

**Village Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2012**

Present: Mayor Lee, Trustees Horylev, Speer, Gates, Bimmler
Village Manager Janet SurrIDGE
Treasurer Maryalice Edwards
Village Clerk Shari Pearce
Superintendent Mike McHenry
Asst. Superintendent, Keith Brown
Code Enforcement Officer Mike Lissow
DPW Employees, Jim Liese and Russ Zurick

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Joe Lee.

There was no one present from the public.

Employee Benefits

Trustee Gates informed the employee representatives Mr. Liese and Mr. Zurick that after further discussion and consideration, the board has agreed to give a three (3) percent cost of living wage increase instead of 2.5%. This decision was made as a compromise since the employees have agreed to pay an additional 10% more towards their health care deductible. It was also mentioned by Trustee Speer that the employees have to be aware that the Village Board needs to look at health care every year due to the rising costs.

10 Canning Street

Janet SurrIDGE stated that Ken Sixt is withdrawing his purchase offer based on the findings of the Phase 1 Environmental study that was prepared by Labella. Janet SurrIDGE stated she has no information as to what was found. She mentioned that if the Village undertakes a phase II study at our expense, it may be possible to keep this real estate deal moving forward. Discussion followed. Mrs SurrIDGE was asked to investigate the costs for a phase II study and report back to the Board.

Property Tax Cap Legislation

Janet SurrIDGE discussed with the board the option we have to pass a local law that could over-ride State Property Tax Cap Law. Even though we have no intention of exceeding the 2% tax cap, this law essentially provides protection to the Village if in case a calculation error is found later on. Mayor Lee and Trustees Gates, Bimmler, and Speer are not in favor of enacting the local law. Trustee Horylev stated he feels for protection purposes only, the property tax cap local law should be passed.

Proposed Budget 2012-13

Trustee Gates gave a few opening remarks about the budget and the strategies the team used to estimate revenue and expenses. The Board went through the budget and asked some questions for clarification. Then the following discussions took place:

- Loan between the General & Electric Funds: Mrs. Surridge reported that she spoke with NYCOM and learned that it is legal for the Village to expend money from the Electric fund for any legitimate municipal purpose. She noted the electric fund has an adequate fund balance and it is the budget team's recommendation that the loan not be re-paid.

Resolution to authorize the Treasurer to cancel the debt that is logged in our financial records showing that the General Fund owes the Electric Fund \$60,000. The Village Board makes this decision because the funds were used to finance a portion of the DPW addition which is a municipal purpose. Trustee Speer made the motion, seconded by Trustee Horylev. Carried unanimously 5-0.

- Community Center Repairs: Discussion took place surrounding future improvements for the Community Center. In the proposed budget there is \$18,000.00 targeted to repair the ramp on the south side of the building and \$7,000.00 to put towards repairing the gym floor. An idea of having a comprehensive plan created was discussed to target future improvements and future projects to the building. Trustee Horylev stated it doesn't seem realistic to spend money on a plan if we cannot afford to do anything other than essential maintenance items. He feels the next five years we will only be able to make the necessary repairs. The board decided to concentrate on just maintaining the building and asked Janet Surridge to obtain a price to repair/replace the gym floor.
- Sewer rate: Discussion took place regarding increasing the sewer rates from \$100.00 to \$125.00 annually for residential users and \$31.25/per 15,000 gallons of water for all other users. Superintendent Mike McHenry stated there are a significant amount of future sewer projects ahead of us to maintain the sewers and these types of repairs are very expensive. He was in favor of increasing the rates; this will allow us to build up our reserve balance to help offset the costs of these repairs. General discussion followed. The board was in agreement to increase the sewer fees.

Public Hearing for budget

Resolution to set the Public Hearing for the 2012-13 budget for April 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. The proposed tax rate is \$2.53/thousand. Trustee Horylev made the motion, seconded by Trustee Speer. Carried unanimously 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Shari Pearce, Village Clerk

