

Minutes

Public Hearing on the proposed Annual Budget for fiscal year June 1, 2020 and ending May 31, 2021
Monday, April 27, 2020

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was held by Google Meet teleconference.

Present:

Mayor James Dunham-13 Eichyush Road, Google Meet Videoconference

Trustee Richard Phillips-40 Sunset Ave., Google Meet Videoconference

Trustee Dale Leiser- 4 Berkshire Drive- Google Meet Videoconference

Trustee Robert Baumeister-6 Chatham Street- Google Meet Videoconference

Absent: Trustee David Flaherty

Village Clerk/Treasurer Nicole Heeder-6 Chatham Street, Google Meet Videoconferencing

Deputy Clerk Carol VanDenburgh- 28B Valatie, Google Meet Videoconferencing

Also attending via Google Meet Videoconference: Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimons; Jerry Callahan, Krista Ambrosetti. Via Google Meet using telephone option: Donna Leiser

Mayor Dunham opened the Public Hearing at 7:39 pm.

Mayor Dunham stated due to COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.1 which suspends the Open Meetings Law to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by law without allowing the public to be physically present at the meeting. The Public Hearing is being held by Google Meet residents may participate with videoconference or telephone.

Mayor Dunham and Mayor Argyle attended a conference call with the state after the last budget meeting concerning the grant for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Mayor Dunham believed the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to be a one year work plan and was informed it is a three year work plan. He is proposing the following changes to the tentative budget to reflect the three year plan. The proposed changes will not affect the amount to be raised by taxes. A motion made by Trustee Baumeister to make the following changes to the tentative budget; seconded by Trustee Leiser. All voted "aye."

General Fund-Expense

A.1989.4 Consultant appropriation from \$52,000 to \$19,000

General Fund Revenue

A.3389 State Aid Other Public Safety from \$42,500 to \$17,000

A.1120 Sales Tax from \$300,000 to \$292,500

Mayor Dunham did state in consideration of the impacts of COVID 19 the board has reduced the expected amount in sales tax by 10%. For Columbia County, the NYS Association of Counties estimated a reduction of about 4% as a mild impact and a reduction of 11% as a severe impact. With a 10% estimated reduction in sales tax revenue the board feels they are close to the severe impact.

The village Board is proposing the following tentative budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2020 and ending May 31, 2021. The Village's assessed value is \$149,326,370.00; the total appropriations of \$1,171,536.00; total revenues of \$677,442.00 and \$354,094.00 to be raised by taxes with a tax rate of \$2.83355 per thousand of assessed value. The village applied the Tax Base Growth Factor of 1.0036 and the Allowable Levy Growth Factor of 1.0178 in calculating the state's tax cap requirements.

Mayor Dunham and the Village Board of Trustees each reviewed their highlights of the budget for the public's information. He attended the bid opening of the joint garbage contract with Valatie. County Waste our current provider was the low bidder.

Trustee Leiser informed the Village Board Aqua Store will be in the area and requested to conduct the wet inspection of the water tower on May 11, 2020.

Mayor Dunham opened the meeting for public comment.

Q: Jerry Callahan inquired if the village board considered the amount in sales tax revenues as the State Budget Director state revenues are proposing to be down 20%. Is the village considering savings, other revenue sources or proposing cuts.

A: Mayor Dunham stated yes the village went on the guidelines received from the NYS Association of Counties and the village reduced the sales tax by 10% of what was received last fiscal year. Trustee Phillips noted sales tax is the village's biggest revenue source. The village is proposing to apply \$140,000 of fund balance of over \$300,000 estimated. The village does have savings accounts for the future purchase of a fire truck, DPW truck and buildings savings.

Q: Jerry Callahan inquired if the village has considered the impact of the re valuation of the village. He knows it will not affect the village this year but will next year and the year after.

A: Clerk/Treasurer Heeder noted the village ceased being an assessing unit in 2005 and has adopts the Town of Kinderhook's roll. The village is always one year behind the Town.

Q: Krista Ambrosetti inquired about the budget allocation for the William Street Project off of Maiden Lane.

A: Mayor Dunham noted the William Street and Gaffney Lane were the two projects being considered. Gaffney Lane was estimated over \$100,000. The Mayor and the Superintendent of Public works determined William Street was in more of a need. They will mill off 3" and repave 3'. It should reduce the puddling that exists in some areas.

No other public comment received. Mayor Dunham closed the public hearing at 8:06 pm.

A motion made by Trustee Baumeister to adopt the tentative budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2020 and ending May 31, 2021; seconded by Trustee Leiser. All voted "aye".

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm made by Trustee Phillips; seconded by Trustee Baumeister. All voted "Aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder
Village Clerk