

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on March 12, 2024 at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830 at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Terry Stark (via zoom), Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Richard Rice, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

ABSENT: Fire Chief Ron Martin

Mayor Terry Stark called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

None

The tentative budgets for the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 were reviewed along with salary increases. We received some information regarding NYS Trooper and City of Norwich police salaries. In 2018, the city of Norwich was losing people due to their salaries not being as high as people expected them to be. The village does not offer family health coverage and that is not equal to what other municipalities offer. The village needs to keep our salaries competitive in order to keep the current employees that we have.

**PROPOSED
LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024**

A LOCAL LAW authorizing a Property Tax Levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law Sec 3-c.

BE IT ENACTED by The Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford as follows:

Section 1 Title, Intent and Purpose

1.1 Title. The title of this local law shall be the “Tax Levy Limit Override.”

1.2 Legislative Authority. This local law is adopted pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law (GML), Sec 3-c (5) that expressly authorizes a local government’s governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of 60% of said governing body.

1.3 Purpose. It is the intent of this article to allow the Village of Oxford to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2024 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the tax limit as defined by General Municipal Law Sec 3-c.

Section 2 Tax Levy Limit Override. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2024 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in the GML, Sec 3-c.

Section 3 Repeal. If the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford adopts a budget for the fiscal year commencing on June 1, 2024 that does not require a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law Sec 3-c (to wit, if the authorization contained in Section 2 of this Local Law is not utilized), the override authority under this local law may be repealed by resolution of the Board of Trustees (to wit, without a public hearing and without any further local law).

Section 4 Authority. The proposed local law is enacted pursuant to General Municipal Law Sec. 3-c(5) and Municipal Home Rule Law Sec 10(1)(i), 10(1)(ii)(a), 10(1)(ii)(a)(12), and 10(1)(ii)(e)(3).

Section 5 Severability. If any section or subsection, paragraph, clause, phrase, or provision of this law shall be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, any judgment made thereby shall not affect the validity of this law as a whole, or any part hereof other than the part or provision so adjudged to be valid or unconstitutional.

Motion by Trustee Hendricks seconded by Trustee Leach to override Local Law #1 of 2024. All in favor, approved.

Following discussion, Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Rice seconded the proposed General, Water and Sewer fund budgets and Water/Sewer rates be adopted for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget and Public Hearing be scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 26, 2024.

The motion was adopted, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Dale Leach	AYE
Dustin Hendricks	AYE
Richard Marks	AYE
Richard Rice	AYE

Village Clerk to notify the official paper (The Evening Sun) and place a legal ad to be published no later than March 21st.

**VILLAGE OF OXFORD
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN AID FUNDING**

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford, Chenango County, New York, held at the Village Hall, in Oxford, New York, in said Village, on the 12th day of March, 2024 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., Prevailing Time. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Terry Stark and, upon roll being called, the following were:

PRESENT:	Trustee Dale Leach	Trustee Richard Marks
	Trustee Dustin Hendricks	Trustee Richard Rice

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Leach, who moved its adoption, seconded by Trustee Hendricks, to-wit:

Whereas, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

Whereas, city and village officials share the same priorities as our state leaders which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

Whereas, New York's local governments, who are on the frontlines of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals; and

Whereas, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

Whereas, this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

Whereas, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

Whereas, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

Whereas, The Governor’s 2024–25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat;
and

Whereas, an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York;

Now, therefore, it is resolved that the Village of Oxford Board of Trustees urges Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget.

Be it further resolved that the Village Board directs Village Clerk-Treasurer to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Peter Oberacker, Assembly Member Joe Angelino, and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Trustee Leach	Voting Aye
Trustee Marks	Voting Aye
Trustee Hendricks	Voting Aye
Trustee Rice	Voting Aye
Mayor Stark	Voting Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

NYSEG has plans to trim trees and we need to find out the long-term impact to the village during 2024 - 2027. They will give property owners six months to a year notice for trimming trees on the dates they plan on being in the village. We have a tree board and have planted trees and this may jeopardize what the village has done in the past as a Tree City USA. NYSEG needs to take time and effort in trimming or cut them down and not butcher them.

Motion by Trustee Marks seconded by Trustee Leach to approve the purchase of new computers up to \$5,000.00 for the village clerk and deputy clerk and to get them on this years’ budget. Trustee Hendricks will take care of the quote from Pyramid and compare this to state bid.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Terry Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks
Clerk-Treasurer