**PUBLIC HEARING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**OCTOBER 29, 2024**

A Public Hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Elizabethtown, County of Essex in the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 7563 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY on October 29, 2024, and the public was welcome to attend.

PRESENT: Cathleen Reusser-Supervisor

 Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

 Ben Morris-Councilperson

 William Wright-Councilperson

 Adam Bailey-Councilperson

GUESTS: Paige Saltamach, Robert Lakstigala, Marsha Fenimore, Ken Fenimore, Jack Pulsifer and Mike Dunsmore.

Start time: 5:00 PM

-This Public Hearing was held to discuss elevating the NYS Property Tax Cap.

-The Supervisor explained that because of the conservative budget and the 2 storms the town will need to spend more monies. Have a 6.5 million infrastructure cost due to these storms and there is not enough in the reserves. Will be able to repay ourselves at some point in time but have to wait for FEMA. The hope is that the budget will only go from the 2% allowed increase to 3%.

-Councilperson Bailey asked when the last increase to the tax cap was done and was told it hadn’t ever been done.

-Councilperson Wright reminded the Board that the cost of the Ambulance service went up about $9000.00.

-Ken Fenimore asked what the current fund balance is and was told $319,000.00. Discussed various amounts in the budget line items.

-Mr. Lakstigala questioned the amount for the Ambulance District.

-Mr. Fenimore asked questions about some fund transfers regarding ARPA funds put into General funds. Discussed the error that happened regarding these funds which the Councilperson Allott explained was reversed and explained. Mr. Fenimore also questioned how the Bond anticipation note would be paid off if it is not reimbursable and was told it would be by the sewer tax district on land taxes.

-He also questioned why Water District 3 being $80,000.00 in the hole and was told that it is not but that would be explained after the Board ended this Public Hearing.

This Public Hearing ended at 5:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Cross,

Elizabethtown Town Clerk