budget with the \$150,000 sewer assessment included. Joseph recognized it as an assessment and said its separate, thought Ben had all the paperwork. Joseph Hayes stated he dropped the ball on this one and as the Town Manager, he will take full responsibility.

Joseph Friedman asked so what's your recommendation to correct it? Mr. Hayes stated that we could use the TIF, but it has restrictions, second we could use the overlay which has \$125,000 available with a combination of cuts in other budgets. The third option would be to use the Designated Working Capital Account which has \$525,000 available.

Jonathan Parker made a motion, seconded by Chris Bagley, that we transfer funds from the Designated Working Capital Account with a stipulation, that between increase budget cuts for this year and the tax commitment for next year that we refund the \$150,000 back into that account. Motion carried. 5-0-0

Chairman Tammy Olsen wanted to add a time frame to review the budget lists. Councilor Jonathan Parker stated that he would like the Town Manager with the Department heads present on the Jan. 7th, 2013 Council Meeting and after reviewing the lists, the councilmen will make a final decision on the Jan. 28th, 2013 Council Meeting.

Councilor Joseph Friedman suggested that he would like to have the manager request a meeting with the Veazie Sewer Trustees to see how we could bring the sewer department under our umbrella. The councilor's agreed that Mr. Hayes should work on getting a joint meeting scheduled in order to have an open discussion.

Item 4: Adjournment

Councilor Jonathan Parker motioned to adjourn.

Councilor Joseph Friedman seconded. No discussion. 5-0-0

Adjourned at 5:23pm.

A True Copy Attest:



Julie L Strout

Deputy Town Clerk