

VILLAGE OF MINOA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 21, 2016
7:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Richard Donovan
Trustee Abbott
Trustee Brazill
Trustee Champagne
Trustee Christensen
Clerk Treasurer Lisa DeVona
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Donna Miller
Attorney Courtney Hills, Primo & Hills Law Firm

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Macko, Matt McGarrity, Erich Schepp, Tom Petterelli, John Sears, Tom Czajak, Marlene Christensen, Phyllis Donovan, East Syracuse Mayor Robert Tackman, East Syracuse Minoa Superintendent Dr. Donna DeSiato, Board of Education President Debbie Kolod

Mayor Donovan opened the village board meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Trustee Abbott.

ELECTION RESULTS Clerk DeVona read aloud the results of General Election held on March 15, 2016:

Total votes cast via machine: 229

Number of absentee votes: 17

Grant total votes: 246

William F. Brazill received 218 machine votes, 17 absentee votes for a total of 235 votes

John M. Abbott received 214 machine votes, 16 absentee votes for a total of 230 votes

Eric S. Christensen received 187 machine votes, 17 absentee votes for a total of 204 votes

Congratulations to all the candidates and a special thank you to the election inspectors.

**PUBLIC HEARING –
LOCAL LAW #1 FOR
2016**

**LOCAL LAW #1 FOR 2016 – TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT
ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW 3c**

Mayor Donovan read aloud the following:

General Municipal Law §3-c (“GML §3-c”) places a limit upon the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by various governmental bodies, including incorporated Villages. The Village Board of Trustees as prudent stewards of the public trust desires to insulate the Village from possible sanctions, penalties or similar adverse consequences resulting from an unintentional failure to comply with GML §3-c, by providing for the override of the property tax cap imposed thereby. Accordingly, it is the intent of this local law to override such statutory limit, as may be required, on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Minoa, County of Onondaga pursuant to GML § 3-c, and to allow the Village of Minoa, Onondaga County to adopt a Village budget for (a) village purposes, and (b) any other special or improvement district governed by the Village Board for the fiscal year 2016-2017 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by GML § 3-c.

Mayor Donovan for everyone’s edification “we were over the tax cap before we even opened the books” In order to keep the tax rate the same we must file the local law to override. Mayor Donovan asked for a motion to open the public hearing.

Trustee Champagne made a motion, seconded by Trustee Christensen to open the public hearing and waive the reading of the legal notice. All in favor; motion carried.

Public hearing was opened at 7:03pm.

With no comments from the board Mayor Donovan opened the public hearing up to the public.

John Sears, 103 S. Main Street How much are you over?

Mayor Donovan answered \$0.09cents per thousand.

Mayor Donovan stated If we were going to stay under the cap we would have to reduce the tax rate.

With no further questions from the board or public Mayor Donovan asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Trustee Brazill made a motion, seconded by Trustee Abbott to close the public hearing. All in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Donovan closed the public hearing at 7:05pm

Trustee Christensen made a motion to adopt Local Law #1 for 2016 pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c (“GML §3-c”) places a limit upon the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by various governmental bodies, including incorporated Villages. The Village Board of Trustees as prudent stewards of the public trust desires to insulate the Village from possible sanctions, penalties or similar adverse consequences resulting from an unintentional failure to comply with GML §3-c, by providing for the override of the property tax cap imposed thereby. Accordingly, it is the intent of this local law to override such statutory limit, as may be required, on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Minoa, County of Onondaga pursuant to GML § 3-c, and to allow the Village of Minoa, Onondaga County to adopt a Village budget for (a) village purposes, and (b) any other special or improvement district governed by the Village Board for the fiscal year 2016-2017 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by GML § 3-c, Trustee Brazill seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried. Resolution was adopted.

**PUBLIC HEARING –
2016-17 TENTATIVE
BUDGETS**

Trustee Champagne made a motion, seconded by Trustee Abbott to open the public hearing and waive the reading of the legal notice. All in favor; motion carried.

Public hearing was opened at 7:06pm.

Mayor Donovan reviewed the Sewer Fund overall and highlighted the following areas:

- 3% salary increase for all employees
- \$10/per year increase to sewer rents

Mayor Donovan pleased to be able to give employees a 3% increase this year. The employees of the Wastewater Treatment Plant / CERF are doing a great job with some innovative ideas. Unfortunately we are looking a potential infrastructure repairs and upgrades ranging from \$2.6 - \$3.4 million dollars, repairs and upgrades that shouldn't be put off much longer and because of those repairs we will raise our sewer rents this year an additional \$10 for the year (\$5 each billing cycle) Onondaga county residents pay \$411/yr. Mayor Donovan recommended the future boards continue to seek out and research grant opportunities for future projects.

Public Comments:

John Sears, 103 S. Main Street asked if we were bringing in any revenue since we partnered with SUNY ESF and the professors.

Mayor Donovan stated since the beginning of the partnership we have received some revenue however it is not a lot. We have started and finished a project with Oswego County and some other projects that have not really materialized. Where we see a big improvement is in our innovation working toward sustainability within our own facility.

John Sears, 103 S. Main Street, Does that mean we will be producing gas for our own vehicles and facility?

Mayor Donovan stated we are producing gas now however it is not suitable for vehicles yet.

John Sears, asked about selling this technology outside of New York?

Mayor Donovan stated we are probably better known outside our area than in it; you have heard us mention we have had visitors from China, South America, Paraguay touring out plant operations.

Mayor Donovan review the General Fund highlighting the following areas:

- 3% salary increase for all employees
- Small increase to miscellaneous contractual accounts in Court, Audit, and Fire due to a new audit firm
- DPW will order new recycling vehicle; principal and interest payments will not be due until 2017-18 fiscal year

Public Comments:

John Sears, 103 S. Main Street asked if there were any plans to fix the cracks that are in the roads before they become really bad?

Mayor Donovan stated the DPW Superintendent prepares a list of streets each year for resurfacing; McKinley street was done last year along with parts of East Avenue.

With no further questions or comments from the public a motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Champagne and seconded by Trustee Christensen.

Clerk-Treasurer DeVona stated Onondaga County Department of Finance reported on February 24, 2016 a property taxable value of \$161,310,981.00 to be used for calculations to the 2016-17 levy. On March 11, 2016 she received a notification that the village taxable value had decreased to \$161,289,856.00 due to a correction of errors to the 2016 Town of Manlius Assessment Roll. A correction to the tax levy on the tentative budget will be made to reflect this decrease.

A motion was made by Trustee Champagne and seconded by Trustee Christensen to adopt the 2016-17 Tentative Budgets for General Fund, with the correction as noted by Clerk-Treasurer DeVona for the decrease to taxable value in the amount of \$161,289,856.00 and Sewer Fund. All in favor; motion carried.

**CLERK-
TREASURER**

MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 7, 2016

Trustee Champagne made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brazill to approve the meeting minutes of March 7, 2016 as submitted. All in favor; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Tabled.

RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE OPTION TO ACCEPT FOUR (4) PAYMENT INSTALLMENTS FOR VILLAGE TAXES

Trustee Brazill made a motion, seconded by Trustee Abbott to adopt the following resolution as drafted and proposed by the Village Attorney:

WHEREAS, pursuant to an amendment to New York law permitting same and under the authority granted under Onondaga County Legislature Resolution No. 37 - 1995, the Village Board by resolution duly adopted April 2, 2012 authorized Village collection officers to accept partial payments of village real property taxes, special ad valorem levies, and special assessments; the purpose in doing same was to attempt to help relieve any anticipated burden Village residents and property owners might have by the obligation for annual State, Town and County, Village and School tax payments all being due within a few months of each other (the "2012 Village Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, since adoption, and excepting only in one instance, Village residents

have not taken advantage of the flexibility authorized under the 2012 Village Resolution to make partial real property tax payments in amounts other than, as historically required, fifty percent of the total tax due for each of the permissible installments; and

WHEREAS, this likely has been at least in part, as a result of the New York State statutory restriction on abatement of the required interest (penalty) due on each such payment(s); and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has further been advised that the Village's tax collection software program does not readily support a four (4) installment option without making difficult, time consuming and potentially error prone manual adjustments to the system; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board accordingly desires to rescind the 2012 Village Resolution so as to revoke the option for Village real property taxes, special ad valorem levies and special assessments to be paid in up to four (4) partial payments during a part of the Village then current tax year; and to restore the permitted installment payment scheme to the statutory and historically customary scheme existing in the Village; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2012 Village Resolution is hereby rescinded in its entirety; thus commencing with forthcoming (2016-17) Village real property, special ad valorem, benefit basis and specific levies, assessment bills issued, such issuance of the 2016-17 Village property tax bill contemplated for on or at about June 1, 2016, partial installment payments of same shall be permitted only as follows:

1. Village real property taxes, special ad valorem and benefit basis levies and assessments may only be paid in up to two (2) partial payments during the then current tax year in such amounts, and received by Village on or before such dates as shall be shown and described on Village issued Village property taxes, special ad valorem, benefit basis, special and/or specific levies, assessments and/or other/similar authorized fees and charges shown thereon by whatever name.

2. Each such payment shall be at minimum 50% of the total balance. The first such payment shall be due by July 1st of the current tax year. The second such payment shall be due by August 31st of the current tax year. Interest/penalties shall accrue on all payments received after July 1st of the tax year at/in the rate and amount shown on the respective bill.

3. Unless otherwise approved by resolution of the Village Board, on a case by case or collective basis, no such partial payment shall be accepted from a property owner or property upon which there are past due or otherwise delinquent real property taxes, special ad valorem or benefit basis levies, special or specific assessments, or such other/similar fees or charges (by whatever name) due or past due and owing on such property or by an owner thereof; any such payment accepted by the Village absent such approval (and which such owner or other payor or shall have an affirmative obligation to inquire as to) unless the property is current on all prior and current years property tax and other such obligations due Village as described at paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 hereof, and any such acceptance shall be with all rights reserved, and shall not be deemed a waiver of any of Village's rights and/or remedies otherwise available including without limitation a compromise, accord and satisfaction of any such sums owing to Village.

4. Without limitation, such "other/similar fees or charges" as referenced in paragraph 4 shall include any sums due Village pursuant to Village Code and/or New York State Uniform Code violation-enforcement efforts of Village the costs, expenses and fees for which are properly incurred, assessed and/or levied against the property per applicable provisions of the Village Code and/or other applicable laws, rules, regulations or resolutions permitting same and regardless of whether at the time of proposed payment to Village such similar charges, costs or fees incurred have yet to be invoiced, assessed or levied against the owner or property;

Upon motion made by Trustee Brazill, and seconded by Trustee Abbott, the question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was put to a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Richard Donovan, Mayor	Aye
William Brazill, Trustee	Aye
John Champagne, Trustee	Aye
Eric Christensen, Trustee	Aye
John Abbott, Trustee	Aye

Resolution was adopted on March 21, 2016

PERMISSION TO ATTEND PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

Trustee Brazill made a motion, seconded by Trustee Champagne to approve the request for all board members to attend Public Safety Training Center, PSCIM, 3/28, 3/30, 4/4 & 4/6 at Onondaga Community College, 6pm – 10pm, free tuition. All in favor; motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RATIFY PRIOR APPROVAL – CITY OF SYRAUCSE ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

Trustee Brazill made a motion, seconded by Trustee Abbott to ratify prior approval for Minoa Volunteer Fire Department to participate in City of Syracuse St. Patrick’s Parade, March 11, 2016. All in favor; motion carried.

TRAINING REQUEST – TO ATTEND FASNY “BY THE BOOKS: A GUIDE FOR DEPARTMENT LEADERS”

Trustee Champagne made a motion, seconded by Trustee Christensen to approve the training request to send Pat Flannery and Tony Alessandrello to FASNY: “By the Books: A guide for Department Leaders” Solvay Fire Department, March 23, 2016; \$30/pp. All in favor; motion carried.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Nothing to report

TRUSTEES’ REPORT

Trustee Champagne reported WTP/CERF were working on the foundation for the flare unit, NE Controls is looking at pump station 2 for upgrades and will submit a quote for that work, reminder that the Easter Egg Hunt will be this Saturday, March 26th at Lewis Park.

Trustee Champagne thanked Mayor Donovan for his years of service to the community and village and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

Trustee Christensen thanked all the residents who came out to vote and thanked Mayor Donovan for his years of service and stated it’s been a pleasure working with you.

Trustee Abbott thanked everyone who came out to vote and wished Mayor Donovan well in his future endeavors.

Trustee Brazill stated the Mayor’s retirement portrait has been placed on the board room wall as a part of history and personally thanked him for the last twelve (12) years as he has included him in meetings, building relationship with other municipalities and government officials; “it is an honor to call you my friend”. Congratulations on 44 years of community service, 26 years on the village board with last 12 years as Mayor. Good luck with all your future endeavors.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Donovan thanked the village board for their support and well wishes; he stated that his son was excited and honored to have taken the portrait that now hangs on the wall.

Mayor Donovan stated forty-four years ago this spring he started on this remarkable journey meeting hundreds of great people along the way. A great support group within the village, as well as NYCOM, and especially the East Syracuse School District. He thanked Dr. DeSiato, Superintendent of ESM School district, for the partnership and relationship that has been strengthen over the years, to President of the ESM School board Debbie Kolod for their support, the Harrington’s who are so enthusiastic about their jobs and the students; all village employees for their support and hard work to make this village a great place to be.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS ABSTRACT 20

A motion was made by Trustee Christensen and seconded by Trustee Champagne that the claims on Abstract #020 in the amounts of General Fund - \$104,892.81 (Vouchers 885 -

932), Sewer Fund - \$10,589.27 (Vouchers 379 - 395), for a total of \$115,482.08 audited and paid. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. DeSiato presented Mayor Donovan with East Syracuse Minoa shirt and thanked him for being so supportive of the relationship and partnership with the school district. Dr. DeSiato stated there is a saying, you never really leave a place you love and there will always be the “Dick Donovan” in Minoa. Dr. DeSiato continued with ESM thanks you for your leadership, for always being there as an advocate for the students and the district; you’ve have participated in and contributed to School to Advisory, composting in Minoa Elementary, school credit union, library literacy program and many other events. You are an outstanding role model for ESM school district and the community. We wish you the best in the future and thank you for all you have done.

Mayor of East Syracuse Robert Tackman congratulated Mayor Donovan on his retirement and thanked him for all his support over the year with a proclamation claiming today it is known as Dick Donovan day in the village of East Syracuse.

Mayor Donovan again thanked everyone present for their support and well wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the board, Mayor Donovan asked for a motion to adjourn his last village board meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Christensen and seconded by Trustee Abbott to adjourn the village board meeting at 7:53pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa DeVona

Lisa L. DeVona
Clerk-Treasurer