

**SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**APRIL 2, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

**MAYOR JOSEPH ORLOW PRESIDING**

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2015-2016**

**PRESENT**

Trustee William Hayes  
Trustee Anthony Girard  
Trustee Timothy Carota

Michael Muller, Attorney

Mayor Orlow opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Orlow asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Orlow then asked for a Moment of Silence for all to reflect in their own way

Mayor Orlow then stated that this meeting has been called for the purpose of an email notification that the Clerk-Treasurer received this morning at 8:45 AM from the Office of the State Controllers (OSC) The e-mail stated that the Village tax cap's current status was "changes pending". Attorney Muller then read a memo that was submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer to the Village Board explaining the changes pending. The changes to the tax cap form are due to not being able to take the exclusion for the 2015-2016 ERS or PFRS contributions. As explained by OSC: "The Statewide contributions did not go above 2% and therefore no one will get the exclusion for this year."

Mayor Orlow then opened this up to the Board's comments and then public comments. Trustee Girard asked if this would open the budget and if additional cuts could be made. Mayor Orlow stated that at this point the Board might take into consideration the increase in appropriations and a lesser tax rate; which was suggested by Trustee Girard at the Budget Hearing on April 1, 2015. Trustee Carota stated that the Village was on time in passing the budget. Now due to this change he wants to know if the Village has additional time to pass a budget because of the adjustments that it will need to be made due to the exclusions in the tax cap. Mayor Orlow stated that at this point the budget has been cut to a minimum and even with more time it will be hard to take any more out of the budget. Trustee Girard stated to Trustee Carota that yes it is possible to extend this meeting and to exceed the tax cap. Attorney Muller stated that to exceed the tax cap, a Local Law would be needed and that is not something that can be done tonight. Trustee Hayes asked again if this was state wide. Clerk-Treasurer, Danae Bock stated yes and that the tax cap deadlines have been extended to July and August for modifications. She also stated that because the Village has not raised taxes for the past 5 years there is no additional reserve to the Village at this time. Trustee Girard stated that the Village has to stop all major spending from now to the end of this fiscal year. Trustee Carota stated that the modification to the budget can be passed tonight and the spending for next year can still be curbed and monitored. Attorney Muller stated as long as the tax cap does not exceed the 2% cap then one budget can be rescinded and the other one can be adopted. Trustee Girard is asking for some kind of a report based on large purchases. The departments bring their bids before the Board prior to large purchases. Trustee Girard stated that he feels the departments should not be going out purchasing things that are not absolutely necessary at this point. Mayor Orlow asked for Board ideas on monitoring the budget more closely. Mayor Orlow then asked Attorney Muller for legal advice on the next step

the Board should take to rescind the budget that was adopted last night. Attorney Muller stated that the Board needs to look at the whole picture prior to rescinding to determine if the budget will work for the Village. Trustee Girard asked about the Bobcat expenses and whether it could be removed from the budget. Mayor Orlow stated that had been previously discussed and because of the trade in value on the Bobcat it will benefit the Village at this time. Trustee Hayes stated that Mr. Abare had to choose between the purchase of a bobcat and a pay loader. Trustee Carota stated that the new tax rate can be accepted, but the Bobcat does not have to be purchased. Trustee Girard asked why the water rate was increased and who made the decision to do that. Mayor Orlow stated that he as the budget officer approved the increase, because the fund balance will not be there forever. Trustee Girard wanted to see where the year would end up. Trustee Carota stated that all the numbers in the water fund need to be looked at. Mayor Orlow stated that the fees can be adjusted at any time. Attorney Muller then asked the Board if there was any interest in the Village Board exceeding the tax cap. The answer was no. Attorney Muller then stated the Board should rescind last night's approval of the budget, and then the new budget can be reviewed. Trustee Girard moved to rescind the previous night's budget; Trustee Carota yes, Trustee Hayes yes and Mayor Orlow yes. Attorney Muller then stated that a motion will be needed to be made reopen the Public Hearing from last night. Trustee Girard moved to re-open the Public Hearing; seconded by Trustee Carota and the Board unanimously approved. Trustee Carota asked that public comments be kept to a 5- 10 minutes discussion. The Board decided on 10 minutes for public comments. Wayne Palmer of the Fire Company stated that he is fine with everything as long as the Fire Company's budget remains as is from last night, and the Board stated there will be no changes to the Fire Company budget this evening. Mr. Harry Gutheil was present and wanted to state to the Board that he feels his comments for the past

several years have been ignored. He then stated that Trustee Girard has also asked the Board to review the expenses. Mr. Gutheil then questioned the Park Account which has an increase of in it, Trustee Hayes stated that all parks equipment and personnel pay will now be coming out of the parks accounts and not the DPW accounts. Mr. Gutheil also feels the health insurance and the HRA for part-time people should be looked at for possible budget cuts in expenses. Mr. Gutheil asked why this meeting was not scheduled for next week. Attorney Muller states that it was the hope of the Mayor that the entire Board would have been able to attend tonight. Over the next few weeks the Village Board will be short members. Mr. Gutheil suggested grants and inter-municipal shared services are the way to cut expenses. The Clerk-Treasurer stated that there are new guidelines for Efficiency Plans and Mayor Orlow will have to appoint Board members to oversee this plan. Mayor Orlow then thanked Mr. Gutheil for his input. Mayor Orlow then asked for any additional comments from the public. Mr. Fitzgerald asked how much work has been done to figure out the difference in cost by transporting leaves and other debris items to an out source. Trustee Hayes stated that our area in back of the Village Complex only for construction debris according to DEC. Mayor Orlow stated that he will take all of the suggestions into consideration. Mr. Gutheil asked if there was money in the Budget for a new Village Assessor. The answer was no.

Mayor Orlow asked again for Public Comments. There were none.

Trustee Carota moved to close the Public Hearing at 8:30 PM; seconded by Trustee Girard and the Board unanimously approved.

Trustee Carota moved to approve the 2015-2016 Budget as is with a tax rate of \$4.63 per thousand and increase the appropriations fund. Trustee Hayes yes, Trustee Girard no because of

the water rate increase and he is truly disappointed by the Boards decision, Mayor Orlow voted yes.

Mayor Orlow asked if there was any additional business to be brought before the Board regarding this Special Meeting. There were no additional comments. At 8:50 Trustee Carota moved to close the meeting; seconded by Trustee Hayes and the Board unanimously approved.

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Clerk-Treasurer