

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on March 26, 2024 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), Deputy Mayor Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Richard Rice, OIC Adam Francis, DPW Superintendent Bill Kelsey, WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout, Fire Chief Ron Martin, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

Absent: 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 2024.

Mayor Stark called the Regular meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding Local Law # 1 of 2024 titled "TAX LIMIT OVERRIDE" for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 at 7:30 P.M. All voted Aye and motion was carried. The public notice of the TAX OVERRIDE LIMIT hearing had been published in the Village's official paper (Norwich Evening Sun) on March 20, 2024. The floor was opened to public comment.

There being no public comments, Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Leach seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m. All voted Aye and motion was carried.

Following discussion Trustee Leach, moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to adopt the following Local Law # 1 of 2024, "TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRRRIDE"

**LOCAL LAW # 1 OF THE YEAR 2024
A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT**

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford New York

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), §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 levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law §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, §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 §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 §3-c (5) and Municipal Home Rule Law §§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 thereof other than the part or provision so adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional.

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

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

The Board directed Village-Clerk Treasurer Marks to File the Law with the Department of State within twenty days in accordance with all Department instructions and forms.

Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 at 7:40 p.m. All voted Aye and motion was carried. The public notice of the budget hearing had been published in the Village's official paper (Norwich Evening Sun) on March 20, 2024.

There being no public comments, Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Leach seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m. All voted Aye and motion was carried.

Following the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Public Hearing, Deputy Mayor Leach recommended the following proposed General, Water and Sewer fund Budgets and Water/Sewer rates be adopted.

General Fund - \$1,418,000 (An increase of \$157,000)

Revenue	- \$652,500
Tax Levy	- \$765,500
Tax Rate	- \$27.38 (An increase of 1.5% or +\$.39)
Appropriations	- \$1,418,000

Water Fund - \$280,000 (An increase of \$10,000)

Revenue	\$280,000
Appropriations	\$280,000

Effective April 1, 2024 water rates will be as follows:

Quarterly	Base Water Rate	\$70.00 Within the Village
Quarterly	Excess Rate	\$ 6.75 Within Village
Quarterly	Additional Unit charge	\$35.00
Quarterly	Base water Rate	\$72.00 Outside of Village
Quarterly	Excess Rate	\$ 6.95 Outside Village
Quarterly	Additional Unit charge	\$36.00 Outside Village

FY 2025 residential quarterly base water rate will increase to \$70.00. Base Water rate outside the village will increase to \$72.00.

The excess rate will increase to \$6.75 inside the Village. The Town Water District rate will increase to \$6.75 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 \$6.95 per 1,000 gallons. Additional base unit charges will remain at 50% of quarterly base rate.

Sewer Fund - \$332,000 (a decrease of \$11,000)

Revenue	\$332,000
Appropriations	\$332,000

FY 2025 residential quarterly base sewer rate will increase \$2.00 from \$63.00 to \$65.00. The excess usage rate will increase \$.25 from \$11.00 to \$11.25 per 1,000 gallons. Vets Home surcharge remains at 15%.

It was also noted that the salary for all elected officials will increase: Annual salary for the mayor will increase from \$6,000 to \$6,600 and the annual salary of each of the four Trustees will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,300 for fiscal year 2024-2025.

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, 2024 through May 31, 2025 as proposed.

All voted Aye and motion was carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

NONE

ABSTRACT:

Trustee Marks seconded by Trustee Rice made a motion to approve Abstract #010 as presented. All voted aye and motion was carried.

General Fund	\$124,702.81
Water Fund	\$ 12,289.46
Sewer Fund	\$ 21,751.48
Water Project	\$ 4,199.75
EMS	<u>\$ 709.00</u>
	\$163,652.50

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Hendricks seconded a motion to approve the February 27, 2024 and March 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

JUSTICE REPORT:

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

OFD REPORT:

Chief Martin presented monthly report.

Chief Martin presented two applications for fire department membership and asked the Board to approve. Following discussion, Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Leach seconded the motion to approve the applications. All voted Aye and the motion was approved

Chief Martin indicated he had received a letter from School Superintendent regarding an alleged violation by the OFD by passing a stopped school bus. Upon investigation, including a review of the bus camera recording, it was determined it was not an Oxford Fire Department vehicle.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

OIC Francis presented his monthly report. Promote Oxford Now has submitted an application for a Memorial Day Parade. The police will be present and will stay in touch with the fire department to be sure everything goes as planned.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Roger Barrows was not present. Kale Webb, owner of property locate at 62 Albany Street was sent a Property Maintenance violation letter on November 6, 2023. The letter was returned as undeliverable at his address of record in late November. Additional attempts during the holidays to contact and receive a favorable response from Mr. Webb were not successful. Recently, we have learned that Mr. Webb has moved out of the county. Code Enforcement officer Roger Barrows contacted Tefft Trucking and they have agreed to remove easily

assessable garbage and debris. Roger will confirm a date that this will be completed before April 15th.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

SPW Kelsey presented his monthly report to the board. They have read the water meters for the first quarter of 2024 and have been doing the lead and copper tests and have gone around the whole village. They have had several calls back – more than he ever thought there would be. He will go out once more and then that is it. He cannot chase people down. Lead that is on their side is the responsibility of the homeowner and will be reported to the Department of Health. Suite Kote was in and went around the village to get the evaluation done. There has been ongoing patching – Greene Street is mill and patch from last year. Two quotes from Albany and East Main and a short section of South Washington, Park, Christine, Alice, and Kathleen. Next year they will re-evaluate and get a mill and fill in for next year. They had the sweeper out but then had to plow again. They have been doing maintenance for the equipment for the summer months. The village will buy the flower wagon and it has to be ready by Memorial Day. The hanging baskets are at Piers Flower Basket. Maintenance and repair on other vehicles have also been done. It is nice to have Matt Dilfer here as he can make these vehicle repairs. They are also picking up leaf bags until notices can be put on the water bills.

WWTP:

WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout presented his Monthly report. He mentioned that Penn Power was out and they found a couple problems. The control panel at the well building was not working. Brent gave them the okay to come and fix the generator at the well building. They will fix the switch issue themselves to save \$1,200. He is also still helping out with the lead and copper inventory. They are making a lot of operating changes around the plant to see if they can optimize the performance at the plant. So far, the few changes they have made are helping a lot and the plant is running really well. Also, doing the usual monthly maintenance that is required around the plant. When the digester was cleaned during the summer, there was a bunch of plastic diffusers that were cracked and broken.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor reviewed correspondence received on March 20th from Ms. Stephanie Chapman regarding her complaint about DPW removing shrubs as part of the DPW's ditch cleaning program in August of 2023. He indicated that he informed Ms. Chapman at the time that if the Village had removed any shrubs, flowers etc. located on her property that the village would replace in kind. Following the meeting with Ms. Chapman on August 17th, the village measured the Right of Way last fall and again recently. The shrubs removed were all within the village right of way. Consequently, the village attorney has advised in the past that the village cannot pay for expenses when there is no legal obligation to do so. If we did, it would be considered a gift which is not allowed under NY State Law. Upon receiving this information via email on March 21st, Ms. Chapman expressed her disappointment in the Village response and indicated she would be discussing her legal options with attorney.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEMOLITION AND DEBRIS REMOVAL ORDER – 62 ALBANY STREET BUILDING/STRUCTURE.

Mayor indicated that as part of the follow-up process to address property maintenance issues at 62 Albany Street, Engineer Gene Rood was contacted to determine if the building was unsafe. Mr. Rood's assessment report was received on March 18th (attached to minutes). Based upon the report and a review of the options, the Village has to address the problem, the mayor recommended the Board issue a Demolition order (attached to minutes) and authorize the Mayor and Village Clerk-Treasurer to take all necessary steps to provide notice, conduct public Hearing, and affirm, modify, or vacate Demolition order.

Following discussion Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Rice seconded the motion to approve the Demolition Order. All voted Aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor directed Village Clerk to send legal Notice of Public Hearing to The Evening Sun (attached to minutes) to be published at least 5 days prior to public hearing on April 16th.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Deputy Mayor Leach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Next Regular meeting will be April 30, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks
Clerk-Treasurer