TOWN OF JAY
Office of the Town Clerk
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2027 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing
November 5, 2026
Community Center @ 7:00pm

Present: Supervisor Matthew Stanley, Councilman Tom McDonald, Councilman Steve Forbes, Councilor Olivia Dwyer, Deputy Town Clerk Tamber McCabe

Absent: Councilman Knut Sauer, Town Clerk Carol Greenley-Hackel
Others: Highway Superintendent Chris Sorrell

Via Go-To: John P, EV, GG, Guest, J, Eric Carey

Meeting called to order @ 7:00pm by Supervisor Stanley

Pledge to the Flag led by Supervisor Stanley

Supervisor Stanley read the Public Hearing Notice

Supervisor Stanley started the meeting with the following information:

Over the course of three extended budget workshops, the Town Board conducted a line-by-line review of town spending. Our focus throughout has been to rein in expenses wherever possible while protecting the essential services our community relies on every day.

Through these working sessions, we made substantial reductions from our starting figures to establish a Preliminary Budget tax levy of **$2,557,906.63**.

To put that figure into context:

- **Compared to last year:** Our 2026 tax levy was $2,385,889. The preliminary levy reflects an increase of **7.2% ($172,017.63)**.
- **Compared to the State Tax Cap:** Our state-calculated tax cap limit for 2027 is $2,479,027. Through ongoing cuts, we brought the proposed levy down to **3.2% ($78,879.63) over the cap**.

Several key factors and intentional trade-offs shaped this budget:

- **Reduced Carryover:** We faced tighter revenue heading into 2027. We were only able to carry over **$160,000** from 2026, which is **$100,000 less** than what we carried over in last year's budget.
- **Regional Inflation:** Like households across our area, the town is absorbing cost increases in electricity, heating and diesel fuel, and Health and Liability insurance.
- **Staffing & Wages:** We budgeted a **3% wage increase for Town employees** to support the staff delivering our daily services, while **keeping all elected officials' salaries flat** with last year.
- **Responsible Capital Planning:** We added **$50,000 to our highway equipment line** to stay on track with our 10-year equipment replacement plan, avoiding costly emergency purchases down the road.
- **Targeted Reductions & Long-Term Reserves:** We removed **$20,000 from the Garage Contractual line**. Instead of paying for building upkeep strictly through the operating budget, we plan to explore establishing a dedicated building maintenance reserve to systematically save and plan for future building repairs.

Tonight's hearing is an opportunity for the board to listen to you. We welcome your feedback and comments as we work toward final adoption.

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Audience Comments: None

Go-To Comments: None

Board Comments:

Councilman Forbes: I am good with the budget, it is not where we wanted it to be, but we did all we could do to keep it in check and reasonable while still providing the services that people in town expect from us.

Councilman McDonald: From the Tentative Budget that we started with, we have done very well in the three budget sessions to bring this down to where it is now. With the costs of everything I feel really comfortable with what we ended up with. It would have been nice to have more raises, but we have to balance a fine line between our employees and our taxpayers.

Councilman Dwyer: I appreciate the time spent with the Board as we worked on the budget. This is a process that starts in August for our department heads and town employees. Many difficult conversations have occurred in order to find savings to keep costs under control while still providing excellent services. Thank you to the town employees for their hard work on the budget, as well as the work ethic and care they bring every day to making sure that tax dollars are spent responsibly and wisely to provide services. While it is always our goal to minimize the tax levy, some of the non-discretionary costs this year have made the numbers what they are. Thanks again for all the work that went into creating next year's budget.

Last Call for Audience Comments in person or via go-to: None

Supervisor Stanley: The recording of this meeting will be online for people to hear tonight's budget information. The preliminary budget is also on the website under our documents and forms tabs. If you would like a printed copy, you can see the Town Clerk to obtain one.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman McDonald, second by Councilor Dwyer, meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Resolution #2026-234

Submitted by,

Tamber McCabe

Deputy Town Clerk