**TOWN OF PENDLETON**
**PUBLIC HEARING**
November 6, 2025

Supervisor Maerten, Councilman Buechler, Councilman Lombardo and Councilman Rumbold were present. Councilman Hickman was absent.

Also present:
Deborah Maurer – Town Clerk
Tom Maturski - Budget Officer

There were three residents in attendance.

Supervisor Maerten opened the Public Hearing, beginning with Part 1, at 7:04 p.m.

The notice for the Public Hearings was published in the *Lockport Union Sun & Journal* on October 30, 2025 and on the Town's website.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is as indicated below:

Public Hearing Part 1 on the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, as required by Town Law §108 for the purpose of considering the Preliminary Budget, and receiving comments from the public relative thereto. Said Budget was on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of Pendleton and available for inspection by any interested person during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Preliminary Budget was also be located on the Town's website at www.pendletonny.gov.

Pursuant to §108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following Town Officers are hereby specified as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SUPERVISOR | $ | 29,756.00 |
| COUNCIL (4 @ $12,730.75 each) | $ | 50,923.00 |
| TOWN CLERK | $ | 64,880.00 |
| SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS | $ | 58,827.00 |

Supervisor Maerten opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments for Part 1.

Motion made by Councilman Lombardo, seconded by Councilman Buechler, to close Public Hearing Part 1 at 7:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Supervisor Maerten opened Public Hearing Part 2 at 7:04 p.m.

Public Hearing Part 2 on amounts to be raised by taxation for Special Districts in the following districts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PENDLETON WATER DISTRICTS | $ | 61,795.00 |
| PENDLETON REFUSE DISTRICT | $ | 660,889.96 |
| PENDLETON FIRE DISTRICT | $ | 679,623.00 |

The Special Assessment Rolls have been completed for such districts as required and all tax rates established for benefit districts. All persons interested were heard at the Public Hearing held by the Town Board relative to assessments and amounts to be raised in said districts, and to hear any objections to the Special Assessment Rolls, which were available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Maerten opened the floor for public comments for Part 2.

No public comments were made during Part 2 of the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilman Buechler, seconded by Councilman Rumbold, to close Public Hearing Part 2 at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Supervisor Maerten opened Public Hearing Part 3 at 7:05 p.m.

Public Hearing Part 3 to authorize a contract with the Wendelville Fire Company, Inc. at a yearly amount as follows:

WENDELVILLE FIRE COMPANY, INC $ 481,010.00

FURTHER NOTICE is given that pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §495, the Exemption report that shows total assessed value on the Final Assessment Roll that was used in the budgetary process that is exempt from taxation is on file with the Preliminary 2026 Budget.

Supervisor Maerten opened the floor for public comments for Part 3.

No public comments were made specifically for Part 3 of the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilman Rumbold, seconded by Councilman Lombardo, to close Public Hearing Part 3 at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Although a motion had been made to close the Public Hearing, it was determined that there was some confusion regarding when public comments should have been offered. As a result, Supervisor Maerten allowed the public to provide comments at the conclusion of the hearing.

Mrs. Annmarie Reeb began by submitting a written statement to the Town Clerk for distribution to the Board, which included a reference to NYS Town Law, Chapter 62, Article 8, §107, *Contents of Preliminary Budget*. She expressed concerns about discrepancies between the budget version she received through a FOIL request and the version presented publicly. She questioned the purpose of code SS5000, stated that certain funds were not reported accurately—specifically referencing the use of restricted reserves—and asserted that the coding used for the LOSAP funds was incorrect.

Mr. Ed Harman stated that it was inappropriate for the Town to use restricted reserve funds to balance the budget. He noted that restricted funds are intended to be set aside from the operating budget for capital projects and asserted that the Town is using these reserves as a “slush fund” without proper oversight.

Mrs. Sara Siracuse agreed with the previous speakers and stated that the reporting presented to the public is misleading. She expressed concern that the H Fund is not included in the budget, which she believes reduces transparency. She also questioned why fund balances are not shown in the budget and stated that the overall budget process is frustrating.

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Deborah K. Maurer, Town Clerk