

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **January 9, 2024**, 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	Joe Mooney
		Jackie Wandell
		Ted Hardenstine
	DPW Supervisor	Matt Seamans
	Clerk/Treasurer	Pam Benthin

PUBLIC HEARING 1
TAX LEVY LIMIT: The Mayor opened by explaining the purpose of the tax levy and the ability to exceed the tax cap. Trustees commented that they were agreeable to the proposed tax levy. One attendee asked if the tax levy itself what was we had done in years prior and was answered affirmatively. Another attendee was given clarification that even if the vote passed to exceed the tax cap, it did not mean that the budget needed to exceed it if it was not necessary.

PUBLIC HEARING 2
2024-2025 BUDGET: Trustee Mooney began by outlining the increases that have occurred in our annual bills. Retirement and electricity have substantially increased. Also outlined where cuts had been made to village spending as well. It was also noted that the tax increase was to be 2.3% instead of the original 5.7% that was anticipated. The trustees and mayor were appreciative of the work that went into lowering the budget to a 2.3% tax increase. One attendee wanted clarification that last year taxes increased by 4.6% and that this year would be another 2.3%. This was correct. Another attendee appreciated the decrease but believes it would be best to get the tax increase down to 2%. It was also discussed that the total increased tax levy for the entire village would amount to \$7,684.00 for this year. It was also mentioned by an attendee that our fund balance might be used to support other line items and overall decrease the potential tax levy. One attendee wanted it noted that the Village does not have a large enough tax base to sustain the budget and advocated for the Municipal Building to be taken off of the historical registry in an effort to cut maintenance costs. Residents were appreciative of the work done by the budget committee to lower the amount of the tax increase from 5.7% to 2.3%, but they would also like to see it lower as well.

GUESTS: Panther Line Production pitched an idea for a car show at Trout Ponds Park. The tentative dates would be July 13th, or July 20th as a possible rain date, from 2-5 pm. They estimate 30-60 cars would be present and that they would provide food for those in attendance. DPW Supervisor Seamans asked about the decibel level of the engines and was assured that levels would be maintained within village regulations. The Board approved this event pending the event insurance and community use forms received from Panther Line Productions.

MINUTES: Approved as presented for the months of December 2023 with a motion by *Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Trustee Hardenstine*.

FINANCIAL
REPORT: Approved as presented for the month of December 2023.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **Current Court Issue** – no update.
- **Court/ Rink Lights-** Addition of a light pole by skating rink, entire project costing no more than \$2,500.00. Checking for possible code changes for park access after dark for skating. Board approves of lighting.

- **Hazard Mitigation** – No update, continuing to work on, but other priorities have taken precedence.
- **ARPA Funds** – No update on truck. Inquiring about other options and avenues to obtain vehicle.
- **LCRR (Lead Copper Rule Revision)** – No update. Supervisor Seamans will focus on once the budget is complete.
- **Budget** – Fiscal year March 2024 – February 2025. Factors affecting this year’s budget include: Current inflation rate at 5.4%, which is down from last year; NYS required retirement contribution is up \$8,000 from last year; Electric supply rates have seen a 25-33% increase; Insurance premiums have increased; Infrastructure and Capital improvement plans for the coming year; new assets at the Trout Ponds park require being added to the insurance; on a positive note revenue has seen an increase of approximately \$5,000 thanks to the new money market accounts that the Clerk/Treasurer took the time to set up with the bank earlier this year; Cuts that employees took to their health/dental/HSA benefits last year equated to a \$7,000 savings to the Village. Last year, residents saw an increase of 4.6%. Initially this year’s proposed increase was 5.7% which equates to \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value, but has now been lowered to a 2.3% increase, equating to \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

BILLS: Presented. Approved in the amount of \$26, 356.29 from abstract number 36-24, 37-24, 38-24, and 39-24 with a Motion by **Trustee Kasmarcik**, seconded by **Trustee Mooney**.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: To Carryover Vacation (Copy attached)- motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*

RESOLUTION #46-24 Budget Adjustment (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell – Yes. 0 - No.

LOCAL LAW NO. 01 OF THE YEAR 2024

RESOLUTION #47-24 Override Tax Levy Limit (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #48-24 To Amend Multiyear Plan Annual Contribution (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #49-24 Adoption of the 2024-25 Village Budget (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #50-24 General Village Election (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Wandell*, seconded by *Kasmarcik*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #51-24 Election Inspectors/General Village Election (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #52-24 Appointment of Registrar of Vital Statistics (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #53-24 Deputy Clerk/Treasurer to Obtain Financial Information (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

Resolution #54-24 Lights at Trout Ponds Information (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

REPORTS:

- **Code** – Village seeking new Code Officer. Utilizing Town Code Officer when needed.
- **Public Works** – Fixed leak on top of Smullen Ave. Set up ice rink at the Trout Ponds.
- **Clerk** – Received our annual audit report, good audit with no findings. Contacted Matco. Updated the insurance policy to cover the ice rink.
- **Mayor** – REAP meeting 1/10/2024.
- **Library** – Library passed their budget.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Doug Cornwell, Historian – comments regarding Newark Valley town Bicentennial and possibly using this as a theme for Summer Fest or a Depot Concert. He is also investigating apps for history.

Motion by *Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Trustee Hardenstine* to adjourn at 8:51pm. Carried

Trisha Thomas
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer in Training