

November 4, 2024- WORK SESSION

The Work Session of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 5:30 PM on Monday, November 4, 2024, at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York.

The members of the Town Board present were:

**Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor
Stephen M. Gardner, Councilperson
Sharon M. Exley, Councilperson
Thomas J. Burns, Councilperson
Danny F. Morabito, Councilperson - Absent**

Also attending:

**Keegan Coughlin, Attorney for the Town
Wendi Evans, Town Clerk**

Also in attendance:

**Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Doyle, Public Works Commissioner
Joel Kie**

5:36 PM: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF DICKINSON FOR THE YEAR 2025

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the Public Hearing at 5:36 PM noting no members of the public present.

**TOWN OF DICKINSON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2025**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget of the Town of Dickinson for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk at Dickinson Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY, where it is available for inspection during office hours.

The Town Board of the Town of Dickinson shall hold a public hearing on said preliminary budget at Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY on November 4, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. showing such changes, alterations and revisions as shall have been made therein by the Town Board. At such public hearing, any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled or for or against items therein contained.

The following are the proposed year 2025 salaries for the elected officials of the Town:

Supervisor \$32,408.00

Town Council members (4)	\$13,064.20 (each)
Town Clerk	\$54,544.00
Public Works Commissioner	\$78,983.00
Town Justices (2)	\$28,389.00 (each)

Pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 258 of the laws of 2008, this shall service as notice of the exemption report. The report is posted on the Town’s bulletin board, is annexed to any tentative or preliminary budget, and shall become part of the final budget.

Interested persons shall be entitled to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget or any portion thereof. Persons with disabilities who require assistance in attending said public hearing, or in furnishing comments and suggestions, should contact the undersigned to request such assistance. Communications in writing in relation thereto may be filed with the Town Board prior to the public hearing.

Dated: October 28, 2024

Wendi Evans
Town Clerk, Town of Dickinson

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT
NOVEMBER WORK SESSION REPORT**

2025 TOWN OF DICKINSON BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2025 Budget Hearing

Expenses:

- We completed several paving projects in 2024 throughout the town and plan to continue road improvement in 2025
- The cost of health insurance will increase by 8% in 2025
- There will be an overall 5% salary increases for appointed employees and elected officials, and 10% increase for highway employees to keep our wages competitive with the marketplace.
- We are planning to start replacing town signage in 2025 and continue with each section over the next few years.
- We’re investing more money for training of our court clerks and judges for NYS Court Conferences in 2025

- We are planning a drainage project for the storm sewers on John Street in 2025.
- NYSLRS has estimated an annual increase of 16% for the Town in 2025. We will make an adjustment to our preliminary budget to cover the shortfall created by NYSLRS (New York State & Local Retirement System) This will have no impact on the property tax rate but instead, we are reducing our building budget for 2025 and placing that expense into the NYSLRS budget.
- We're planning to invest in our sewer infrastructure in 2025 with a project on Fuller Road and a water infrastructure project in 2025 for Fuller, Upper Taft, N. Broome Streets.

Revenue:

- Small increase in property tax for the general fund at 2.0% which keeps us within the NYS Tax Cap Limit.
- Sales tax budget is projected to increase by 5% in 2025
- We've streamlined our Water and Sewer billing costs to help keep the cost and expenses sustainable with tools to help assist with our public works department aware of high-water usage sooner.
- The Town has been investing surplus money in a government approved account with an estimated income of \$25,000 in 2025.

The bottom line is that the Town of Dickinson remains one of the lowest taxed towns in Broome County while continuing to offer many great services that our residents expect from their town. We will continue to seek out ways of saving money through shared services, more efficient operations and increasing our tax base through new developments, both residential and commercial.

Our staff is to be congratulated for their hard work and dedication to the town and its residents.

Our town board continues to do a great job in maintaining our town in an efficient and effective manner while keeping our spending as low as possible.

ATTORNEY

2025 BUDGET

With no further discussion regarding the **2025 Budget**, Attorney Coughlin stated that there will be a resolution to adopt the **2025 Budget** at next week's meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Attorney Coughlin gave an update regarding the tax collections and that he reached out to the county to get some confirmation in writing, and they have not replied yet. If he does not get an answer he will keep calling them. Supervisor Marinaccio commented that it will be on hold till 2026 after talking with many legislators. They will look into negotiations in March/April.

Attorney Coughlin has reached out to Broome Developmental regarding the capital project division to see where they were at with the bidding process. He sent a follow-up and he is waiting on a response from them.

He commented that the solar project will be doing the trees on the hill and fixing the drainage issues.

PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Kie commented that there was a water leak on Sunrise Terrace. The whole street was not affected but it was only shut down for a couple hours.

Next Tuesday Nov. 12th is the last day for yard waste.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Nothing to discuss

FINANCE UPDATE

Councilperson Gardner updated the board on when they adopt the budget at the next meeting that we are in the 2% cap gap. We just got the news that our contribution to the NYS retirement fund has gone up from \$73,760.00 in 2024 to \$94,652.00 for the next contribution we need to make. That is a 28% increase. Health Insurance has an increase of 9% but our health insurance expense for 2025 has gone down from 2024 because of employees that have left the town, and employees that have come in that are single instead of a family plan. The premiums in general are up 9%. We have 3 people on the staff that have the buyout. They get \$7500.00 a year to not take health insurance which is a savings to the town. Another savings is the parking lot was sealed and not

paved. Also not having to get a tax collector for 2025 will not be an added expense as well. These are some items that will be different in the budget next week when it is to be adopted.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to the Prospect Fire Company on receiving a grant of 1 million dollars from the Governor of New York for the expansion of the fire station. We appreciate and thank you for all you do for the community.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Councilperson Burns and seconded by Councilperson Gardner at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Evans
Town Clerk