

Village of Cleveland - Regular Board Meeting & Public Hearing - May 1, 2007

PRESENT: Mayor Malchoff Davis, Trustee Norm Youmans, Trustee Tom Hickey, Trustee Warner Yankee, Trustee Dave Tackman, DPW Superintendent Doug Riggs, John Goodfellow, Clyde Lewis, Historian Charlene Weed, Sharon Krause, Sherry Kaderli, David Kirk, Joe Domachowske, Elwood Engelbrecht, Jim Ransom, David Hinds, Bonnie Dunham, Robert Kowanes, Anna Kowanes, Elaine Leon, Joseph Mazi, Kevin Gribbon, Julie Simpson, Ralph Stamp, Paul Baxter (Tug Hill Commission), Thomas Dapson, Brenda Gaffield.

CALLED TO ORDER: by Mayor Davis at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor opened public hearing explaining the budget and responsibility of the Village Board. This will be a review of the budget tonight, it may or may not be approved. Mayor turned time over to Trustee Norm Youmans. A brief overview of the budget was explained by the Mayor and preliminary budget handouts were passed around.

5 minute comments were allowed for each speaker.

Public Comments:

1. Are the new Village employees in the budget?
2. Why is the Village waiting until next year's taxes to use the new assessments?
3. Why are taxes going up 28%?
4. Why the Village needs 3rd DPW employee this year, why not advertise, why are taxes so high when the cost of the new building is going down?
5. Why is the new DPW employee salary out of w/s only, stating that he should not do anything else but w/s. Are we over paying for water if there is an overage? Questioned amount in the unallocated general fund in June of 2006. Why raising taxes so much. Suggested that there was nothing allocated for the building for capital improvements. There is no service the Village provides that the Town of Constantia can not.
6. Unappropriated general funds were pointed out from an old balance sheet.
7. Suggested that Town of Constantia used lake front properties to raise the assessments on the rest of properties. How much do we get from the town? Suggested the Village rent a sweeper rather than pay for parts to fix it.
8. Can the Village use some of the unappropriated funds to offset such an increase in taxes?
9. In support of reserve fund we need to preserve some of it for emergency and unanticipated events.

Comments from the Board:

1. The new dpw employee will be trained to do water and sewer, 2 men are always needed on the job; He should be able to be trained in 6 months, why hire now, why not wait and advertise to make sure who is hired is the right man for the job; It is necessary to have another water operator per county recommendation; His actual salary is \$11.00 per hour.
2. The Village can not use the new assessments until next year. They are not available until July 2007 and our taxes go out June 1, 2007. Next year the rate per thousand may be reduced due to the new assessments.
3. The increase in taxes is to pay bills without spending every bit of the reserves. This is the best estimate to run Village. Improvements need to be made in the Village, it all takes money.
4. Did not advertise for new dpw employee because this employee's work ethic was outstanding, he had worked part time for one month for us, he was qualified and able to work well with the current employees. Trustee Hickey felt he should have his CDL license before being hired. The taxes would have had to be raised even more had the other building been built.
5. The Village is not big enough to have new employee do just w/s. His salary will be paid out of the water fund. Water fund can be transferred to other funds if necessary. The new Village Hall is still in the Capital Project Fund to be transferred at the time it is used.
6. An updated worksheet will need to be looked at.

7. Mayor suggested they voice a complaint in May to the Town. They are a part of the Town and they can go to meetings and vote at elections. The residents of the Village of Cleveland do not receive lighting, fire protection, full road services from Constantia. Trustee Youmans stated that he does not like paying hirer taxes either. The Board will do their best to keep the tax rate down.
8. The Village can not spend down all reserves, need to budget intelligently. Giving back money from the sewer fund left a hole in the budget.
9. If budget stays as is, there will be a difference of \$41000. from last years budgeted amount. Trustee Hickey asked if new office employee was voted on and approved. He would like proof. Clerk will present minutes that states the motion was voted on and approved.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Trustee Youmans made motion to close public hearing, second by Mayor Davis. All in favor.

OPEN Regular meeting : Mayor Davis made motion, seconded by Trustee Hickey, all in favor.

FISCAL ADVISOR REPORTS: Trustee Tackman made motion to approve the financial report from 3/31/07, seconded by Trustee Yankee, all in favor.

ADDITIONS TO ABSTRACT: Mayor made motion to approve additions to abstract # 11 voucher # 510, second by Trustee Hickey, all in favor.

PAY BILLS: Abstract # 12 vouchers # 511-549: Mayor made motion to approve Abstract #12 vouchers # 511-549, seconded by Trustee Youmans, all in favor.

DISCUSSION ON BUDGET: Trustee Tackman motioned to schedule a work meeting to resolve differences and to come up with a resolution for the budget on Thursday May 3, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Fire Station, seconded by Trustee Hickey, all in favor.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT TANKS: At Attorney Allison Nelson's advice, the Mayor made motion to hire new engineering firm Burley - Guminiak & Associates to finish the wastewater treatment tank project. Their charge will be \$6850. saving the Village thousands of dollars, second by Trustee Yankee, all in favor.

Boy Scouts: Village can not authorize the Boy Scouts to do a service project on property that is not the Villages. Attorney Nelson recommends they contact the executrix of the Morse property for approval to enter property. Trustee Youmans suggested that next year the Village have a "Pride in Cleveland Day" to clean the Village up. Also look into disposing of leaves for those who have no where to put them.

David Kirk, Oneida Street: Asked the Village to plow Oneida Street. Attorney Nelson suggested he finds out who owns the road, contact an abstract company – if property is deeded over by owner or owners. It must also meet highway specs. Attorney Nelson told Mr. Kirk to contact the DEC to discuss the beaver dam problem that is causing the grinder to back up.

Trustee Tackman: 1. He checked with Nextel and Sprint regarding a cell phone tower. E-mails should be coming in to the Village regarding their response. 2. He has had several complaints from residents regarding the loud noise including the motorcycles that is generated from the new pub in Cleveland especially late at night. Attorney Nelson suggested checking to see what the noise ordinance says, Trustee Youmans will talk to the owners, resident Brenda Gaffield suggested writing a letter.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mayor Davis made motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Tackman, all in favor. Recorded and Submitted by Phyllis Sweeten, Clerk/Treasurer 5/24/07.