

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Kelly Myers, Michael Campbell, Richard Moore, Mary Leahy, Michael Karashay and William Murphy

Others Present: Ron LeBlanc, Will Dennis – New Saugerties Times, Karin Yerry – Post Star

Mayor Yerick opened the Public Hearing at 6:45pm. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the proposed budget for 2006/2007. The Mayor thanked Trustee Richard Moore and Treasurer Julie Dunn for all their hard work on the budget.

Trustee Moore presented the proposed General Budget for 2006/2007. The proposed budget amount is \$2,870,722.00. This figure represents a 2.9% spending increase. Trustee Moore explained because of the increased assessment value, the tax rate will drop from last year's rate of 12.2824 per thousand to 7.3881 per thousand. This results in a 4.9% increase in village taxes. The biggest reason for the tax increase results from salary raises, and employee benefits including health insurance and retirement.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that many requested items had been taken out of the budget. Major expenses will be purchased from capital funds. The Mayor explained that the purchase of items from capital funds was not in the 2 – 5 year plan. However, after much consideration, to do otherwise would have resulted in a much higher tax increase. A concerted spending reduction will continue through the year 2006 – 2007 with the goal to replenish the capital funds. The Mayor, Trustee Moore and Treasurer Dunn must approve all expenses.

Trustee Campbell asked if there were any other sources of income available to the Village beside taxes. Trustee Moore explained that the DPW bills the Water and Wastewater Departments for their services. That amount is transferred to the General Fund and the figure grows every year. Village Clerk Mary Frank advised that fees for Village services, such as planning and zoning fees, had increased two years ago.

Ron LeBlanc, the only resident present, complimented the Board for their job on the proposed budget. He said that the Village has done a good job in managing expenses. He did offer some suggestions. He recognized that all the Board are members of the New Vision Party. He believes that one of the goals of the New Vision Party is consolidation of services with the Town. The Village Police Department accounts for a great deal of the Village budget. He feels the time has come to merge the Town and Village Police Departments. He suggests merging the Building Departments and eliminating the licensing for electricians and plumbers in the Village. He suggests merging the Parks Department for the Town and Village.

Mayor Yerick thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his comments. He commented that the Village retained a grants writer several years ago, resulting in additional monies for the Village. Several years ago, the Town and Village discussed consolidating the two police departments. The Mayor remembers that the public was against the move. The Mayor

feels that such a move would result in a decrease in police services to the Village. Mayor Yerick advised the Board that Mr. LeBlanc has been instrumental in helping the Mayor with some Police Department issues and thanked him for his work.

The Mayor then asked if any of the Trustees had any additional questions on any of the Village Budgets (General, Water, Wastewater). There were no questions or additional comments.

Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore, to close the Public Hearing. Carried. The Public Hearing ended at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk