

Minutes of the April 2, 2019 Special Board meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Courtroom of the Municipal Building at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Jonathan Taylor (9); Trustees: Robert Bendix (7), Stuart Blodgett (8), Alan Schober (8) and Rebecca Vermeulen (6).

Police Chief Mark Thoms and Clerk/Treasurer Steve Murawski.  
General Public: 2

MAYOR

At 6:00 P.M., Mayor Taylor opened the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2020 PROPOSED budget.

PUBLIC  
HEARING FY 2020  
BUDGET

Mayor Taylor read the following FY 2020 budget summary narrative for the record:

Because of the hard work and diligence by Department Managers, Staff, and the Village Board, I am pleased to announce as Mayor and Budget Officer for the Village of Newark a Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 that there will be NO tax rate increase. This will be the sixth time in the last seven years that there has NOT been any increase in the tax rate. There will also be no rate increases for the Water and Sewer billings.

**General Fund:**

This year was very challenging for the Mayor (Chief Budget Officer) and Clerk- Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) to uncover ways to provide no property tax increase. The Tentative Budget presented to the Village Board was accepted with very minimal changes at the budget workshop held on March 13, 2019 at 3:00 P.M., and that now becomes the Proposed Budget that we will be presenting to you tonight at this Budget Hearing.

Almost 70 % of budget is for public safety and village services, with the Police Department consisting of almost 41% of the total budget. Workers' Compensation premiums decreased almost \$62,000.00 this year, in addition to the \$49,000 decrease achieved last year. This was achieved by the Board continuing to strictly follow the 207-c review policy. We continue to provide all of the necessary services that our residents expect, such as excellent Police and Fire protection, Street maintenance, and strong Code Enforcement, all of which help to maintain property values in the Village. Village Parks and Recreation remain fully funded also, as these contribute to a higher quality of life for our citizens. About 47% of the DPW Operations budget will be spent on much needed street paving and snow removal. The spending in the Proposed Budget for FY 2020 in the General Fund is budgeted to increase by \$144,629. Much of the 2.28 % increase is due to increased

costs related to increasing the Police Personnel level and the associated benefits, and providing the department with much need upgrades to equipment and protective gear. The Village Board continues to budget for large dollar equipment purchases (over \$100,000), while ensuring that any other equipment purchases are necessary for the safety of our employees and their ability to perform their duties. The Village is in a stable enough position that we will be able to meet any equipment replacement needs that may arise during this upcoming FY 2020 that aren't currently budgeted for. The Route 88 paving project, the Route 31 Culvert replacement project, and the East Avenue Bridge Rehab project are all slated to be completed by November 2019. These much needed upgrades position the Village to continue to pursue further economic development in our community.

**Water Fund Budget:** Our overall Water Fund is basically stable. We expect a continued increase in water revenue for this current fiscal year due to additional water being sold to customers outside of the Village, both commercial and municipal. Overall expenditures increased by \$143,000, and \$111,500 of that is to pay for the debt service that funded the Route 88 South Main Street water main transmission replacement project. The Water Treatment System expansion/renovation project is going out to bid in the Summer 2019; that will increase our water sales capacity, as well as ensuring the continued high quality of water sold to all of our customers. The Village Board continues to investigate and explore ways to increase our water sales to surrounding communities; that will help us to keep any cost increases to minimum, if even necessary at all. We will continue to diligently monitor Expenditures and seek new revenues sources in this Fund so that we can continue to offer high quality water service at a very reasonable and affordable rate.

**The Sewer Fund:**

Bond Repayment expenditures make up 47% of the total cost of the Sewer Fund; these funds provided mandated updates to our system. Overall expenditures increased by \$98,000, and \$102,500 of that is to pay for the debt service that funded the Route 88 South Main Street sanitary sewer main transmission replacement project. All other expenditures decreased almost \$5,000.00 in total. As with the Water fund, the Village continues to look to partnership with other communities and businesses to see if any mutually beneficial arrangement can be developed that would assist and benefit all the parties involved.

John Addyman of the Sun and Record Wayne County Mail asked about budget appropriation totals and police staffing levels noted in the Budget Narrative shared by Mayor Taylor. The Village provided Mr. Addyman with a copy of the FY 2020 PROPOSED budget, and noted that the Village is considering adding two additional patrol personnel

positions. If and when the positions are filled, the staffing total for the department, including the Chief, will be 17 sworn officers.

Motion Trustee Vermeulen, seconded Trustee Bendix and carried unanimously to close the Public Hearing at 6:07 P.M.

Motion Trustee Vermeulen, seconded Trustee Blodgett and carried unanimously to support the Newark Reds Lacrosse program through the purchase of a \$50.00 ad in the annual advertisement.

Motion Trustee Bendix, seconded Trustee Vermeulen and carried unanimously to allow the Newark Music program to use Central Park on June 8<sup>th</sup> for a free concert from 5:00-6:30 P.M.

Motion Trustee Blodgett, seconded Trustee Vermeulen and carried unanimously to grant the request of Brad Develder to take unpaid time off, from March 11, 2019 through April 2, 2019, under the FMLA. He would use his accrued Earned Time Off (ETO), Sick and Vacation time to receive pay for the period requested.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Motion Trustee Bendix, seconded Trustee Schober and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session to discuss a specific position within the Police Department at 6:10 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Trustee, seconded Trustee and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

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Stephen Murawski, Village Clerk-Treasurer