

## **SPECIAL MEETING, GREAT VALLEY TOWN BOARD, MARCH 5, 2018**

The Great Valley Town Board held a special meeting on March 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Great Valley Town Hall with the following members present:

PRESENT	Supervisor	Dan Brown
	Councilman	Gerry Musall
	Councilwoman	Lori Finch
	Councilwoman	Becky Kruszynski
	Councilwoman	Sandra Goode
	Supervisor's Clerk	Hildagarde Krause

OTHERS: Co. Legislator Dave Koch, Bev and Joe Cutre, Bruce Houghton, Bart Szfranicki, Judy Gebauer, Al Puszcz, Kallen Quigley

Supervisor Brown called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:03 pm.

Supervisor Brown gave an overview of the progress that has been made on the 2018 Property Tax by stating the Town Board has received an estimate from Tonconi Segarra & Associates of \$29,000 to start the process of manually inputting data from the County because the software the County uses is from the 1990's and cannot be converted to a usable format. This does not include consultation time to determine the amount to be refunded, amending the Town's 2018 budget, or preparing the information to be presented to the State Legislature, or the cost of checks, envelopes and postage. The State Sales Tax revenue will not be available to the Town until early in the fall to begin the refund process. Supervisor Brown stated he feels a greater and more beneficial impact to a greater number of tax payers can be made by lowering the tax warrant next year, especially since any extra money can be legally applied to the County tax levy.

Councilman Musall stated he believes the Board should still make the request through the State Legislature to legally issue a refund, so the Board has more time to get definite cost estimates and make an informed decision. County Legislator Koch raised the question that if the State grants permission to rewrite the tax warrant for 2018, the Town may be bound to that course of action.

Resident Bart Szfranicki raised issues with escrowed mortgages, and noted that it will take 2-3 years for the mortgage companies to catch up with our tax situation.

Supervisor Brown explained why the Town requested the Sales Tax money from the County in the first place, the Town Clerk noted that this is the first year ever that residents have a true reflection of what the County charges the Town through taxes annually. Supervisor Brown acknowledged that, sadly, it will take escrow companies several years to be positively impacted. The Supervisor also stated that a letter would be written to send to escrow companies, but the Board would wait until next week's meeting and ask the Town's Attorney, along with Andrew Toth, from Tronconi, Segarra & Associates to compose that letter and make it available for homeowners as soon as possible.

MOTION was made by Councilwoman Goode, seconded by Councilman Musall to take no action to refund money at this time, but to focus on rectifying the situation with the 2019 Town Budget. Councilman Kruszynski and Supervisor Brown agreed, with Councilwoman Finch casting the single NAY vote. Councilwoman Goode noted for the minutes that any unexpended fund balance should be applied to the 2019 County Tax Warrant.

## **SPECIAL MEETING, GREAT VALLEY TOWN BOARD, MARCH 5, 2018**

**Cont.**

**Page Two**

Resident Bev Cutre stated the Board is acting recklessly, and wants action to be taken immediately to refund the overcharge to tax payers. Supervisor Brown explained that given the cost to issue a refund, and the time it would take; no refund could be issued until at least late August, that the best choice would be to wait and fix the overcharge in 2019. Ultimately, the choices of the Board would be to be able to issue a percentage of the tax increase in the fall, or wait until January, when the Town tax line would be significantly reduced.

MOTION was made by Councilman Musall, seconded by Councilwoman Goode to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:10 pm. All in agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_, Toni Evans, Town Clerk