

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on March 30, 2021 at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830. Audit Committee met at 7:00 P.M. and Regular Board meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

Present were: Mayor Terry Stark (via Zoom), Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Richard Rice, Fire Chief Ron Martin, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

Absent: OIC Adam Francis, DPW Superintendent Rick Paden, WWTP Operator Kirk Noetzel, EMS Captain Mark Forrest, Zoning Officer/Dog Warden Roger Barrows

The Village Trustees (Audit Committee) reviewed each of the invoices in the abstract for March 2021.

Mayor Stark called the Regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 at 7:32 pm. All voted Aye and motion was carried. Mayor Stark indicated that the Public notice of the budget hearing had been published in the Village's official paper (Norwich Evening Sun) on March 25th, 2021.

There being no public comments, Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Rice seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:35 pm. All voted Aye and motion was carried.

Following the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Public Hearing, Mayor Stark recommended the following proposed General, Water and Sewer fund Budgets and Water/Sewer rates be adopted.

General Fund - \$1,171,000 (An increase of \$39,001)

Revenue - \$461,400
Tax Levy - \$709,600
Tax Rate - \$25.83 (An increase of 1.4% or \$.36)
Appropriations - \$1,171,000

Water Fund - \$245,000.00 (An increase of \$5,000)

Revenue \$245,000
Appropriations \$245,000

Effective April 1, 2021 water rates will be as follows:

Quarterly	Base Water Rate	\$60.00 Within the Village
Quarterly	Excess Rate	\$ 6.00 Within Village
Quarterly	Additional Unit charge	\$30.00
Quarterly	Base water Rate	\$62.00 Outside of Village
Quarterly	Excess Rate	\$ 6.20 Outside Village
Quarterly	Additional Unit charge	\$31.00 Outside Village

FY 2022 residential quarterly base water rate will remain the same at \$60.00. Base Water rate outside the village will remain the same at \$62.00. The excess rate will increase to \$6.00 inside the Village. The Town Water District rate will increase to \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons outside the Village. Additional base unit charges will remain at 50% of quarterly base rate. The excess rate will increase to \$6.20 per 1,000 gallons. Additional base unit charges will remain at 50% of quarterly base rate.

Sewer Fund - \$331,000.00 (remains the same)

Revenue \$331,000
Appropriations \$331,000

FY 2022 residential quarterly base sewer rate will increase \$2.00 from \$55.00 to \$57.00. The excess usage rate will increase \$.25 from \$9.75 to \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons. Vets Home surcharge remains at 15%.

It was also noted that the salary for all elected officials will change as follows: Annual salary for the Mayor is \$6,000 (an increase of \$200) and the annual salary of each of the four Trustees is \$3,000 (a \$100 increase for each Trustee) for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Hendricks seconded a motion to adopt the Budget for the general, water and sewer funds for Fiscal Year June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022 as proposed.

All voted Aye and motion was carried.

Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Rice seconded a motion to open the Police Reform Public Hearing. All voted Aye and motion was carried.

Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Rice seconded a motion to open the Police Reform Public Hearing. All voted Aye and motion was carried.

There being no public comments on the Police Reform, Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Leach seconded a motion to close the Police Reform public hearing. All voted Aye and motion was carried.

Trustee Leach wants to thank Mayor Stark and Trustee Hendricks for the great job that they did on this project. The surveys were great and well done.

Motion by Trustee Hendricks and Trustee Leach to authorize Mayor Stark to sign the certification form and forward to the State of New York.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

ABSTRACT:

Trustee Marks seconded by Trustee Leach made a motion to approve Abstract #010 as presented.

General Fund	\$ 97,856.57
Water Fund	\$ 5,531.14
Sewer Fund	\$ 8,960.12
Water Project	<u>\$ 3,159.80</u>
	\$115,507.63

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Rice seconded a motion to approve the February 23rd and March 5th, 2021 Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The January Treasurer's Report is still being worked on.

JUSTICE REPORT:

Judge Frye's last day as Village Justice will be tomorrow (May 31, 2021). The Sixth Judicial district has appointed a Judge to the Village who will stand in until the June elections. The Mayor can appoint someone until the training can be completed. Mayor Stark has a candidate that is willing to take the training on-line for the five days that it is being offered. He is an Acting Justice (not Village Justice) and it is Matthew Voce. Mayor Stark recommends to the Board that he be authorized to appoint Matt Voce as Acting Justice until the June election. This will fulfill Judge Susan Frye's term through June of 2022. Matt Voce will then have to run for the official four-year term. Salary for Acting Justice is \$1,000 a year and he would be entitled to

that \$250 per quarter. Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to authorize Mayor Stark to appoint Matthew Voce as the Acting Justice. All voted aye and motion was carried.

Judge Frye sent Mayor Stark an E-Mail stating that the Bail fund for the court is not reconciled and that it is \$787.57 short and she wants the village to come up with those monies to balance her books. Trustee Leach agrees for taking these monies out of the court fund to clear these funds up that are short. Motion by Trustee Leach that we reconcile that account from the fines and forfeitures to make this balance. This was seconded by Trustee Marks.

Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to approve the February Justice Report from Judge Frye. All approved.

OFD REPORT:

Chief Martin mentioned Covid vaccinations at the Fire Department. To date, approximately 3,000 people have been through the clinic. People from all the over the state are getting vaccinated at the fire station. These vaccinations are for 1st and 2nd doses. The Johnson and Johnson program will be started also. It is seamless now and the 15-minute reaction time that is mandated is all the wait that is now necessary.

There has been a lot of positive images, press and news coverage from WSKG and WBNG. It is a unique and one-of-a-kind process. The 750 people planned for Friday is a record. The fire department has asked for help from OIC Adam Francis due to traffic issues that may occur. School is closed so that will help. The State has now opened to age 30 and up. SPW Rick Paden and his crew put the fire trucks in the Garage to keep them out of the elements.

OFD and Bartle's Pharmacy are now working with Dr. Yusuf Harper to take this program mobile. Bartle's Pharmacy has agreed to pay for fuel costs that occur if they will work on this with them. There are a couple volunteers that will do this with the program.

To date, 780 hours have been logged since March 3rd for the vaccinations. There are five (5) new graduates in the 64-hour class that passed with flying colors.

There is an eight (8) hour OSHA training. There will be a large bill for turn out gear to replace the damaged gear from the fire on County Road South. The \$12,735 was reimbursed from an insurance claim. Damaged items must be replaced and they are on track with the rotation.

March was a busy month with barn, house and stand by fire. They lost a large farmhouse at 1:30 in the afternoon with the wind blowing, Bainbridge, Sidney, Coventry, and Oxford responded and they went back 3 additional times to put out hot spots. 16 gallons of oil was added to 261 and it left a large pile of oil on Norwich's floor at their station.

April 8th are the OFD elections and anyone can run. Chief Martin thanked everyone at the Village. Hoping he gets re-elected. Asset for the OFD and the village board.

Truck 261-Mayor Stark has been working on the paperwork for the truck and has applied to Rural Development for a 75-25 match on the truck.

Motion by Trustee Hendricks and seconded by Trustee Leach authorizing Mayor Stark to submit the application for the grant. No other discussion, all approved.

EMS Staffing plan status-effective April 1st Norwich will not respond to any calls out of their area. There are 6 candidates that are on the ALS/BLS list. We should have 8 people available to have enough to meet the staffing plan.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Property issues on Franklin Street with rodents in empty houses and dead trees. The Village will get the zoning officer and the county health department involved to help resolve these problems.

WWTP:

WWTP Operator Noetzel reported that he took 16.72 ton of Sludge to the landfill in February and he received 37,700 gallons of sludge.

He took 21.21 ton of sludge to the landfill in March and he received 41,000 gallons of septage. There are 13,165 miles on the 2017 Ford F350. The oil has been changed and NYS Inspection has been completed. There are no issues.

There is a candidate that is interested in the WWTP Position. He has reached out twice regarding this opening. Position is not fully budgeted until January.

OPD:

OIC Francis send in his monthly report.

DPW:

There has been a lot of salt ordered this year due to the weather issues. Altec utility vehicle will arrange a 3-hour training with the DPW on the new vehicle that was purchased from Ithaca. This should happen this week or next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

It has been one year since the Covid Pandemic. On April 1st there are 24 total cases and no deaths. 120 cases, 393 quarantined, 8 in the hospital and one death and a total of 65 deaths. This has been a year of everything. Thanks to Bartle's Pharmacy and the OFD for all that they have done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Downtown Flower Program-the flowers around the village consists of hanging baskets, large pots, and flowers at DG and by the Oxford Tax Service and entrances to the Village. The Garden Club does the flowers by the Oxford Memorial Library and the Washington Park pagoda. Every member in the organization have gotten older and all the members of Promote Oxford Now have said they cannot continue this program any longer. Mayor Stark is working on organizations to reallocate resources. Some organizations have no money but have the manpower and some have the manpower but no money. Mayor Stark wants to find out what the Board wants to do regarding this. The total expense is about \$3,000 and possibly getting the downtown businesses to help with this. Would the Village Board be willing to pay this if Mayor Stark cannot find anyone else to do this.

The Rotary does a lot with the flower program. They prefer to put a sound system on LaFayette Park for with bank concerts and activity around Christmas time and the farmer's market. The Rotary would pay for ½ the cost and apply for a Grant. They are not able to get a grant for the flower program.

The Mason's are willing to donate some money for the flower program. They do not have the manpower for the program. All hanging baskets were taken to Pier's by the DPW. The cost is \$990 to have those hanging baskets filled with flowers.

The Ag program at the school may be an option as far as getting the flowers watered. What happens on weekends for the watering of plants?

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

Trustee Marks asked about the lighting at LaFayette Park. This was supposed to be done by Christmas time. Covid was some of the issue but Mayor Stark is following up with Flemvale Construction regarding this. Was low voltage wiring or a sound system wiring installed as well.

Trustee Leach commented on the dog stations around the village. Apparently, someone put a bucket at the bottom of the dog stations because people are throwing garbage all over. He feels we need to get rid of these stations since plastic bags are being eliminated. There are three stations around the village now. Trustee Leach will send an E-Mail with some pictures and his comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm

Next Regular meeting will be April 27th at 7:00 for the audit committee and 7:30 for the regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks
Clerk-Treasurer