

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held at 7:30 pm on March 24, 2015 at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830.

**Present were:** Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Joe Spence, Trustee John Todaro, Police Chief Richard Nolan, Brandon Lummis, Fire Chief Mike Cobb, WWTP Operator Kirk Noetzel, SPW Rick Paden, Clerk/Treasurer Shelly Marks, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Paula Crippen.

Absent: Mayor Terry Stark, Deputy Mayor John O'Connor

Trustee Todaro moved and Trustee Spence seconded a motion to open the public hearing regarding the proposed budgets for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the proposed water/sewer rate increases at 7:05 pm. All approved.

There being no public comments, Trustee Spence moved and Trustee Todaro seconded a motion to close the public hearing regarding the proposed budgets for fiscal year 2015-2016 and proposed water/sewer rate increases at 7:10. All approved.

Trustee Leach called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:** There were no public concerns.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

**ABSTRACT:**

Trustee Leach asked Chief Nolan for specifics on the monitors bought through federal surplus, which Chief Nolan provided. Trustee Todaro asked about the invoice for Saratoga Assoc. - is this for the whole fee for them? Trustee Leach explained there is a specific budget for Saratoga Assoc. and they are billing us as they do the work. Trustee Todaro moved and Trustee Spence seconded a motion to approve the Abstract (#010) as presented.

General Fund	\$73,844.23
Water Fund	\$ 6,016.07
Sewer Fund	<u>\$12,757.49</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,617.79*</b>

\*This total includes a credit from Cargill Inc. for (\$1436.51) that was moved to Abstract #011. Corrected Abstract #010 is \$75,280.74 General and \$94,054.30 total.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

Trustee Spence moved and Trustee Todaro seconded a motion to approve the February 24, 2015 minutes. All approved.

**EMERGENCY SQUAD:** Mindy Natoli was not at the meeting but sent notes. The squad had 418 EMS calls in 2014 and relayed on mutual aid from surrounding agencies to handle 249 calls.

The squad has 3 prospective new members.

Mindy Natoli attended the EMS conference and the NYS Fire Academy in March, to log some continuing medical education (CME) hours. She would like to hire a certified instructor coordinator to hold monthly training for squad members to receive the majority of the materials needed for CME.

Mindy Natoli spoke with John Morrissey, our regional representative for the NYS Department of Health Bureau of EMS, regarding EMS billing. The NYS DOH has no authority over billing practices and he suggested she contact the Village attorney to "weigh in".

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Utica National has \$1000 deductible for repairs to truck 261, caused by freeze damage during mutual aid call to Guilford. There is no mutual aid insurance. Chief Cobb will submit the claim to our insurance first then Guilford's.

A Chevy 3500 is on order to replace truck 265. This was purchased using Bingo funds.

Chief Cobb asked if the Village Clerks can find the fire department charter from the 1800's.

OFD election of officers is April 9. This is Chief Cobb's last year and last board meeting. Annual awards banquet is April 11 starting at 5:00.

Chief Cobb is still waiting to hear if three grants the OFD applied for will be awarded.

Chief Cobb requested that DPW employees attend fire calls during the day, as there are not many volunteers available during daytime hours. Trustee Leach told Superintendent Paden he should make the call whether or not his employees leave to attend fire calls.

**VILLAGE JUSTICE:** Monthly report from Judge Weidman was reviewed. Trustee Todaro moved and Trustee Spence seconded a motion to accept the report. All approved.

**DPW:** Board received a letter from Ashley Fisher regarding potholes on Albany St. and damage to her vehicle as a result of hitting one of them. Superintendent Paden reported the potholes have been filled in. The pothole in question was filled on March 13. The board is thankful for the information from Ms. Fisher. Discussion resulted about progress on the Albany St. project. Deputy Mayor O'Connor had said previously that it probably won't be fixed this construction season. The Mayor concurred and is researching various revenue streams. Superintendent Paden said the Mayor had approved \$10,000 for each of 3 years to make improvements until a permanent solution can be completed. Superintendent Paden said cleaning it up and using cold patch may work. Trustee Leach would rather use \$10,000 and have Yacano come do repairs than spend less and do a quick repair. Trustee Leach suggests checking with the Mayor.

Fountain/park cleanup – the sweeper is coming out. Sweeper needs an elevator assembly, which is a major component. This machine has worked fantastic since its purchase. The part is \$12,000, well worth the investment according to Superintendent Paden.

New snow plow truck (Western Star) - Trustee Leach asked Village Clerk Shelly Marks to email the Tracey equipment bid to the Mayor. Superintendent Paden asked if we want an extended warranty. Town of Guilford has this same truck and Superintendent Paden has seen it. He suggested we sell the old snow plow truck with the plow attached.

Backhoe - Superintendent Paden said this machine has 1000 hours on it and has run well; not problematic. Trustee Leach suggested that Superintendent Paden inquire about new equipment and present it to the Mayor, and that we should do it before running it into the ground.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Nolan reviewed the monthly case load for March.

Chief Nolan recently presented traffic Safety classes at the middle school following an incident of a child being struck by a car in a village crosswalk.

The American Red Cross Annual Real Heroes Breakfast is May 13. Chief Nolan's nominees have all been selected to be honored at the event. Jesse Gates will receive the Good Samaritan Youth Hero Award, Officer Cole Samsel will receive the Law Enforcement Hero Award, and Margot Barrows will receive the Educator Hero Award.

Replacement of Dodge Charger – Cost is \$33,000. Brandon Lummis is working on a \$25,000 pipeline grant for the new car. The petition needs 100+ public signatures by April 1. Chief Nolan handed out petitions and asked everyone to collect signatures and return by March 27.

Batteries for radio - need credit card to order. Chief Nolan asked if the Village could have a credit card for these types of situations. Trustee Leach asked Shelly Marks to follow up with the mayor.

**WASTE WATER:** Waste Water Commission meeting recently held and reviewed budget. All were OK with it. They wondered what's going on with Waste Water employees assisting with DPW operations. Trustee Todaro asked Kirk Noetzel if he sees anything different happening. Kirk said no, none of the training discussed in the past has been done with Bill Kelsey.

Vet's home - nothing different or new.

Kirk Noetzel and Bill Kelsey have been hauling sludge (first time since Nov. 2014). They took 11 loads last week. Still have 8-10 loads to go.

Lab samples – Kirk Noetzel took samples to Beacon in Binghamton. May do this every month to make sure they are in on time, as samples have a 48 hour hold time. DEC is called every time average effluent is high. This could be because of low temperatures or long sample hold times.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Spence moved and Trustee Todaro seconded a motion to adopt the annual budget for fiscal year June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016 as proposed. All approved.

Trustee Todaro moved and Trustee Spence seconded a motion to accept the proposed increases to water/sewer rates effective April 1, 2015. All approved.

**General Fund - \$1,134,000 (An increase of \$58,000)**

Revenue - \$468,200

Tax Levy - \$665,800

Tax Rate - \$23.92 (An increase of 1.5% or \$.36)

Appropriations - \$1,134,000

**Water Fund - \$225,000 (An increase of \$27,000)**

Effective April 1, 2015, there will be a rate increase. The base rate for water usage will increase from \$45.00 to \$50.00. The excess usage rate will increase from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons inside the Village and in the Town water district, and from \$4.70 to \$5.70 per 1,000 gallons outside the village.

**Sewer Fund - \$337,000 (An increase of \$27,000)**

Effective April 1, 2015, there will be a rate increase. The base rate for sewer usage will increase from \$47.00 to \$51.00. The excess usage rate will increase from \$8.50 to \$9.25 per 1,000 gallons.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** none

Trustee Leach adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paula Crippen  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer