

Minutes

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Public Hearing on Tentative Budget for the fiscal year beginning on June 1, 2021 and ending on May 31, 2022 and the Regular monthly Village Board Meeting

Due to COVID-19 and the Governors Executive Order the Village Board and the public are via Zoom Videoconference with a telephone option to listen in.

Present: Mayor Dale Leiser

Trustees: David Flaherty

Dorene Weir

Michael Abrams

James Mark Browne

Also present via Zoom Videoconference/telephone: Climate Smart Committee Chair, William Mancini; Economic Development Director, Renee Shur; Building Inspector, Peter Bujanow; Village Historian, Ruth Piwonka; Jennifer Ose; Jake Samascott; Chris Messner; NEXAMP Representative Chris Mills.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Leiser opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm on the Tentative Village Budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2021 and ending on May 31, 2022.

The Village Board is proposing the following tentative budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2021 and ending May 31, 2022. The total assessed value of the village has increased to \$164,132,186. The total proposed appropriations of \$1,476,560.00; total proposed revenues of \$865,316.00.

The village is within the NYS Property Tax Cap Compliance using the Tax Base Growth Factor of 1.0070 and the Allowable Levy Growth Factor of 1.0131 for a total allowable increase of the tax levy of 2.02%. The amount proposed to be raised by taxes is \$361,244.00 with a tax rate of .00220093 per thousand assessed value.

Clerk-Treasurer Heeder read the public Hearing notice published on April 10, 2021. The notice stated residents could view the budget online or pick up a copy of the budget outside the Village Hall. Residents could send in any questions via email or call the village office.

Q: Former Trustee Brian Murphy inquired if the revenue for the Kayak launch is in the budget.

A: Mayor Leiser stated the Kayak grant is a grant that has a three year status and is followed by previous grants. He recently met with EDC Director Renee Shur in discussing the status of the grants.

Q: Mr. Murphy also inquired if there is any recommendation on placing money into the budget for a more permanent resolution towards speeding. The engineers who conducted the speed study recommended speed humps or additional speed signs to reduce speeding.

A: Trustee Abrams stated just lowering the speed limit is not enough; people drive as fast as they feel comfortable driving on any given road. The lowering of the speed limit will need to be backed by law enforcement.

No further public comments received. Mayor Leiser made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:13pm and move forward with the regular monthly Village Board meeting; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted “aye”.

CLERK/TREASURER

Minutes- A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the minutes of March 10, 2021 regular monthly Village Board meeting and the minutes of March 24, 2021 Budget meeting; March 31, 2021 Budget meeting and April 6, 2021 Budget meeting and Organizational meeting; seconded by Trustee Abrams. All voted “aye”.

Budget Amendments- A motion made by Trustee Weir approving the following budget amendments presented by the Village Treasurer; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted “aye”.

| <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> | <u>AMOUN</u> <u>T</u> |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| A.3310.1 Traffic Control Personal Services | A.1450.1 Elections Personal Services | \$ 471.00 |
| A.1920.4 Municipal Association Dues | A.1450.4 Elections Contractual | \$ 116.49 |
| A.1990.4 Contingent | A.1680.4 Central Data Processing, Contractual | \$ 822.67 |
| A.1920.4 Municipal Association Dues | A.1910.4 Unallocated Insurance | \$ 4.40 |
| A.1990.4 Contingent | A.3310.2 Traffic Control Equipment | \$ 260.00 |
| A.3410.43 Firemen Equipment Maintenance | A.3410.41 Firetruck, Generator , Repair | \$ 1,873.32 |
| A.5142.1 Snow Removal Personal Service | A.5110.1 Street Maintenance Personal Service | \$ 4,716.92 |
| A.1460.1 Records Management Personal Service | A.8010.1 Zoning Personal Services | \$ 203.50 |
| A.1460.1 Records Management Personal Service | A.8020.1 Planning Personal Services | \$ 76.20 |

Water Fund

| <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> | <u>AMOUN</u> <u>T</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| F.8320.4 Source & Pumping Contractual | F.8340.4 Transmission and Distribution Contractual | \$ 88.26 |

Abstract-A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the monthly abstract for the total amount of \$40,354.20. The General Fund expenditures of \$35,406.21; Water Fund expenditures of \$4,085.23; Sewer Fund Expenditures of \$842.76; seconded by Trustee Abrams. All voted “aye.”

Treasurer's Report-A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the monthly treasurer's report; seconded by Trustee Abrams. All voted "aye".

Tentative Budget for the fiscal year beginning on June 1, 2021 and ending on May 31, 2022-A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to adopt the proposed tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning on June 1, 2021 and ending on May 31, 2022 seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

Reassigning prior Local Laws-Clerk Treasurer Heeder explained in 2020 there were three local laws that were noticed, the public hearings were held and the laws adopted. Due to timing and COVID they were not sent to the state in time 2020 state approval. The state requires the village to reassign the local law numbers for the 2021 year. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to reassign the following Proposed Local Laws: PP LL No.4 of 2020 amending the Code of the Village of Kinderhook in relation to traffic restrictions to PP LL No.1 of 2021; PP LL No. 5 of 2020 amending the Code for the Village of Kinderhook to add Chapter 133 entitled Dumpsters to PP LL No. 2 of 2021; PP LL No. 6 of 2020 amending the Code of the Village of Kinderhook to add Chapter 132 Temporary Storage Containers to PP LL No.3 of 2021; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Code Enforcement Officer Peter Bujanow submitted his monthly activity report for the month of March. He issued 24 building permits collecting \$10,135.50 in permit fees and one record search collecting \$35.00. There has been double the amount of activity this March compared to last March.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Economic Development Director Renee Shur submitted her March 2021 monthly report to the Village Board. Renee was unable to keep her phone connection into the zoom meeting so she was unable to give a verbal report.

MAYOR LEISER

DPW- The village fire hydrants were flushed last week, the DPW will start mowing and the John Deere Tractor that was ordered will be arriving next week.

48 William St. Residential Building Demolition Project –The Mayor went door to door speaking with the neighbors of 48 William Street and handing out notices informing them of the demolition and answering any questions they may have. Mayor Dunham read a notice provided by the engineer Raymond Jurkowski, PE from CPL informing the residents of the process of the demolition project in accordance with New York State Department of Labor Standards.

Fire Department-A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the appointments of Matt Cohn to serve as Chief, David Bartlett as First Assistant Chief and Larry Eisen as Second Assistant Chief; seconded by Trustee Abrams. All voted "aye".

TRUSTEE FLAHERTY

Van Buren Hall- The village has been awarded \$15,500 from the Justice Court (JCAP) grant. Trustee Flaherty met with three masonry contractors and received the following bids:

1. Creative Design Concrete and Stone, LLC \$23,868.60
2. L.G. Stone & Restoration \$15,500
3. Thomas Wildermuth Masonry & Stone Works \$5,800

Trustee Flaherty met with Mr. Wildermuth twice to confirm an accurate quote. The DPW will remove the current concrete ramp and remove a few sidewalk panels and grade out the hump in the sidewalk. Mr. Wildermuth will install a new code approved ramp pitching the water away from the building and reusing the railing. He will be installing blue stone from the edge of the ramp to the door where the wood had rotten due to the pitch of the ramp. The DPW will repair and wood around the door as needed. The Village Hall is closed due to COVID and will stay closed until the new ramp is complete. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to award the bid to Thomas Wildermuth Masonry & Stone Works for \$5,800; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

Zoning Board of Appeals-The Zoning Board of Appeals cancelled their meeting due to lack of agenda items.

Climate Smart Task Force-The Committee did not meet therefore no report received. Bill Mancini reported he spoke with Chargpoint concerning the internet connection with the charging station. They sent a new updated 4G modem free of cost. The village will need to pay to have it installed for \$375.00 or pay for a service agreement prior and the installation would be under the service agreement. PlugIn Station's maintenance service contract is \$740.00 a year that covers labor and parts. He is not sure if this would be considered an upgrade or a repair. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to allow Mr. Mancini to use his discretion on the best outcome to have the electric charging station fixed and back online; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted "aye".

TRUSTEE ABRAMS

Water & Sewer Department-The total water billed for April was \$44,836.61 of which \$25,977.60 is outstanding. The sewer billing for April was \$5,451.98 with the previous outstanding balance the total outstanding sewer billing of \$7,628.98. A technician from New York Rural Water reviewed our water system and listened to our waterlines for any leaks. He felt the village system is working very well and did not hear any leaks.

Roads and Sidewalks-The village had an estimate to repave Hudson Street from Sylvester Street to the light in the upcoming budget for \$150,000. An actual estimate was received today of \$68,000. The village will review the estimate to confirm all items are covered before moving forward. Trustee Abrams noted the village has received phone calls and emails on the condition of Albany Ave. He stated the Village Board has read all of the emails and the Village Board is making Albany Ave a priority. The project is not only repaving but also replacing water lines. The Mayor is meeting with the grant writer next week. The village has submitted a water infrastructure grant is waiting to see if the village will be awarded any funds. He is also meeting with the engineer who drafted the plans for William Street and Albany Ave to discuss updating plans for the village to be ready to move forward when possible.

Historic Preservation Commission- The HPC Commission did not meet in March their next schedule meeting is tomorrow Thursday, April 15th.

TRUSTEE WEIR

NEXAMP- Representative Chris Mills from NEXAMP attended the Village Board meeting. He stated NEXAMP is the largest community solar developer in the country. They are one of the few vertically only developers which means they do everything from construction, engineer, procurement, customer service and billing. He hopes they will have the village accounts up and running by November or December this year and feels the village is looking at a \$2,400 savings the first year.

Trustee Browne confirmed with Chris Hill that the village can opt out of the NEXAMP agreement on the DPW building and the firehouse when the solar panels are installed. Mr. Hill confirmed, yes, the village can opt out with a 90 notice.

Resolution by: Trustee David Flaherty;

Seconded by: Trustee James Mark Browne.

WHEREAS, the Village of Kinderhook has received an offer from Nexamp for a share of a community solar farm serving the National Grid territory that would support local clean energy and save the Village of Kinderhook on electricity costs by participation in Community Solar with Nexamp; and

WHEREAS, Nexamp has offered a Community Solar Subscription Agreement with an allocation of 155.5 kW with \$0 upfront costs, at a 10% discount, \$0.90 paid for each \$1.00 credited to the Village electrical bill usage, which is proposed to have an environmental benefit of 136 Metric tons of CO2 offset, and an annual savings of \$2,407 in electrical usage for the Village, the agreement offered for a term of 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Kinderhook has reviewed the proposal, and the Community Solar Subscription Agreement and finds that entering the agreement is in the best interest of the Village of Kinderhook.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Kinderhook approves the Community Solar Subscription Agreement with Nexamp; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents to enter into the Nexamp Community Solar Subscription Agreement.

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Kinderhook Village Board members voted

"Aye" in favor of the Resolution:

Mayor Dale Leiser;

Trustee David Flaherty;

Trustee Dorene Weir;

Michael Abrams; and

Trustee James Mark Browne.

The following Kinderhook Village Board members voted "No" in opposition,

thereto: _____; and
_____.

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Village Board the same was declared duly adopted by the Mayor of the Village of Kinderhook.

Village Recreation Commission-Two members of the Commission met with a playground equipment provider to discuss the long term layout of the playground. The Commission is requesting the Village Board open a savings account and placing the playground funds that was not used in the 2020-2021 village budget due to COVID for the future anticipated purchase of playground equipment. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to open a playground savings account for the purpose of placing funds aside for the future purchase of playground equipment; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted "aye".

TRUSTEE BROWNE

Albany Hudson Electric Trail-Spoke with Andy Beers concerning adding google maps to the AHET website along with the village's EDC Director Renee Shur request to add Historic places to the website. They have received permission from DOT to install a post with the village's walking tour Brochure at Rothermel Park at the Val-Kin parking lot.

Personal Policy – Trustee Browne has been working on updating the Village's personal policy. He completed the first draft and has submitted the draft to Trustee Abrams who has forwarded the policy to Trustee Weir and will continue around the Village Board for review and comments.

Planning Board - The Planning Board's meeting was held on April 1, 2021. The Planning Board reviewed two site plans for 12 Broad Street for a store front on the first floor with an apartment in the rear of the building and two apartments on the second floor. They also reviewed a Special Use Permit for 8 Broad Street "Three Sisters Tavern".

TAXPAYER TIME

Mayor Leiser received a call from National Grid that they have hired an outside company to replace several telephone poles on Railroad Ave and on Broad Street. They have also contacted the Village DPW for scheduling and to locate the water and sewer lines.

Ruth Piwonka had a pole removed in front of her house on Albany Ave they installed a new pole but never removed the old pole. She would like the Mayor to inquire when they will be removing the old pole.

Q: Brian Murphy asked what the difference will be in savings between the village solar panels on the garage and having NEXAMP.

A: Trustee Flaherty stated he and Trustee Weir met with Chris Mills from NEXAMP and they do not know what the difference in savings will be. NEXAMP stated over a course of a year it will save the village a 10% savings and until the solar panels are installed compared to the usage the village will not know the difference of savings. The village will move forward with NEXAMP and will give a 90 day notice when the solar panels will be installed.

Q: Brian Murphy wanted to know the Village Recreation Commission desire to make changes to the playground and the cost of the equipment?

A: Trustee Weir noted the Recreation Commission is looking at updating the playground equipment to include exercise equipment and playground equipment that will be inclusive to children with special needs, autism Asperger's. The cost of one of the pieces was listed at \$15,000 and another at \$20,000. They are looking at the long term vision of the playground to be inclusive of all.

A motion made by Trustee Abrams to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:02 pm and enter into executive session to discuss the personal policy; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder
Village Clerk

Executive Session

No motions made.

A motion made by Mayor Leiser to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:30 pm; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

Dale R. Leiser
Mayor