

PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 20, 2011

The Village of Liberty Board of Trustees held the Public Hearing of April 20, 2011 at the Village Municipal Building, 167 North Main Street, Liberty, New York.

PRESENT: Mayor Richard Winters, Trustee Shirley Lindsley, Trustee Luis Alvarez, Trustee Corinne McGuire, and Trustee Joan Stoddard. Also Present: Alice Gonzales, Deputy/Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT: William Cogswell, Ian Cooperstein, Renee Hook, Police Chief Robert Mir, Ann Mir, Jack Tompkins, Rebecca Butler, Oliver McKenny, Pat McKenny, John Zurawski, Angelo Pacheco II, Scott Kinne, Steven D'agata, Devin Brust, Tim Vogler, Wendy Vogler, Jackie Griswald, Mark Hess, Melissa Hess, Patti Lovelace, Dave Harman, Mildred Daye, Star Loucks, Danny Ratner, Abdus-Shahed Azeez, Chris Decker, Peter Parks, Victoria Winchester, Wally Norris, Roger Cortes, Mike Houghtaling, Keith Smith, Lynn Barry, Ed Lopez, Melvin Gorr, Kathy McAfee, Scott McAfee, Barbara Schmidt, Derek Schmidt, Debbie Norris, Peggy Leroy, Lynn Winters, Russell Reeves, Brandan Reeves, Dylan Dainack, Abdelaziz Benadim, and John Picard.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION: Mayor Winters recognized the following Affidavit of Publication:

2011/2012 BUDGET PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Liberty will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Liberty Municipal Building, 167 North Main Street, Liberty, New York to take and hear comments relating to the tentative budget as proposed by the Board of Trustees. A copy of the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012 is available at the Office of the Village Clerk, where any interested persons may inspect it during office hours - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The compensation proposed for the Mayor is \$7,321 and \$5,628 per year for each Trustee. All persons wishing to be heard on the question of adoption of the tentative budget will be provided an opportunity to speak, as time permits.

The budget was presented as follows:

GENERAL FUND

The **proposed** General Fund budget for 2011/2012 is \$3,571,961 with a tax levy of \$2,900,035 and revenues of \$608,900. There is a fund balance appropriation of \$60,000. The **proposed** tax rate will be \$21.20 per thousand of assessed valuation, which represents a 1.00% increase from the previous year.

WATER FUND

The Water Fund is looking at a budget of \$933,582. The water rates will be \$5.97/inside and \$8.00 outside, which represents a 1.02% increase from last year.

SEWER FUND

The Sewer Fund is looking at a budget of \$883,487. The sewer rate will be \$5.81 inside and outside, which reflects no increase from last year.

DEBT SERVICE

The debt service budget for 2009/2010 is \$328,881.49.

SANITATION FUND

The Sanitation Fund is looking at a budget of \$769,189. This fund will derive its revenue thru Village wide sanitation billing.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mayor Winters opened the hearing to comments from the public.

Mayor Winters made the following statement:

“I appreciate the efforts everyone made, including ourselves, by taking a 0% raise, as well as the office staff and especially the P.B.A. for the cuts they made to get us to this 1%. This budget will stand with CSEA unless we can come to some type of other agreement and then we will do a budget modification.”

Victoria Winchester (Wawanda Avenue) asked if everyone was giving back his or her raises. She also said that everyone needs to give back their raises especially since she lost her job with our justice court recently.

Trustee McGuire said the Village couldn't force anyone to give up their raises but we did ask them to. She said the Board also didn't want to defer the CSEA's contract out one more year.

Peter Parks (Village DPW Supervisor) asked why the Board didn't want to defer the contract for one year.

Trustee Stoddard replied there are items in the contract that need to be talked about and renegotiated now. She said putting it off another year wouldn't give us that opportunity.

Mayor Winters cited the health insurance as an item that needs to be discussed and negotiated.

Christopher Decker (CSEA Union Representative) responded that they had offered to give up raises and were waiting for a counter offer and never heard anything.

Mayor Winters said the deferment is the reason the village declined the offer

Danny Ratner (West Lake Street) stated the Board did a great job and the police couldn't give back anymore so now we need to move forward and make the Village a better place to live.

Abdus-Shahad Azeez (Village Resident) stated that when you have a department forgo raises it shows the efforts put forth and it shows we can work together. He also said people of the community, like himself, need to get up and work together and be unified. He also said it was good to see everyone here.

Police Chief Robert Mir (Upper Ferndale Road) thanked the community for their support and for coming out to help the budget process. He also thanked the Board for resolving the budget.

Trustee McGuire told Chief Mir he worked hard and the Board wanted to thank him for what he did for the community. She said they did an incredible job.

Trustee Stoddard read water and sewer and sanitation rates for the new for the new budget.

Mayor Winters thanked all the Department Heads and Village Employees for coming forward with their cuts and sacrifices and for getting the job done more efficiently than ever.

Trustee Lindsley thanked the Employees and especially the Police Departments for making the budget a one (1%) increase.

ADJOURN: Motion by Trustee Stoddard, seconded by Trustee Lindsley and unanimously carried to close the Public Hearing at 7:15 P.M.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:16 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**ALICE GONZALES
DEPUTY CLERK**