

Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **November 29, 2022**, at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mayor	James Tornatore
	Deputy Mayor	Scott Kasmarcik
	Trustees	John Tomazin
		Joe Mooney
		Ted Hardenstine
	DPW Supervisor	Matt Seamans
	Clerk/Treasurer	Pam Benthin

GUESTS: Residents in attendance – John & Janet Frieman, Scott Parmelee, Mark Lott, Jim Wurtenburg and Kim Frey

WORK IN PROGRESS:

• **Possible Code Updates –**

- Chapter 25, section 3 regarding employee health benefits. Proposed changes include, if a spouse is eligible for health insurance from their employer, the Village will not offer coverage; employees hired after current date will contribute a higher percentage towards their insurance premium. Current contribution is 15%/85%; if an employee requires family plan coverage, they will contribute a high percentage toward the premium.
- Chapter 25, section 2G regarding employee regulations, specifically pertaining to licensing and training. Proposed change focuses on specifying a repayment plan for the cost of training by the employee if they voluntarily end their employment with the village before a certain timeframe has passed. It is proposed that if an employee leaves before completing 1 year of employment from their time of licensing they must reimburse the Village 100% of the cost. This would then continue as decreasing percentage until they have completed 5 years of employment with said licenses/certifications, at that time they would no longer be required to pay back any costs. This addition to the current code would pertain to the upfront costs of training/licensing only, not the cost of any continuing education.
- Chapter 163, section 14B regarding billing penalties. Currently a 10% penalty is assessed after 30 days of non-payment and an additional 2% is assessed each month thereafter until paid or levied to the property's taxes. The proposed change is to assess 5% every month.

Budget Committee states that if we do not move forward with these changes the budget will need further review and recalculations. Motions/resolutions for the proposed changes will be part of the public hearing scheduled for December 13th, 2022.

- **23-24 Budget** – Budget Committee faced a lot of challenges this year, the biggest being the current 7+% inflation rate that is affecting everyone. Other factors include that last year's tax increase of only .001%, the loss of three properties from the tax roll equating to 1% of the total budget, fuel (propane, diesel, unleaded) increases, as well as insurance rate increases. The BC is proposing an increase of 7.91% for the fiscal 2023-2024 year. Public comments and concerns ensued; the necessity of a 3rd office staff position, those funds could be allocated elsewhere lessening the tax increase, Deputy Kasmarcik request BC to review and bring good reasoning to the next meeting for the need for the 3rd position; Annual employee salary increases, and employee HSA account funding, as well as changes to office days and hours to better accommodate a two person office staff; concern of the age/condition of the garbage truck and need for possible replacement or discontinuance of service, if service is discontinued an tax increase of approx. 17% would be needed; Dissolution of the village when sustainability cannot continue. Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik thanks the public for their feedback, it is appreciated and gives the BC a lot to think about when reviewing the budget for finalization.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik , seconded by Trustee Mooney to adjourn at 8:01pm. Carried

Jessica Moore
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer