

Town of Newfield Public Hearing  
November 8, 2012

A public hearing was held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 for the purpose of allowing public comment and opinion on the proposed Local Law No. 2-2012 to permit an override vote of the New York State Tax Cap Law. Present were: Councilperson Trask, Councilperson James, Councilperson Laughlin, Councilperson Powers, and Supervisor Driscoll.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Driscoll at 7:00PM. The public hearing was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance by Supervisor Driscoll.

Jeff Golden asked what the detail of the purpose Law would be. Attorney Hooks explained that if the override is not in place, and then the budget exceeded the 2% that would mean the Town would be charged for whatever the budget is. Essentially, it would be a penalty. Councilperson James also added that it is the calculation of the tax cap in itself and if the Town is calculating at the cap and that is what is being put in place. However if the State comes in and chooses to audit the town and some bad math happened, the Town would be obligated to return the funds in some way. Supervisor Driscoll asked Councilperson James if she would explain what the discovery was by the Office of the State Comptroller in terms of the first year experience in municipalities in the state. Councilperson James explained that she had watched a webinar from the Office of the State Comptroller last month. Of the sample that was audited over 60% were in error. Mostly because of the calculations and because people are unsure of it. She added that this law is an insurance policy. Attorney Hooks added that if the tax levy were to exceed the tax cap, the funds would need to be put into reserve as the law states. If the override is in place, it remedies that.

At 7:15 the public hearing was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Miller Kenerson  
Town Clerk

November 19, 2012  
Date