

*Public Hearing*  
*2008 Budget*  
November 27, 2007

The Public Hearing on the 2008 Budget was called to order by the Chair at 6:01 P.M. Eight Legislative members were present, Legislator Harrington being absent.

There were 10 people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Chair Weston spoke. “At this time I would remind everyone that this public hearing on the 2008 budget is for public comment only. The Legislators are observers and will not participate in the dialogue. I now turn the meeting over to our Budget Officer, Ron McEwen.”

Ronald McEwen, Budget Officer, gave the 2008 budget presentation.

“Residents of Tioga County and the County Legislature tonight I am presenting the 2008 budget plan for Tioga County. It is through the combined efforts of the Legislature, the Department Heads, and all of the County employees that we are able to present a budget containing a very modest increase for 2008. As you are all aware we are dealing with the increased costs of energy, the same as all of us are. This cost shows up as increases in costs of gasoline in the departments that use vehicles and drivers deliver services. Health insurance and retirement costs have remained relatively unchanged for 2008. The stability of the County tax rate once again is possible barring any additional budget burdens being imposed upon us after tonight.

“General fund expenses have increased from \$60,608,096 in 2007 to \$62,183,555 in the proposed spending plan. This represents an increase of 2.6% or \$1,575,459. Considering payroll increases, energy costs, increased state programs, there have been a significant cost reduction in other areas to absorb this budget gap. General fund revenues have increased by \$703,607. This is only an increase of 0.01% from \$39,034,147 to \$39,737,754 in the 2008 proposal. The overall change in the proposed County spending plan being presented tonight is a decrease of \$464,474. It is proposed that an increase in the appropriated fund balance in the amount of \$600,000 be used to help offset the general fund increase. This will bring the appropriate fund balance in the 2008 budget plan to \$4,000,000. Although the county tax levy will increase \$271,852 or 1.5%, the tax rates vary from town to town and village to village. The composite tax rate for all taxing districts has actually decreased \$0.06 per 1000 of assessed value.

**“Property tax rates for 2007 and 2008 are on the board. As you can see the majority of the municipalities actually have a decrease or somewhere around \$.40 except for the Town of Berkshire, and the Town of Berkshire is a higher increase based on equalization rates and assessed value. The other tax that appears on your bill is a recycling tax. The levy for recycling in the solid waste budget has increased from \$750,461 to \$805,101, an increase of \$54,640 for 2008. Appropriations have actually decreased \$61,360 from 2007, but the revenues have decreased by \$116,000. The composite rate goes from 64.6 cents to 68 cents per 1000 of assessed value.**

**“I would like to point out that the projected tax levy may not be increased without a hearing after tonight and if you would like to make comments to the Legislature the floor is now open. Thank you.”**

**Chair Weston asked if anyone had any comments. There being none, the hearing was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.**