

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC MEETING

APRIL 7, 2016

6:00 PM

MAYOR JOSEPH ORLOW PRESIDING

PRESENT

Trustee William Hayes
Trustee Anthony Girard
Trustee Timothy Carota

Brian Abare, DPW Superintendent
Michael Muller, Attorney
Kevin Judd, Police Chief

Mayor Orlow stated that again today he has met with Trustee Girard, Clerk - Treasurer, Danae Bock and DPW Superintendent, Brian Abare. He then stated in order to lower the proposed tax rate of 24% to 18% the Village will need additional cuts of \$67,348.00. The new DPW wash-bay addition will now be on hold.

A CD of \$25,000.00 for DPW Building Renovation will now replace the expenditure of A1640.0407 \$8,000.00 and A1640.0200 for \$5,000.00 and then when the CD is closed out, there will be \$5,000 added to A1640.0407 which will be a budget adjustment. The CD will have a remaining balance left which will be set back up into a CD for around \$7,000.00.

Additional cuts included

A3120.0401 \$2,000.00

A3120.0419 \$900.00

A5142.0200 \$5,000.00

A5142.0408 \$5,000.00

A8141.0405 \$2,000.00

A7450.0200 \$250.00

A7450.0402 \$250.00

A7450.0400 \$250.00

There were several different conversations but no additional cuts were suggested.

Mr. Congdon, Town Supervisor was present and suggested shared services for the part-time DPW summer help. He also asked if the Summer Concert Series was cut. The Mayor said yes and Mr. Congdon stated the Town is willing to pick that up from the Village. Mr. Congdon also stated that the Village was taxed on the force sewer main to the City of Glens Falls and it was to be paid for by the lots that sold in the Industrial Park. Unfortunately the lots did not sell and therefore the Village will be eligible for a reimbursement of approximately \$262,000.00 from the developers which was charged illegally. Trustee Girard asked when the Village would receive the money. Mr. Congdon stated he is not sure but hopes to have it resolved by the end of the proposed budget year. Attorney Muller asked how many years this has been happening and there is usually a 6-year statutory period attached to such things. Mr. Congdon stated for 20 years and it was a non-arbitrator bond excluding apartments only which means that Mr. Leonilli and Mr. Schermerhorn will be liable for the repayment of money. Attorney Muller stated that this is welcome news but at this point the Village needs additional information. Mr. Congdon stated that he does not promise the money but he has a legal opinion on the refunds. Mr. Congdon stated that the Village should take a loan, and he is willing to get the Village a hard number and an agreement to give the Village the money. Mr. Congdon feels that next year the Town Assessor will be inundated with assessment grievance which will affect the Village tax dollars. Attorney Muller stated that one thing is certain and Mr. Congdon has stated that the Town of Moreau is willing to pay for the summer concert series. Attorney Muller will send Mr.

Congdon an Inter-municipal agreement letter accepting his offer for the Town to support the summer concerts series. Trustee Carota verified that what Attorney Muller stated about the inter-municipal agreement will be part of the Village Minutes. The Clerk-Treasurer stated yes it will be. Mr. Congdon stated the Village tax payers pay for the Town Highway garage that is screwed up. Mayor Orlow stated that he will meet with Mr. Congdon at another time to talk about an inter-municipal shared service agreement between the Town and the Village. Attorney Muller stated that he suggest that the opportunity that the Town is promising the Village this money is welcome news. Mr. Congdon stated that he does not promise this money, but then stated that he brought up a possible issue after seeking a legal opinion. Mr. Congdon stated that there is additional money available that he wants to talk to the Mayor about. Mr. Congdon stated that he wanted the Village to hear about this from him; so the Village did not hear about the money in other ways. He is hoping that minutes are being taken on this subject. Attorney Muller would like to summarize for the Board what just took place. Attorney Muller stated that Mr. Congdon suggest that Mr. Schermerhorn and Mr. Leonelli had promised that there was going to be industrial park and what the Town did was advanced money on a bond. The bond would be paid back under the development of the park, but that did not happen, and of course the debt was still due. The Town paid the debt due out of the General fund and continued to pay the loan though the Town tax in which they saddled the Village residents with a bill that was not theirs. Attorney Muller stated that Mr. Congdon numbers were 19%. And that Mr. Congdon is suggesting the Village borrow money against the anticipated revenue that Mr. Congdon is saying the Village is going to get from the non-developed industrial park.

Turning back to the budget:

Trustee Carota asked if the Village could cut the Contingency account by \$25,000.00. The Clerk-Treasurer stated she would not suggest cutting the contingency because the budget is so tight. She asked for legal advice. Attorney Muller stated that he would not advise touching the contingency line item.

With doing the numbers quickly the adjustments made this evening the increase will be around 20%, Budget amount around 2,710,000, tax revenue around \$1,531,367 and the appropriated fund balance around \$76,292.00, and a tax rate of \$5.62.

Mr. Gutheil asked how the fund balance increased. The Clerk-Treasurer explained it was the appropriated fund balance that increased not the fund balance. You cannot cut expenditures and your tax rate and not make adjustments to the Appropriate Fund balance. Mr. Gutheil stated that the Village did not have a specific tax rate because if they did was the appropriated fund balance would not have gone up. The Clerk-Treasurer stated to Mr. Gutheil that at this point the Board had to set a rate or try to cut additional expenses. Mr. Gutheil stated the extra money should go to the tax levy. Mr. Gutheil stated he can't believe the lack of understanding on how to do a budget. The Clerk-Treasurer tried to explain to Mr. Gutheil but in the end Mr. Gutheil was told by the Clerk-Treasurer that he was being rude and his way is not always the right way.

Mayor Orlow stated that the sales tax might be up in the current year. Attorney Muller suggested to the Board that they don't count on revenue that is hear say.

Mayor Orlow asked if the Board was ready to establish this as a Preliminary Budget. Trustee Carota moved to approve the Preliminary Budget; seconded by Trustee Hayes; although he did state that he is not ready to adopt the budget at this time. Attorney Muller stated that at this point all the Board is doing is accepting the Preliminary Budget. Trustee Girard voted no and added the following comments. He is glad the Board is able to reduce the tax rate to 20%, but he would

also like to see if the benefits for elected officials could be phased out which would mean any newly elected official would not qualify for benefits. He has major concerns about there is not being money set aside for an assessor position, and fears if the Board decides during the year to get an assessor back the expense would have to come for the contingency account. He stated that he understands that the Village has to raise taxes, but he can't go for a double digit percentage. Mayor voted yes.

Mr. Chagnon was present and stated that from the numbers presented his taxes will go up around \$118.00 dollars. He stated that it is hard to take his family out to dinner on \$118.00 dollars. He knows there is an issue between the Village and the union at this point. He works three jobs to make things meet, and most of the guys in the unit work 2 jobs or have a second income to support their households. He thinks that there is a way to compromise, but being attacked within the media or in the meetings by Mr. Gutheil is no good. Mr. Chagnon stated that maybe some people are pro Harry in his visions, but the Village needs a progressive plan to move into the future. The Village needs a revitalization plan and there is work that the DPW can do. He stated the DPW wants to do portions of the projected projects. He does not feel that the consolidation with the Town is the way to go. He does not feel he could work for the Town, work for the crappy benefits and that is why they have a grievance going on now. He would rather go back in the private sector for employment. He stated that he is the union's voice and only one vote out of 8 members.

At 8:10 PM Mayor Orlow asked to close the Public Meeting Trustee Hayes moved to close the meeting; seconded by Trustee Carota and the Board unanimously approved.

Clerk-Treasurer