

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held at 7:00 P.M. on March 14, 2023 at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830.

**Present were:** Mayor Terry Stark via conference call, Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Richard Rice, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

Mayor Stark called the Regular meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

The Board talked about bulk septage and losing the \$31,000 in revenue if we discontinue accepting bulk septage. We would have to increase the sewer portion of the quarterly water/sewer from \$59 to \$78 (\$19 increase over 30%). They tried to eliminate things at the WWTP to help with the loss of revenue if we take away the bulk septage. The mayor sent an email to Village Trustees that contained a worksheet that showed in the chart that absent \$31,000 bulk septage revenue, a new minimum charge of \$79 for a base rate would be required to offset this loss of revenue.

The Board discussed putting limits on receiving bulk septage as far as the time of day and or days of the week. For instance, only accept sludge Monday – Thursday to help with weekend smells. We will have to invest some money if we do accept bulk septage to help with the smell. Trustee Leach said there has been no smell for 16 months so he feels that the odor is due to the bulk septage not the WWTP in general.

If we eliminate the bulk septage and incur the \$31,000 in lost revenue, we must decide what to do about pricing with the water/sewer quarterly billing. Mayor Stark asked the Board what they want to do with the sewer rates.

The minimum of 4,000 gallons is currently \$59.00. We discussed raising this to \$63.00 for rate of inflation and to charge \$11.00 for the excess usage. We do have a good handle on the sewer fund on unallocated fund balance of \$171,000. If that is the unallocated fund balance, we could subsidize the operating fund with that amount after discussing with an engineer.

Mayor Stark discussed with the Board what they think should be done about the police salary issue. There was a NYCOM salary survey that was done back in December listing salaries. Experience and knowledge are hard to replace.

There was a situation last Friday with a dog from Greene Street that attacked a dog on Water Street. Our Police department responded to the call but the dog took off. Matt Dilfer from the DPW heard the cries from the owner of the dog that was getting attacked and ran to her aid.

Matt Dilfer should be recognized as the dog could have been killed or the owner could have been badly hurt. OIC Francis documented with Roger Barrows, Dog Warden that this is not the first time with this dog. They are quarantined now within property owners' quarters. Dogs should not be allowed to stay in the house if they are dangerous. Citations have been issued and they will be appearing in court. This does not mean it will take care of the problem.

The Village Board has an obligation to be sure that the court clerk, judge, town and village clerks feel safe while in the building since the village owns the building.

Trustee Leach, Trustee Hendricks, Trustee Marks, and Trustee Rice have no issues with the 2023-2024 budget that was presented and discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Deputy Mayor Dale Leach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 for the public hearing and regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks  
Clerk-Treasurer