



TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 9

Submitted by: David Sullivan, Supervisor

Number 45

2020 Preliminary Budget

Please note that this is a preliminary budget and that more detail work is needed to present a final 2020 budget on November 7, 2019.

Highlights of the Preliminary Budget:

Overall expense budget will be about \$3.3 million, a **decrease** of more than \$100,000 from the adopted 2019 budget. This is mainly due to reduction in wages and pension costs due to retirements.

The proposed town tax levy of \$1,173,337 is an **increase** of \$106,746 from 2019. This is mainly due to the fact that non property revenues, like sales tax, are down considerably since the change in the distribution formula in 2015. From 2011-2014 the town's average sales tax revenue was \$1.5 million annually. From 2015-2018, the town averaged about \$1.1 million. Further, during this same period municipalities were subject to a 2% Tax Cap imposed by New York State. In addition, we added debt service for the roof project. 2020 is the first year the Town has pierced the cap.

In West Elmira residents will see an increase of about .25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (about a \$38 dollar increase on a home assessed at \$150,000). In Elmira Heights and on East Hill the increase would .27 cents per thousand (about \$41 for a \$150,000 home). Outside of West Elmira residents do not pay for special districts like Traffic and Park.

What could change?

Moving toward the final 2020 budget the staff will refine their projections, gather more detail, finalize outside contracts, and adopt a final budget on November 7, 2019. Detail on the final budget will be presented at the November 18th board meeting, at 7 PM.

TOWN OF ELMIRA HONORS TOM SANTULLI WITH MILLIKEN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

At an October 2nd press conference held at the Elmira Town Hall, town officials presented retired Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli with the 2019 Connie Milliken Public Service Award. The Elmira Town Board established the award earlier this year, and at its September 16, 2019 board meeting voted unanimously to make Tom Santulli the first recipient of the Connie Milliken Award for Public Service. Santulli represents the very model of a public servant, dedicating 36 years to public life, including eight years on the Elmira City Council, 10 years as Deputy County Executive and 18 years as County Executive.



“Tom Santulli worked tirelessly for our community”, according to Town Supervisor David Sullivan. “He was always looking for new economic opportunities for Chemung County, quality of life initiatives, and was always available to discuss ideas or concerns.”

The award is named in honor of Cornelius J. “Connie” Milliken (1928-2012), long-time town resident and revered public servant. Milliken represented the 7th District, which includes the Town of Elmira, on the Chemung County Legislature for nearly four decades, including nine years as Chairman. In addition to elected service, Milliken volunteered his time for several local non-profit boards and was a tireless advocate for improving the quality of life here in Chemung County.

CONGRATULATIONS, PETE MICHALKO!



After more than 30 years of dedicated service, Pete Michalko has retired. Pete first began his career in law enforcement serving with the Steuben County Sheriff's Office for a few years. He would go on to spend the next three decades serving with the West Elmira Police Department, with the last 12 years as Police Chief.



Besides being a dedicated officer, he was also a firefighter with the West Elmira Fire Department. Pete said that he enjoys helping the public, and when the opportunity presented itself for him to be able to do both, he took it. He loved to help people, save lives, and worked hard to make a difference.

Pete is thankful for serving the residents of West Elmira and brought honor, integrity, fairness, and compassion to the department and the community. He is honored to have the opportunity to work alongside and recruit some of the finest and most experienced officers in New York State. He has a lot of fond memories that he is taking with him as he moves on to his next chapter.

Pete is leaving the department in very capable hands as Tom Barr has been appointed Chief. Pete is confident that the transition will be smooth, and the level of community policing will continue at its highest level.

Tom Barr spent four years in the Marine Corp and worked at the Hilliard Corporation before becoming a police officer. He started his career in law enforcement in the Chemung County Sheriff's Department working in the Chemung County Jail. In 2009, he transitioned to the West Elmira Police Department, where he worked alongside Chief Michalko.

In a statement, Chief Barr said, "There is no place I would rather serve. I look forward to carrying on the work of past West Elmira Police Chiefs. The experience, professionalism, and dedication we currently have working in the West Elmira Police Department is top notch. Each officer brings a different aspect to community policing and is proud to be part of a great community like West Elmira."

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The West Elmira Fire Department would like you to know that there are four common types of fires. Making you aware of these common types of fires we hope will help to reduce or even eliminate the risk of starting a fire.

1. Kitchen Fires

The most common type of fire in the U.S. is the kitchen fire. The reason that the kitchen is the source of many fire hazards is because the kitchen is where heat, electricity, water, and grease come together. The most common type of kitchen fire is the grease fire.

A grease fire is extremely dangerous as it can get out of control quickly and spread from the stove throughout the kitchen and into other rooms of the house. Many grease fires occur because someone leaves a frying pan on the stove unattended. These fires can also happen when someone overheats a pan during attended cooking. Grease fires cause serious injury and extensive property damage.



2. Electrical Fires

Several factors can cause an electrical fire, including faulty appliances, worn or defective electrical wiring, improper use of electrical outlets and worn out breaker boxes.

Older homes often do not have the proper wiring to handle the number of electrical appliances in use today. Often old wiring becomes frayed or worn, causing shorts and sparks that can ignite.

Old breaker boxes are made to shut off electrical current when the circuit becomes overloaded as a fire prevention measure, but often the connections are worn or broken and do not activate the breaker switch.

3. Heater Fires



This type of fire is particularly common in the winter months. Portable heaters should always have automatic shutoffs that activate when they overheat as a fire precaution.

Coil space heaters are especially hazardous because the coils will ignite anything combustible nearby. Extension cords should not be used with space heaters as they generate too much electricity and can start a fire.

Always keep any space heater at least three feet from anything combustible. That includes curtains, bedding, clothing and furniture. Always shut space heaters off when you're not in the room.

4. Smoking-Related Fires

Fires caused by cigarettes account for about 1,000 deaths in the U.S. every year. Many times, the smoker is not the person who dies. Most smoking fires are started by embers igniting on furniture, bedding and trash cans. Never smoke in bed and never smoke when you are tired, intoxicated, or drowsy from medication. Do not place ashtrays on flammable surfaces like couches, chairs, or beds where they can tip over and start a fire. Smokers should always be sure cigarettes are completely extinguished before emptying ashtrays into the trash.

The best way to prevent smoking-related fires is to smoke outside the house and have a can filled with sand to extinguish cigarette butts.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

MATT MUSTICO

Friendly Reminder:

Odd even parking will start in November



Leaf pickup will begin on November 4th and go until December 6th, (weather permitting). The highway department will pick up leaves only! You can bag them or leave them loose. They should be left on the curbside and away from storm drains. Please do not put leaves out for pick up before November 1st, they will not be picked up early and it will be your responsibility if they blow around.



The Compost facility at the west end highway garage is open to West Elmira residents for yard clippings, small branches and leaves. A free compost permit is available at the Town Clerk's office Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm. You MUST bring a driver's license with current address on it and know your license plate number. The Compost will be open every day weather permitting. This facility is closed for the Winter months.

Road construction has begun at the intersection of Coleman Ave and 352, down York Ave. Please remember to slow down when traveling through the work zone. This is a County project and is scheduled to be finished in November. There are detour signs placed to help those living in that area. We appreciate your patience as we work to complete these projects. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the County Clerk's office at (607) 737-2920.



TOWN OF ELMIRA'S LIBRARY CONTINUED

Come join us for a fun time of stories, music and movement! This story time is geared for preschoolers, aged 18 months- 4 years.

Have children ages 18 months to 4 years?

Tots and Tales Story Time is for you!

Thursdays, Sept. 12- Dec. 12
at 10:30 for stories, songs and fun
with Miss Ahnece!



Discover the benefits of yoga with this free program, suitable for all ages and abilities, taught by certified yoga instructor, Karen Clark Romans.

A colorful poster for a yoga program. The text reads: "Gentle Yoga with Karen At West Elmira", "Tuesdays 11:00-12:00", and "Discover the benefits of yoga with this free program, suitable for all ages and abilities, taught by certified yoga instructor, Karen Clark Romans." The poster features a woman in a yoga pose, a circular graphic with a person, and decorative floral and swirl patterns. The CCLD logo is in the bottom left corner.

**Gentle Yoga
with Karen
At West Elmira**

**Tuesdays
11:00-12:00**

Discover the benefits of yoga
with this free program, suitable
for all ages and abilities, taught
by certified yoga instructor,
Karen Clark Romans.

CCLD

Chemung County Library District

Library · Elmira, New York Hours:

<http://ccl.d.lib.ny.us/hours-locations/>

Steele Memorial Library - (607) 733-9173 • West Elmira Branch - (607) 733-0541

Bookmobile - (607) 738-2476

TOWN NEWS

Did you Know

Two home repair programs are available to assist with home repairs. Each home repair program focuses on weatherization, handicap accessibility upgrades, Repairs (heating systems, electrical, plumbing, septic, issues related to health & safety), and Essential components (doors, roof replacement, windows, stairs, safe entryways, etc.).

NYS HOME Program - The NYS Home Program uses federal HOME Investment Partnership Program funds to rehabilitate single-family, income-eligible, owner-occupied to eliminate critical health and safety threats and/or hazards in the home. The HOME program partners with

HOME Program funds may only be used for owner-occupied rehabilitation projects and are subject to limitations set forth by federal regulations. Additionally, homes must pass an initial inspection, including lead and radon testing, weatherization audits, and an environmental/energy review.

NYS Affordable Housing Corporation - funding assistance for necessary home repairs. Cosmetics will not be permitted; these include siding, painting or driveways and/or work to detached garages/carports that do not carry the same roof-line as your dwelling. Program goals are to eliminate threats to health and safety and will be made a priority.

Deferred loan assistance for home repairs will be made available to homeowners in Chemung, Steuben, and Schuyler Counties. Eligible participants must own, and have resided in, the home in question for no less than one year before the application date and be up-to-date on all property and mortgage payments

What type of rehabilitation work is permitted?

Rehabilitation activities can include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Structural Problems - repair or replacement of defective foundations, roof systems, floor systems, exterior wall systems, and load-bearing partitions or columns.
- Roofing - replacement of defective roofs. Electrical System - repair or replacement of faulty or hazardous components
- Heating System - repair or replacement of heating systems or chimneys to eliminate unsafe conditions
- Plumbing System - repair or replacement of faulty water lines, drain lines, faucets, fixtures, water pumps, or water heaters.
- Windows and Doors - repair or replacement or inoperable, energy-inefficient or otherwise defective windows and doors, and Insulation.

For more information on these programs you can contact;
Community Progress Inc – (607)962-3506
Arbor Housing- (607)654-7487



TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER

By Patty Carozza

The Town Community Center housed our annual Town Camps over the summer. We had five sessions and were held Monday – Friday from 9 – 2. Camps that were offered included basketball, games, outdoor,



and baseball. Attendance was excellent, and campers learned skills and good sportsmanship, played games, and met some new friends. Every day ended with a trip to the pool to cool down. We are planning to continue the camps again next summer, which are under the direction of Bob Demeter, so please look for sign-ups in May. Also, a special thank you to Coaches Jason Stuke, Troy Monks, Jerry Laney, and Scott Whalen. They are truly excellent coaches and made it a fun summer for the campers.

If you are interested in learning more about computers or need help with a few tech tricks, we offer a computer class every second and fourth Sunday of the month. The class runs from 1 -3 and is free. The instructor, Marlene Andes, is very tech-savvy and loves to assist with projects. Please feel free to stop in and see what it's all about.



A reminder for anyone interested in renting the TCC for an event: Book Early. The center has become a hot spot and is a nice, centrally located place. It offers a kitchen, use of chairs and tables, and it is very reasonable to rent. If you are interested in renting, please email me at patty.carozza61@gmail.com.

TOWN ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Below you will find the information on paying your Tax bills and who to contact regarding questions or concerns.

SCHOOL TAX:

The Elmira City School District has two installment payments. The payments are due October 31st and March 31st every year.

All payments can be mailed to the School Tax Collector at PO Box 5504, Binghamton NY 13902-5504. You can also make your payments in person at a Community Bank, NA or with a credit card for an additional fee. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Elmira City School Tax Collector at (607)735-3017. After March 31st you can contact the Chemung County Clerk's office at (607)737-2927

TOWN & COUNTY TAX:

All Town of Elmira and County taxes are on one bill and due by January 31st each year. Bills are payable in person or by mail at the Town of Elmira's Town Hall, 1255 West Water Street, Elmira NY 14905.

Please contact the Town Assessor's office with any questions regarding any change of address or exemption at (607) 734-1486.

Contact Us

We Still answer the phones!

David Sullivan (Supervisor) 734-2031
Jo Ann Sherwood (Town Clerk) 734-2031
Tammy Stein (Deputy Clerk) 734-2031
Liz Lucarelli (Court Clerk) 734-5971
Eric Crandall (Code Enforcement Officer) 734-3608
Bruce Stanko (Assessor) 734-1486
Becky Carpenter (Assessor Aide) 734-1486
Tom Barr (Chief of Police) 8:30 - 4:30 - 734-2031
Matt Mustico (Highway Superintendent) 734-0199

Councilpersons

Ron Allison 734-6474
Scott Bush 733-5899
Thomas Milliken 732-6760
Faith Pipher 732-8662



Police Business After Hours 735-8600

CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

The importance of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors and smoke alarms cannot be overstated! The law requires that a CO detector be installed on the lowest sleeping level and where CO may be produced, like near boilers or water heaters.

New York State law requires smoke alarms to be inside every bedroom or room in which someone sleeps. In addition to the bedrooms, smoke alarms must also be present in areas adjacent to any sleeping area, such as a hallway. There should be a smoke alarm on every floor of the house from the basement to the attic.



Code requirements for new construction or renovations state that smoke alarms must be hard-wired directly into the home's electrical system and be provided with a backup battery to keep the unit functioning during a power failure. Alarms are required to beep or otherwise indicate when the backup battery's power is low. Smoke alarms powered by batteries alone are allowed if the home was built before building codes required hard-wired units.

If you have any questions regarding the code requirements for your Carbon Monoxide Detector or Smoke Alarm, please contact Eric Crandall, Code Officer at (607) 734-3608

Town of Elmira
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Elmira, New York 14905

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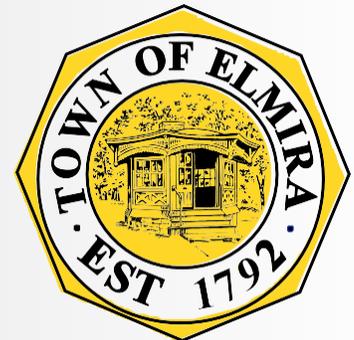
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