

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Richard Donovan, Mayor
Edmond Theobald, Trustee
Ronald Cronk, Trustee
William Brazill, Trustee
John Champagne, Trustee
Steven Primo, Attorney
Thomas Petterelli, DPW Superintendent
Keith Brandis, Paramedic Supervisor
Janet Stanley, Justice
Richard J. Greene, Codes Enforcement Officer
Chief Pat Flannery
Town of Manlius
Village of Fayetteville
Donna DeSiato, Superintendent ESM School District
Manlius Historical Society
Minoa Library
John Regan

April 13, 2009

PUBLIC HEARING
TENTATIVE
VILLAGE BUDGETS
2009-2010

Upon due notice to all members of the Village Board, a Public Hearing on the Tentative Village Budgets for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 was held on Monday, April 13, 2009 at the Municipal Building, 240 N. Main Street, Minoa, New York.

PRESENT: Mayor Donovan
Trustee Cronk
Trustee Theobald
Trustee Champagne
Clerk/Treasurer Snider

ABSENT: Trustee Brazill and Attorney Primo

ALSO PRESENT: John Sears, Nick Erard, Dennis Erard, Chris Beers and Bob Kinsella

Mayor Donovan opened the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budgets for FY 2009-2010 at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Trustee Cronk.

Mayor Donovan explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to review and discuss the 2009-2010 Budgets. He said the proposed tax rate remains the same at \$8.30 per thousand. Mayor Donovan thanked all of the Department Heads for their hard work and recognized that it was a difficult budget year due to the poor state of the economy and reduced aid from New York State. Mayor Donovan said the majority of salaries were based upon a 3% increase and the Village Board would not receive a salary increase.

Mayor Donovan then presented the First Model of the Water Fund with Appropriations of \$45,222.50; Estimated Revenues of \$45,612.50; and Unexpended

Fund Balance of \$0.

Mayor Donovan presented the First Model of the Sewer Fund with Appropriations of \$638,724.00; Estimated Revenues of \$526,016.00; and Unexpended Fund Balance of \$112,708.00.

Mayor Donovan then presented the Fourth Model of the General Fund with Appropriations of \$3,081,158.51; Estimated Revenues of \$1,603,007.00; Amount to be Raised by Tax of \$1,119,164.00; and Unexpended Fund Balance of \$358,987.51.

Throughout the presentation Mayor Donovan gave the public an opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments.

Audience Comments

John Sears, 103 S. Main Street

Sewer Fund

- Asked why the office employees get a half day on Fridays in the summer and do they put in all of their hours? Mayor Donovan said the DPW and Office employees work longer days during the week and leave early on Fridays, which is an employee benefit. Mayor Donovan said the office staff works 35 hours a week and DPW employees work 40 hours a week.
- Sewer Sludge Removal – Can the Village of Minoa give or sell the sludge to farmers? Mayor Donovan and Trustee Cronk explained that the DEC does not allow for human waste to be used as fertilizer. Mr. Sears continued to discuss the removal of sludge and selling it to the farmers and Mayor Donovan said that the question was answered and reiterated that sludge could NOT be used by farmers in the field and it is illegal. Mayor Donovan said that all biosolids need to be sent to the properly certified landfill.
- Utilities – Does the Utilities include the new heater that was installed at the DPW? Mayor Donovan said the boiler and heater were installed at the DPW and not the WWTF and the line he is questioning only pertains to electric and gas usage in the WWTF.
- Mr. Sears asked if the sludge can be placed in leach fields. Mayor Donovan said the Village of Minoa has wetlands and sewage cannot be placed in leach fields. Mayor Donovan said the wetlands can be part of the treatment if the water is flowed in that direction, but you cannot deposit biosolids in the wetlands.
- Can the sewer department be expanded and utilize it to use less waste? Mayor Donovan said the WWTF is efficient and very little waste is sent out based on the amount of incoming sewage.
- Do the Bonds in the Sewer Department account for the parking lots behind the

municipal building? Mayor Donovan said no, the bonding for the parking lots was accounted for in the General Fund.

General Fund

Mr. Sears said that other villages like East Syracuse which has Fortune 500 companies and is almost a small city; Chittenango has restaurants and small businesses, while Minoa only has homes and limited Parade of Homes projects. He said the Trustees should take a pay cut and invest in something for the public; possibly a large screen TV and instead of having two movies in the park, they can have movies once a month. He said that their salaries could be used to hold an ice cream social and can be done in the empty ice cream shop or possibly hold a barbecue event. Mr. Sears said that while comparing what villages have and what the trustees make, the Village of Minoa trustees are the only ones in a position to buy a new vehicle every four years.

Mayor Donovan asked Mr. Sears to stay on track and discuss the budget. He said the Trustees work diligently and participate in departmental management that trustees from other villages do not participate in. Mayor Donovan reminded Mr. Sears that he recently critiqued the grant application to further advance commercial business at the Public Hearing for the Restore NY Grant application and at the Budget Hearing he is critiquing that there aren't any commercial businesses in the Village of Minoa. Mayor Donovan said the Village of Minoa cannot control the success of local businesses, but could apply for funding opportunities on behalf of interested owners.

Mr. Sears said that the Board unconstitutionally tried to eliminate outside vendors from working in the village. Mr. Sears said that the Board's decision does affect business. Mayor Donovan said the original intent of the Peddler License and Outdoor Service Vendors was to protect local merchants, but after listening to the public during the Public Hearing process the law was adjusted to allow for outside vendors. Mayor Donovan said that the vendor who was originally interested in applying for the license has never applied for the license last year and after receiving a Health Department violation has not applied for a new license this year. Mr. Sears said that meetings were held behind closed doors and the legal notices were not enough information and that more people should attend the meetings. Mr. Sears said the interested business owner went on to bigger and better things.

Mr. Beers said that the gentlemen who wanted the license never applied and respectfully asked Mr. Sears if they could get back to discussing the budget and not hot dog vendors.

Mayor Donovan said the Budget Public Hearing was not for debating purposes and asked him to stay on track. Mayor Donovan then called the Town of Manlius Police Department to ask them if they would attend the meeting to maintain order.

Mr. Sears left the meeting at 7:36 PM before the Town of Manlius Police arrived.

Mayor Donovan apologized to those in attendance for the disruption.

Bob Kinsella said that he had attended the meeting to tell the Board that they had done a wonderful job regarding the Easter Egg Hunt celebration and then left the meeting at 7:39 PM.

A break was made to discuss the problem at hand with the Town of Manlius Police officer.

Chris Beers, 113 Beresford Lane, Minoa

Sewer Fund

- Equipment – What does the equipment line consist of? Mayor Donovan said the main item is a cross flow media program at approximately \$16,000.
- What schools are covered under the ESM School District contract and who installed the infrastructure? Mayor Donovan said the contract covered Pine Grove Elementary School, Woodland Elementary, ES-M High School and the bus garage. Mayor Donovan said they installed their own infrastructure.
- What is the appropriated fund balance? Clerk/Treasurer Snider said that if the revenues do not cover the expenses, the remaining funding comes from savings, which is considered the Fund Balance.

General Fund

- Asked for clarification of the .40 accounts and Clerk/Treasurer Snider said the .40, .41, .42, etc. are miscellaneous accounts that are broken down for expense purposes.
- Are the legal fees only in account A1420.4? Clerk/Treasurer Snider said legal fees are also included in the Fire, Ambulance, and Sewer accounts and are used only when legal fees apply, such as union negotiations for the Ambulance Department.
- What happens to unused funds? Clerk/Treasurer Snider said unused funds are part of the Fund Balance at year end.
- Asked for clarification of the drainage line and Mayor Donovan said drainage typically pertains to pooling areas that are not draining properly in the storm drains, vent pipes, settling water and stormwater issues that the DEC mandates.
- Asked if the shade trees were located on village property and Mayor Donovan said yes, we maintain all trees located in the right of way and the trees are maintained annually.

Nick Erard, 216 DeSilva Street, Minoa

General Fund

- Asked for clarification of the ambulance charges in the amount of \$250,000. Mayor Donovan said the revenue was a result of insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare payments from ambulance calls that were billed through MultiMed and does not include commission charges, which are included as a separate line item.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of hiring a bailiff or an off duty police officer to maintain order and provide protection throughout the Board meetings.

Clerk/Treasurer Snider said that after the recent shootings in Binghamton, NY, she does not feel comfortable or safe while Mr. Sears is in attendance at the meetings without security being present due to his increasingly erratic behavior.

Dennis Erard, 216 DeSilva Street, Minoa, asked if it would be possible for a Town of Manlius police officer to be present at the board meetings and Mayor Donovan said the Town cannot provide for a police officer to sit through a meeting and if a police officer is in the building, they would be working on an active case in their office.

Chris Beers said that he also agrees that there should either be a Town of Manlius police officer present or an off duty police officer and that the metal detector should be used during public and budget meetings to keep order and provide safety. Mayor Donovan said that he appreciates their support and will review the possibility of bringing in a court bailiff during the meetings.

Mayor Donovan said that Budget meetings do not need to be held and can be done by meeting with department heads individually. He said the meetings are provided to give the public the opportunity to see the budget process. Mr. Beers said that he would hate to see the budget meetings end because they have been helpful to him in understanding the process and then the budget hearing gives him the opportunity to ask questions. Mayor Donovan said that he would review how things are as we move forward and re-evaluate the process for next year.

Trustee Champagne said that it would be a good idea to lock the back doors near the Ambulance Department like they do on Court night to prevent unwanted entry during the meetings.

Mr. Beers said he does not mean to imply that Mr. Sears is a public risk, but if there is a fear then the doors should be locked at all times and opened only when the attendant arrives. He said there needs to be a balance. Mayor Donovan said there will be a security system installed later, but that will not prevent entry and only provide proof of the attacker.

Trustee Theobald said the Town of Manlius contracts with the Town of Dewitt and questioned the coverage for angry or loose dogs. Clerk/Treasurer Snider said the Town of Manlius is responsible for handling dangerous dogs and their only restriction is that they cannot ticket the dog owners because they no longer handle Codes Enforcement services for the village, but Ethel Sawkins, Animal Control Officer, has the authority to ticket the owners. Trustee Theobald said he is concerned about slow response times. Mayor Donovan said that the arrangement with the Town of Dewitt has improved and that Ethel Sawkins receives the majority of the calls. Mayor Donovan said the village does not have a holding place for animals.

Trustee Theobald said that during times of a difficult economy they are fortunate to have hard working employees and were able to maintain the tax rate.

Trustee Cronk said he wanted to thank the Village Office and department heads for keeping costs down and being considerate of the poor economy.

Mayor Donovan said Thomas Petterelli and Steve Giarrusso have worked diligently to keep costs down, while being energy efficient and thanked them for their hard work.

The presented General Fund Budget had a proposed tax rate of \$8.30 per thousand, which was consistent with the previous year.

**PUBLIC HEARING
CLOSED**

Motion by Trustee Cronk and seconded by Trustee Theobald to close the Public Hearing at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Snider

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Village Clerk/Treasurer