

Budget Hearing and Monthly Meeting

May 13, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Central Square held a budget hearing and monthly meeting at 6:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively on the 13th day of May 2024 at the Village Municipal Building, 3125 East Avenue.

Board Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard Murphy, Trustees Ken Sherman, Mike Hart, & Jim Turo

Village Staff Attendance: Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, Police Chief Ed Carroll

Others in Attendance: Paul Baxter, Matthew Stevens, Steven & Marlena Lerch, Heidi Tompkins, Gregg Tweedy

Mayor House opened the budget hearing at 6:45 p.m. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 amounts to \$2,301,849.00 representing an increase of \$246,092.48 compared to the previous year (2023-2024). The total budget is made up of the Water Fund \$86,600, Sewer Fund \$693,356 and General Fund \$1,521,893. The proposed tax rate increase is 1.25% which does not exceed the New York State Tax Cap calculation. There is no proposed increase to sewer rents.

The budget's main increases are attributed to property/liability insurance, salary raises and health insurance for employees, equipment replacement and general cost increases. Mayor House and the Board thanked Village Clerk/Treasurer Cusyck and Deputy Clerk Ruzekowicz for their hard work in creating the proposed budget.

The public had the opportunity to address the Board during the hearing, but no one spoke for against the proposed budget.

The hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m. and the monthly meeting was immediately opened with Trustee Turo leading all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House announced the Tug Hill Commission will be meeting Monday, May 20th at 10 a.m. at the Village of Central Square Municipal Building,

Mayor House said he was contacted by a food truck vendor who asked to use Goettel Park but was told it is not allowed by the Village unless it is tied to a specific event.

Mayor House also reported the issues with the NYSDEC and the beaver dam are progressing positively.

Deputy Mayor Murphy reported the Village should hear from the Shineman Foundation by the end of the month regarding the grant application submitted for the Goettel Park Project.

Murphy plans to meet with Grant Writer Kristy Lamanche about other needed grants, specifically records management for the Village Clerk's Office and nature trails at the Ada Powell Smith Park.

Regarding the Hillside Cemetery, Murphy has been in contact with the NYS Board of Cemeteries getting ideas in maintaining and preserving the cemetery, along with standards for rules and regulations. He would like the rules and regulations of the cemetery lots, columbarium and niches to be adopted as a local law for incorporation into the Village Municipal Code.

Trustee Sherman reported the School District budget vote is Tuesday, May 21st and graduation is June 28th.

Trustee Hart shared that Codes Officer Cusato is taking care of the car issue on Ruth Road and the house across from Ken Sherman is finally being mowed.

Trustee Turo had no business to bring before the Board.

Police Chief Carroll said the FOIL request addressed earlier in the meeting regarding an incident with one of his Police Officers is still under investigation. He has been in contact with the village attorney regarding same.

Chief Carroll also said the Police Department participated in the Little League Parade on May 4th and is now getting ready for the Memorial Day Parade on May 27th.

Clerk Treasurer Cusyk had no business to bring before the Board.

Citizens' Concerns

Steven and Marlena Lurch attended the meeting to voice their concern about major flooding and drainage issues at their property at 119 Aqua Way.

Members of the Board were aware of the problem and will monitor the area until corrected. Mayor House will talk to DPW Superintendent McCormick for ways to mitigate the problem by end of summer.

Gregg Tweedy attended the meeting for an update on the proposed law to amend the Zoning Code to allow and regulate accessory dwelling units in the village.

Mayor House said the Village Board has the proposed law, but the Planning Board has not finalized their review process. He will call Chairwoman Commisso for an update.

Old Business

On behalf of Paul Baxter, Municipal Management Consultant for the Tug Hill Commission, Heidi Tompkins thanked everyone from Central Square who attended the 2024 Tug Hill Local Government Conference.

Heidi then touched on her report about the May 2024 Tug Hill Announcements:

- 1) The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) will be hosting their annual Clean Energy Conference in Clayton, May 20-21st at the 1000 Harbor Hotel.
- 2) The NYS Archives has announced training opportunities with webinars available May 16th and June 6th from 10 to 11 a.m.
- 3) Town Finance School, co-sponsored by the NYS Association of Towns, is available for registration on the OSC Academy page for May 14-15th in Albany.
- 4) 2024 Highway School, sponsored by the Association of Towns of the State of NY and the NYS LTAP Center, will be held June 3-5th in Ithaca.
- 5) The NY Planning Federation will be conducting some more Learn at Lunch sessions on May 8th on Historic Preservation and May 21st on The Town of Lee's GIS Efforts.
- 6) The Black River Watershed Conference will be held Thursday, June 13th at the View Arts Center in Old Forge from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 7) The NYS Conference of Mayors is holding their annual meeting and training school May 15-17th at the Sagamore Hotel in Bolton Landing.
- 8) The Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has posted an instructional video to help local governments apply for \$325 million in grants available through the Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) and Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant (IMG) programs. Applications and required supporting documentation are due by 5:00 p.m. June 14th.
- 9) The May Tug Hill Commission meeting will be held Monday, May 20th at 10 a.m. at the Village of Central Square Municipal Building.

New Business

- A. Sewer/Water Relevy** – Accepted by the Board in the amount of \$42,223.83 (Sewer \$28,131.38 principal plus \$9,280.00 late fees plus Water \$4,812.45) upon motion duly made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. B, Budgets 2024-2025 – Adopted by the Board upon motion duly made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Park Fee Waiver Request – Approved by the Board for Girl Scout Troop 60878 to use Goettel Park on June 4th upon motion duly made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. FOIL Response Letter – Authorized by the Village Board as the Appeals Board in response to Auditing Erie County 's Modified FOIL Request upon motion duly made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Monthly Business

Previous Minutes – Minutes from April 22, 2024, as written and submitted by Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Vouchers – Vouchers listed on Abstract #39 totaling \$54,999.07 were approved for payment as listed below upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

- **General Fund** \$22,384.01
- **Sewer Fund** \$21,588.90
- **Trust & Agency** \$51.80
- **Capital Projects** \$10,974.36

Before adjournment, Trustee Sherman suggested the Board hold a workshop in the next month or two to begin looking at next year's budget. He believes this is needed to keep up with rising costs and maintain vehicles and equipment.

Next Scheduled Meeting & Adjournment

Due to Memorial Day falling on Monday, May 27th, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:50 p.m. Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Cusyck
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by the Village Board May 29, 2024