

**Minutes of the Geneseo Town Board Special Meeting
November 21, 2023**

Members Present:

William Wadsworth, Town Supervisor
Matthew Griffo, Deputy Town Supervisor (Absent)
Robert Deming, Councilmember
Ron Maxwell, Councilmember
Gary Mix, Councilmember
Ellen M Zapf, RMC, Town Clerk

Visitors:

Eddie Lee

Meeting Opening

Supervisor Wadsworth called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and Councilmember Maxwell led the group in the pledge to the flag. Supervisor Wadsworth requested a moment of silence to be held for service men and women serving around the world.

New Business:

Open Public Hearing for Local Law 3 of 2023 – Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c:

Councilmember Mix Moved, and Councilmember Deming seconded the motion to open the public hearing for Local Law #3 of 2023 entitled “Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c”: at 4:30 PM and welcomed any comments from the public at that time. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Village Trustee and Geneseo Resident Eddie Lee spoke about awareness to the public. The town advertised a public hearing regarding overriding the tax cap but did not state how that would affect the tax rate. This information should be made available.

Mr. Lee also stated that it is hard for municipalities to stay under the tax cap and what the town has done seems very reasonable.

Open Public Hearing for the 2024 Preliminary Budget:

Councilmember Mix Moved, and Councilmember Deming seconded the motion to open the public hearing for the Preliminary budget at 4:45 PM and welcomed any comments from the public at that time. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Village Trustee and Geneseo Resident Eddie Lee stated that he noticed in the budget that the general fund revenues are going up around 30 percent and your overall revenue is going up 29 percent. What is driving the revenue increase?

Supervisor Wadsworth stated that the town is looking at a different way of dealing with the sales tax that is collected by the county and that investing our funds in NYCLASS has increased the amount of interest that the town receives.

Mr. Lee asked where the ARPA funds are in the budget, and it was stated that they are in a liability fund and does not show in the budget.

There was discussion about the discrepancies in the town and village budgets regarding the Historian’s and Justices salaries. He also stated that he did not feel that it looks good for the supervisor and council members to receive pay raises. It was stated that this must be done at certain times so that when someone retires others are interested in taking the position.

Supervisor Wadsworth thanked Mr. Lee for coming.

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Close Public Hearing:

Councilmember Mix Moved, and Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion to close the public hearing for Local Law 3 of 2023. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Adopt Local Law 3 of 2023 – Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c:

Councilmember Deming Moved, and Councilmember Mix seconded the motion to adopt Local Law 3 of 2023:

**LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF THE YEAR 2023
OF THE TOWN OF GENESEO**

A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Geneseo as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Town of Geneseo to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2024, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision five of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Town Board of the Town of Geneseo, in the County of Livingston, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2024, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Set Salary Rate for Account Thomas Lauffer:

Councilmember Deming Moved, and Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion to set the salary rate of Accountant Thomas Lauffer at \$100.00 per hour retroactive from January 12, 2023. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

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Supervisor Wadsworth and Councilmember Mix, who were reelected to the Town Board, took their Oath of Office.

Close Public Hearing:

Councilmember Deming Moved, and Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion to close the public hearing for the 2024 Preliminary Budget. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Adopt the 2024 Preliminary Budget as the 2024 Final Budget:

Councilmember Deming Moved, and Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion to adopt the 2024 Preliminary Budget as the 2024 Final Budget. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Reappoint Scott Kuyon to Board of Assessment Review:

Councilmember Maxwell Moved, and Councilmember Deming seconded the motion to reappoint Scott Kuyon to Board of Assessment Review, term to expire 09/30/2028. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Executive Session:

Councilmember Deming moved, and Councilmember Mix seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss negotiations at 5:28 PM. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-absent. Nays: None.

Close Executive Session:

Councilmember Deming Moved, and Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion to close executive session with no action taken at 5:45 PM. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-aye. Nays: None.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Mix moved, and Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 PM. Motion carried with Wadsworth-aye, Deming-aye, Maxwell-aye, Mix-aye, and Griffo-aye. Nays: None.

Ellen M Zapf, RMC
Town Clerk