

A special meeting of the Village of Liverpool Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday April 10, 2018 at 7:00 PM at 310 Sycamore Street, Liverpool NY

Present:	Gary White	Mayor
	Christina Fitch	Deputy Mayor
	Matt Devendorf	Trustee
	Bradley Young	Trustee
	Jason Recor	Trustee
	Mary Ellen Sims	Village Clerk Treasurer

Also present were approximately 5 persons. Russ Tarby, Eagle News was also present.

Mayor White called the meeting to order and all those present joined in the pledge of allegiance.

### **Public hearing 2017- 2018 Budget**

Motion was made by Trustee Devendorf, seconded by Trustee Young, to open the public hearing on the 2018-2019 Village budget. Motion Passed.

Mayor White commented that the Village did not pass the Tax Levy Override Law this year and that with the proposed budget, we have stayed within the tax levy limit.

Mayor White gave a brief recap of the proposed 2017-2018 budget as follows:

The Village Clerk presented a tentative 2018-2019 budget on March 19, 2018. The Tentative Budget shows no increase in the current tax rate of \$ 12.45 per thousand. Capital purchases total \$ 115,000 for the purchase of a police vehicle for \$ 30,000, one mower \$15,000 a transfer of \$50,000 for the Hickory/sixth Street project and \$20,000 in the contingent line. This tentative budget increases the salary for the Mayor \$8,000 to \$10,000 annually and for the Trustee --- \$ 4,000 to \$5,000.

The Tentative budget raised the amount expected from Fines (Court Revenue) to \$ 150,000.

The Village taxable values went from 125,957,031 to 127,321,140. Keeping the tax rate the same (\$12.45) , we would collect \$1,585,148 in tax dollars.

This tentative budget is within the allowable tax levy limit of 2.00%

2018-2019 Budget, subject of this public hearing is as follows:

- Budget total General fund \$ 2,551,051.00
- Tax Rate \$ 12.45 ( no increase)
- Would need to take \$ 141,956.00 from fund balance to balance the budget
- This Tentative budget reflects no raises for the non-union employees.. It does include raises for the Mayor, Trustees and PBA – contracted salaries )

## 2018-2019 Sewer fund Budget

- Total Sewer fund Budget           \$ 163,492
- Sewer rents will remain flat at \$ 130.00 per unit

Mayor White commented that after the close of the public hearing, the Board would be discussing some additional items.

Mayor White requested that Trustee Fitch present her study on Mayor and Trustees salaries. Trustee Fitch gave a brief overview of her findings of comparable salaries in surrounding municipal governments. The last raise for the Board of Trustees and Mayor was in 2001. Last year, raises were discussed for the Mayor and Trustees but no action was taken. Trustee Fitch stated that per capita, the Village of Liverpool Mayor and Board salaries are on the low side.

Trustee Fitch stated that the Village needs working Trustees, where in the past the Trustees and Mayor were an oversight Board. Raising the salaries will continue to attract quality people to these important positions.

Mayor White commented that it is uncomfortable to be requesting a raise. The job has changed drastically and more work is required of the Board. He feels that the proposed salaries are not out of line.

Mayor White stated that he feels that the 2018-2019 Budget is a good budget and asked for comments from the Board.

Trustee Devendorf stated that he felt that the 2018-2019 budget is good fiscally. He felt that the proposed raises for the Mayor and Board of Trustees are keeping in line with other municipalities.

Trustee Recor stated that he went over the budget line by line and felt that the budget is good.

Trustee Fitch stated that last year there were no negative comments on proposed raises and that a different model is needed for the Village Board. A model of working trustees instead of an oversight board.

Trustee Young stated that last year there was unanimous support for the proposed raises for the Board and Mayor.

Hearing no more comments from the Board, Mayor White asked if there were any comments from the public.

One resident asked if the request for a new police vehicle meant that the Village would be hiring a new police officer. Mayor White explained that there is program in place to update the fleet each year, thereby retiring the oldest vehicle. It is a program that has been highly successful.

Hearing no more questions, a motion was made by Trustee Devendorf, seconded by Trustee Young, to close the public hearing. Motion Passed.

### **Capital Tree Program**

Trustee Fitch presented a request to have monies set aside in this 2018-2019 Budget for the tree program. There are 1,800 trees in the Village of Liverpool. The tree inventory needs to be updated and continued maintenance needs to be funded. The Tree Committee discussed possible funding request of \$34,500.

This would include the removal of 14 large tree for a cost of \$24,500, inventory of the trees at a cost of \$4,000, planting of 5 replacement trees for a cost of \$2,000 and paying Art Brooks for an additional tree risk assessment for a cost of \$1,000.

Trustee Fitch stated that there are 70 very large silver maples in the Village that are over 100 years old. The suggestion is to remove some of these in the next 5-10 years.

Trustee Recor asked how many sugar maples there are in the Village. He stated that the average age of a sugar maple is over 400 years old. He stated that he is not a big fan of taking trees down due to age. He stated that he knows of many people in the Village that want more trees.

The Board discussed the possibility of allocating more money so that the planting would equal the removal of trees.

Village Board of Trustees agreed to allocate \$34,500 in the 2018-2019 budget for the Capital tree program. The removal of trees will match the planting of new trees.

### **Authorization to include NYCLASS in the designation of depositories**

NYCLASS (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets, Securities System) is a short term, highly liquid investment program designed specifically for New York State municipal corporations, empowered under New York State statute. The purpose of Class is to provide the opportunity to invest funds on a cooperative basis in short-term investments, which are carefully selected to provide maximum safety and liquidity while optimizing yields.

The current interest rate is 1.55 % and is compounded daily.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch, seconded by Trustee Devendorf, to authorize NYCLASS as one of the approved depositories for the Village of Liverpool. Motion Passed.

### **Executive Session**

Motion was made by Trustee Devendorf, seconded by Trustee Recor, to move into executive session for personnel issues. Motion Passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Devendorf, seconded by Trustee Young to move out of executive session and return to regular session. Motion Passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch, seconded by Trustee Devendorf, to approve salary increases to non-union employees for a total of approximately \$ 18,400 as outlined and discussed during executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Devendorf, seconded by Trustee Fitch, to approve Chief Morris's employment contract for a period of two years to be effective June1, 2018 to May31, 2020 as amended to include incentives as follows: Firearms proficiency, safe driver bonus and no sick time bonus. Motion Passed.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee Devendorf, seconded by Trustee Fitch, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Sims  
Village Clerk