

**PROCEEDINGS OF A BUDGET MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Monday, March 7, 2022, at 5 PM

PRESENT:

Mayor: Alysa Plummer
Trustees: Dan Keating (arrived at 5:05 PM)
Renee Stetzer
Lili Lanphear
Justin Leitgeb
Village Attorney: Jeff Turner (arrived 5:30 PM)
Village Clerk: Dorothea Ciccarelli

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Mayor Plummer, and seconded by Trustee Stetzer, to call the meeting to order.

Vote: Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Stetzer – yes, Leitgeb - yes. *Motion passed.*

2022-2023 GENERAL & SEWER BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Clerk reviewed changes in the Budget provided from earlier versions and reference materials to the Board. The first draft of the Sewer budget documents were presented for the Board to review.

The Superintendent discussed the cost of treatment for the 27 ash trees for the emerald ash borer. He questioned if the Board wanted to continue with the annual application, which involves the use of a pesticide. The vendor annually reviews ½ the ash tree inventory before treatment to see if the tree is too compromised to be treated. A discussion was had on the removal of the trees, and it was decided to reach out to DEC Forestry and get a professional opinion. The Board requested the Superintendent's follow-up at the next Village Board meeting.

A discussion was had on the equipment replacement needs for the Department of Public Works. The Superintendent discussed the use of the equipment and why they are up for replacement. The items listed are a must-have for the department at this time, which included the Toolcat, a paint sprayer used for painting the roads, and the flush truck for the Sewer Department.

Trustee Leitgeb discussed having a multi-year plan for the replacement of the equipment.

Trustee Keating expressed concern regarding the numbers related to the personnel cost and the projected increases. A discussion was had on the salary increases that were given in the current fiscal year and the impact on the proposed budget. The Clerk would rework the spreadsheet to reflect the differences to provide the Board with a clearer reflection of the labor lines.

VILLAGE RESERVES

The Board discussed with the Attorney the existing reserves and the “Galli Plan.” The Attorney informed the Board that it will be a three-step process in reviewing the funds. The steps would involve reviewing the current numbers in the reserves, and determining the type of reserve established. The determination of the type of reserve, capital or repair will determine its future use. The Attorney was concerned with how the funds were set up initially, which determines the Village’s ability to access the funds.

Trustee Leitgeb questioned if the problems with the reserves affected both the General and Sewer funds. The Attorney responded that he assumes there are problems with both funds. He indicated that he thought the reserves have not been constituted the way the Board would want them to be.

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A discussion was had on the history of the funds. The Clerk reviewed with the Board that the current budget includes funding for two reserves that do not exist at this time. She also discussed the tentative funding of the existing sewer reserves. The Clerk suggested that it should be held off until the reserves are reviewed.

Trustee Keating suggested that the Village receive input from the Village accountant on the reserves. The Village Attorney commented that when this was discussed in 2014, it was also stated that the Village Accountant should also comment on the action.

Questions were asked about the problems with the existing reserves. These problems included the intent, the language, and how we access them.

Trustee Leitgeb discussed with the Board the conversation he had with the former Treasurer regarding the reserves, who stated that there are issues with the language, but the funds were accessible. He requested access to all the documents related to the existing reserves.

Trustee Leitgeb requested that the Board review the reserve information, before having the Village Attorney do the work. Trustee Keating commented he would rather have the experts weigh in on the funds. The Clerk will provide the information to the Board for their review. The proposed deliverable to the Board would be recommendations on the repurposing of the reserves and appropriate language.

Motion by Trustee Keating, and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb, to direct the Village Attorney, working with the Village Treasurer and other professionals to make recommendations on language on the Village reserves.

Vote: Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Keating – yes, Stetzer – yes, Leitgeb - no. *Motion passed.*

2022-2023 GENERAL & SEWER BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Clerk continued reviewing labor lines with the Board. She proposed a 6.5 percent increase as a starting point. The Board requested an additional breakdown of the labor lines as well as information related to the proposed cost of living increase.

Trustee Leitgeb questioned the proposed sidewalk line increase proposed, The Superintendent reviewed the two sidewalk projects, both projects are for State Street. Trustee Leitgeb commented that he would like to review the sidewalk replacement schedule, to see where the items fell within the schedule.

The Clerk questioned if the Board agreed that the current sewer reserves should not be funded in the tentative budget till the outstanding issues with the reserves are resolved. It was agreed that was an appropriate action. The Clerk also stated she would be providing the Board with a budget amendment for the Sewer Fund regarding the current proposed funding of the reserves to move the monies to contingency.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Keating, and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Keating – yes, Stetzer – yes, Leitgeb - yes. *Motion passed.*