

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT  
PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET  
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL  
NOVEMBER 5, 2014 @ 6:30 PM**

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL  
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Members Present:

Supervisor Parker Snead  
Councilman Charles Scott  
Councilman Ronald Scouten  
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash  
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski  
Town Clerk Shelley Entwistle

Members Absent:

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor Snead.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:**

Recited.

**LEGAL NOTICE:**

Supervisor Snead read the legal notice.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Supervisor Snead explained that the purpose of this meeting was to accept public comments regarding the proposed 2015 budget.

David Ultsch of the gallery inquired as to the status of the budget officer salary and the supervisor's salary. There was some confusion as to the cuts being made to each position. Supervisor Snead addressed the question and discussion ensued regarding the supervisor salary, and the attraction of qualified candidates to the position in the future.

Another member of the gallery inquired as to the proposed cuts to the planning and codes departments. Discussion followed regarding the importance of both departments, revenue created by these departments, and possible directions to take these departments to improve the general appearance of the town to visitors and potential property owners.

Mr. Ultsch inquired as to the increase in the town attorney's budget for the coming year. Supervisor Snead stated the increase in merely a budget, not an actual salary figure. Mark Ritter of the gallery concurred with Mr. Ultsch's statement that there should be a cap on the attorney's compensation.

Mr. Ultsch also voiced his concerns regarding potentially transferring idle funds to the contingency fund. He feels that it could allow the board to spend money that is

earmarked for other line items.

Art Gleasman inquired as to Supervisor Snead's statement in the local paper that the board has cut \$126,000 from the previous year's budget. He asked how it was done and where is the saving to be used. Discussion ensued regarding budget cuts, sales tax revenue, and transfers from savings.

David Ultsch asked about the number of bonds currently pending for town purchases. Supervisor Snead stated that there are currently three bond notes: One for the bridge project, one for a highway loader, and one for a new highway truck. Supervisor Snead also stated that any leftover monies from the 2014 budget will be used to pay down the principle debt on the bridges.

Ted Entwistle inquired as to the transfer of funds from the savings accounts, and Supervisor Snead addressed the question. Councilwoman Kardash added that \$32,000 from savings will be used to ensure the town tax remains zero for 2015.

Mr. Ultsch asked what the \$10,000 increase in buildings and grounds would be used for, and Supervisor Snead stated that it's purely to cover increasing heating costs.

Mary Ritter inquired if there was funds budgeted to address a mold problem in the basement of the Woodgate School. Supervisor Snead stated he was unaware of such a problem, but it would be dealt with.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to adjourn the hearing. Roll call vote:

Supervisor Snead – yes  
Councilman Scouten – yes  
Councilman Scott – yes  
Councilwoman Kardash – yes  
Councilwoman Kwasniewski – yes

There being no further business the hearing was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Entwistle  
Forestport Town Clerk