

Special meeting (BUDGET ADOPTION) of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held in the Conference Room, Municipal Building, 49 State Street, Brockport, New York, April 29, 2009 at 5:00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Morton Wexler, Trustee/Vice Mayor Maria C. Castañeda, Trustee David J. Wagenhauser, Trustee Scott W. Hunsinger, Trustee Hal S. Legg, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli, Treasurer Gina M. Tojek, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Henry

EXCUSED: Village Attorney David F. Mayer, DPW Superintendent Harry G. Donahue, Building/Zoning Officer Scott C. Zarnstorff, Fire Chief Scott Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Jim & Joan Hamlin, Norm GianCursio, Fred Webster, Todd Longstreth, Carrie Maziarz, Kelly Smith, Bill Heyen, Kyle Boyst, Abbey Blackburn, Mike Dorgan, Jake Moore, Cody Gillam, Ashley Juby, Steve Ray, Brian Smith, Ken & Bonnie Keim

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wexler called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT: "To provide a high quality of life for all residents, exercising fiscal responsibility and preserving Brockport's unique heritage and historic character."

BUDGET

Mayor Wexler pointed out that a public hearing was held April 15 and 20, this is not a public hearing and there will be no opportunity for public comment. By law, the Board must adopt a final budget by May 1st.

→ Trustee Hunsinger moved to adopt the revised preliminary budget as it stands as of today's date with tax revenue of \$2,113,396 and a tax rate of \$10.58 which is an 11.82% change from prior year.

Discussion:

Trustee Wagenhauser said it's too high.

Trustee Castañeda asked if he had any further recommendations. Trustee Wagenhauser said he already presented his recommendations which would equate to a 2.97% change from prior year.

Trustee Castañeda commented that leadership is a privilege and with it comes responsibility. She expressed concern that the last couple of years the Board has failed to adequately involve Department Heads, recently entertained a Trustee's recommendation to eliminate a department (dispatch) without fully researching the consequences, continues to cut back DPW lines, and not fund reserves. She believes keeping the tax rate flat or decreased in recent years has helped cause the need for a sizeable increase this year, that some Trustees want to place the blame on the economy, that 8 years ago there was 5 million but that money was spent on a lot of feel good projects.

Trustee Wagenhauser said much of those statements are untrue and that meeting after meeting Trustee Castañeda continues to point fingers and not get the facts right. She says revenues have been overestimated and expenses have been underestimated. She opted not to take a pay cut herself when others did. The Village faces a \$450,000 shortfall, but it's not because of the last two years. Some departments have overspent, the economy is bad, revenues are down. Take a look at the numbers again.

Trustee Castañeda said the Village knew the Police Union contract was coming due, but money wasn't allotted for the retroactive pay. She said that's another reason she didn't vote in favor of the budget last year. She said last year's budget was "Trustee Wagenhauser's budget", not really the Village's.

Trustee Wagenhauser said health insurance was overbudget and it would have helped had the Mayor negotiated a contract much earlier. He said Trustee Castañeda is willing to vote in favor of this budget, but it includes \$200,000 more in spending than the current year. This is a political issue.

Trustee Castañeda said she is not happy with this budget as it doesn't plan for the future or adequately address the needs of all departments.

Trustee Wagenhauser questioned why she would support it.

Mayor Wexler said it's all water under the bridge at this point. He said he is hopeful that the new Board will improve upon the process next year.

Mayor Wexler referred to information provided by Treasurer Tojek regarding Fire Chief Smith's recent proposal as to how to fund dispatch operations.

Treasurer Tojek said the estimated cost of dispatch operations is \$145,000 per year. If you use Chief Smith's statistics, 68% is ambulance related which equates to \$100,000. The sole source of revenue to

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pay the \$456,000 is 3rd party revenue which is a volatile revenue source. Granted, this revenue from ambulance services has been going up each year and as long as revenues meet expenses, some would say we're okay. However, she doesn't necessarily agree with that given the sole source nature (volatility) of this revenue. She said the Village does not want to be put into a position to have to dip into the ambulance. It needs to get on its feet.

Trustee Wagenhauser agreed with the fact that it is a volatile revenue source and had indicated the same to the Chief some time ago. For the record, he said he has concern as to whether the breakdown is a true representation of costs.

Trustee Legg commented that adding to the volatile nature of such a funding formula, how frequently would apportionment of ambulance and fire be looked at? He said he truly appreciated the opportunity to consider Chief Smith's recent proposal as a possible solution, but it does have some flaws long term and potentially short term.

Trustee Castañeda noted a couple of areas that could be cut back further a) Assistant Building Inspector Vaughan's hours could be reduced further and serve only on an on-call/substitute basis and b) the celebrations line could be reduced even further. She said all things not considered a needed service could be reduced further.

Mayor Wexler said the incoming Board might want to investigate where additional revenues could be brought in i.e. code violations, or creation of a Village Justice Court.

Call to Question:

→ Trustee Hunsinger & Trustee Castañeda & Mayor Wexler in favor, Trustee Wagenhauser & Trustee Legg opposed, carried 3/2 to adopt the revised preliminary budget as the final budget for 6/1/09 – 5/31/10 with tax revenue of \$2,113,396 and a tax rate of \$10.58 which is an 11.82% change from prior year.

Next scheduled meeting: Monday, May 4th 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

→ Trustee Legg moved, carried 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned at 5:30pm.

Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk