

Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Tuesday, June 20th, 2023

6:00 pm

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Mayor Nikolados.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Nikolados-Present Trustee Rue-Present Trustee Banks-Absent
Trustee Massey-Present Trustee Jenkins-Present

Also Present:

James Snowden-Village Manager
Antoinette Williams-Village Attorney @ 6:30pm
Michael Sussman-Special Counsel
Chief Mir-Monticello Police Department
Gary Lasher-Village Treasurer
Janelle Deppa-Justice Court Clerk
Robert Nelson-Sewer Working Supervisor
Rudolph (Chuck) Brodowsky-Water Working Supervisor
Anthony Dworetsky-Highway Superintendent

Motion to accept the agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Massey to accept the agenda. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

2023/2024 Budget Work Session with Department Heads

Anthony Dworetsky-Highway Department

There was a discussion in regards to the amount of equipment requested in the Tentative Budget versus what the Village could actually afford.

Mr. Dworetsky made the Board aware that the Village has a fleet of very old trucks that are barely hanging on and the mechanics are doing the best they can to keep them functioning. He stated that the biggest priority is to replace Truck #13, a 2010 International, it needs everything, plows, wings, standard and all of that by itself is \$225,000.00+.

The Village Manager Mr. Snowden made the Board aware that he had discussions with Mr. Dworetsky concern the need for another excavator & bucket. He stated that they borrowed the sewer departments' excavator for the job they did on West Broadway and it was a huge asset. He stated that the back-hoe is too big and hard to maneuver and a lot to load, so getting the highway department their own excavator will be a better buy and more useful.

Mayor Nikolados stated that maybe we can save the CHIPS monies that is budgeted for next

year to purchase and replace the trucks and equipment needed for that department.

Rudolph Brodowsky-Water Department

As per Mr. Brodowsky, everything that is in their budget is currently what they need. He stated that their budget is pretty much covered thanks to the increase in the water bills last year that gave them a small cushion that they hadn't had in a long time. He stated that everyone is well aware of the need of a new plant, but he knows that's a matter of bonding and not the Village Budget. He stated that all he needs is one more truck which he believes should be coming up on the next agenda.

Robert Nelson-Sewer Department

Mr. Nelson stated that he put portable generators in the budget this year because they are a requirement for each pump station. He stated that one will be purchased on the next agenda if it passes, and he's looking to purchase one or two each year until there's one for every generator.

Mr. Snowden stated that he and Mr. Nelson had a big meeting with the Town with concerning the Rte. 17B Pump Station and those upgrades. They feel that the upgrade should be completed through shared services of the Village and Town, but the details still have to be worked out. There will be additional meetings in the upcoming months.

Janelle Deppa-Justice Court

Mrs. Deppa stated that they are in need of a Court Officer desperately. She stated that their income is based on arrests & tickets being written by the Monticello PD & County Sheriff's Department. If there are no tickets and/or arrests, there's no income. In regards to a Court Officer, someone is need for about 20hrs a month and that will suffice.

Mr. Snowden stated that Judge Solomon requested that the Village adopt a Local Law enacting a Constabulary and they can have the same duties to arrest and ticket, just at a lesser rate. He stated that he also met with the Chief to discuss Judge Solomon's suggestion and he is in agreement with it. It is on the July 5th agenda for a Public Hearing.

Trustee Rue stated that the Board should be cautious in enacting this Local Law as she has called around and there are a lot of issues and lawsuits being filed.

Chief Mir-Police Department

There was a discussion in the number of Police Officers in the Budget versus what we actually have. We currently have 14 working with the Chief and because there will not be another Civil Service exam given until the Spring and then the list coming out in the fall, about the time you interview and have a candidate meet all of the qualification and then enter the academy, that officer will not be on the street until Spring of 2025 and that depends on the academy. There is another officer that is currently in the department that is being trained in the office right now because he hasn't attended the Academy yet. So once attends and passes the academy trained, that will be 16 officer's including myself, the Chief explained. He also stated that he has an officer that is willing to be a lateral transfer, but the County will not honor his NYC exam because the exam given here is different; but if I could get him, I could hire him one day and have him on the street the next day.

Special Counsel, Mr. Sussman stated that there was a decision that came down from Supreme

Court, Judge Schick, that does not bind the Village to the PBA's requirement for twenty-four (24) officers, so technically and according to the decision of the case, the budgeted 24 hours that allotted for in the budget before everyone is not necessary and that right there is a huge budget savings.

Chief Mir stated that it is an expectation that we will have a full force.

Mr. Sussman stated that he understands the expectation, but legally, it is not a requirement and there is no need to allocate funds for an expectation when the Village is already in a deficit. That doesn't make since and is not a true reality when you currently cannot find the individuals to meet those expectations.

Chief Mir and Mr. Lasher both responded but these numbers also include overtime and it always hard to calculate because of the need.

Mr. Sussman replied that you only have 14 officers actually working including the Chief, so they overtime should be allotted for actually 13 officers not 24. Those lines are extremely inflated and there is no logical or justified reason for them to be. If you anticipate hiring another 3 or 4 officers, which is realistic because again, you cannot find even 1 to hire now, so if you can't find 1 to hire now, how can you anticipate hiring 10 in the upcoming budget, when you can't hire one now? And like you said, by the time another list comes out from Civil Service it'll be well into another budget. I think the budget should reflect a number of 18 or 20, but nothing over that and 20 may even be stretching it.

Mayor Nikolados stated that it doesn't make any difference is the number reflected is 18 or 24 because we are in a deficit, so if it's \$500,000 extra for all 24 and overtime or the exact number, a deficit is a deficit and he feels that it will look better to budget for more and not use those numbers and make adjustment to the budget later than to not budget for more.

Mr. Sussman replied that I get what you're saying, but the tax payers need to know that the Board is voting on a budget of real numbers, not expectations and anticipations.

Mayor Nikolados asked the Treasurer to take the number down to 20 officers and that should suffice.

The Village Board

Trustee Massey stated that in looking at the salary schedule that was just received, none of it makes sense. Some people have increases while others don't. She asked who told the Treasurer to give himself a \$6,000.00 raise and how are there percentages in their already when everyone is yelling that contract negotiations aren't done yet.

Mayor Nikolados stated that this is a wish list, it's what they want, and it doesn't mean that they'll get it.

Trustee Jenkins stated that who said to put all of the Trustee's at a \$10,000.00 salary? He stated that when he ran for Trustee, he did not do it for the money and everyone knows the salary when they run.

Trustee Rue stated that we are very behind, she said the Village of Woodridge has 500 people

and their Trustee's make \$10,000.00 a year, we have over 7,000 people and much more in the summer and we are probably the lowest paid in NYS and we are the County seat.

Mayor Nikolados stated that if you look at all the Village's, we are significantly behind in pay, I'm not saying that it has to be what's in the Tentative, but there definitely needs to be an increase.

Trustee Jenkins stated that since negotiations and stuff are not finished and we have no clue how much they are asking for or what they will settle for, then we need to make it fair for everyone and do 0.02% across the Board for everyone. This way everybody gets the same thing.

Mr. Sowden stated that is what he presented to the Unions until we are in a better financial state, but they are not willing to accept it and that's why we are in Impasse now. We do not have the money to give them what they are asking, someone of them want up to 0.06% and they will not take anything less

Manager's Report

Mr. Snowden stated that he has a meeting set up with Roy Richardson from B& L tomorrow at 1pm, if a trustee or two would like to attend, they are welcomed.

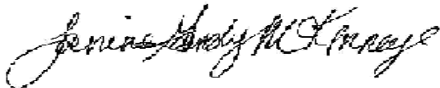
Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Mayor Nikolados to close the meeting at 7:48pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk