

Minutes of the April 6, 2021 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 (11); Trustees: Robert Bendix (9), Stuart Blodgett (11), Chris Burgess (11), and Emily Howard (11).

Village Clerk/Treasurer Steve Murawski and Temporary Village Clerk/Treasurer Valerie Quade.

General Public 0

MAYOR

At 6:00 P.M., Mayor Taylor opened the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022 PROPOSED budget.

PUBLIC  
HEARING FY 2020  
BUDGET

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

Due to major capital projects that will provide long term economic benefit to Newark, the Village of Newark tax rate for the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 will increase 1.90%. This will be only the third time in the last nine years that there has been any increase in the tax rate. There will also be rate increases for the Water and Sewer billings.

**General Fund:**

This year was very challenging for the Mayor (Chief Budget Officer), Board Trustees, and Clerk- Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) to minimize the tax increase that is being proposed. The Tentative Budget presented to the Village Board at the March 17, 2021 budget workshop has been thoroughly reviewed at multiple meetings in an attempt to eliminate any spending that is not necessary to maintain the level of services that the board believes that the residents of Newark want and expect. The final result of that effort is the Proposed Budget that we will be presenting to you tonight at this Budget Hearing.

About 61% of budget is for public safety and village services, with the Police Department consisting of almost 38% of the total budget. 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. The spending in the Proposed Budget for FY 2022 in the General Fund is budgeted to increase by \$273,489. Much of this increase is due to providing DPW with much needed equipment and Village maintenance, an increase in the cost to employee benefits, and the LED Street Lighting Bond payments starting in FY 2022. 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 2022 that aren't currently budgeted for. The Route 88 paving project, the Route 31 Culvert replacement project, the LED Street Light Upgrade Project, and the East Avenue Bridge Rehab project are all completed, and the additional long term financing of that these projects have added to the budget is somewhat offset by the significant savings of that Newark will achieve through greatly reduced electricity supply and street lighting maintenance costs. These much needed upgrades position the Village to continue to pursue further economic development in our community.

**Water Fund Budget:**

There will be 10% rate increase for all our water customers. For average Village customer using 10,000 gallons a quarter, that will translate into a \$2.60 increase per quarter to the bill. The spending in the Proposed Budget for FY 2022 in the Water Fund is budgeted to increase by \$338,137. Much of this increase is due increase cost in chemicals and bond payments of \$282,923 for the Water Treatment System expansion/renovation starting in FY 2022. This increase is needed to maintain our current fund balance level, which is now at a very low level. 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. The Village Board continues to investigate and explore ways to increase our water sales to surrounding communities; that will help us to keep any future 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:**

There will be 10% rate increase for all our sewer customers. For average Village customer using 10,000 gallons a quarter, that will translate into an \$11.40 increase per quarter to the bill. Overall spending increased by \$30,443.00, with most of the increase coming from an increase in the cost of chemicals. 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.

OPEN SESSION

The Village Board went into open session at 6:10 P.M.

Motion Trustee Bendix, seconded Trustee Howard and carried unanimously to approve Mayor Taylor and Trustee Blodgett to sign required paperwork for the 2020 New York Main Street Grant.

Motion Trustee Blodgett, seconded Trustee Burgess and carried unanimously to approve the onetime charge to convert over the gateway water system and the 55 cellular reads. Cost will not exceed \$15,000. Funds will be distributed using the following budgetary transfers:

Water Fund - Contingency	F.1990.4000	(\$7,500.00)
Transmission & Dist- New Meters	F.8340.2010	\$7,500.00
Sewer Fund - Contingency	G.1990.4000	(\$7,500.00)
Sanitary Sewer – New Meters	G.8120.2010	\$7,500.00

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Trustee Blodgett, seconded Trustee Bendix and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

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Stephen Murawski, Village Clerk-Treasurer