

PUBLIC HEARING
April 21, 2014
Proposed fiscal year 2014/2015 Budget

PUBLIC HEARING: Review of Preliminary Budget

Mayor Robert T. Tackman called the hearing to order at 6:00PM.

Mayor Tackman presented the details of the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2014/2015.

Provided the attached handouts, containing preliminary budget and tax rate summaries.

Review of Preliminary Budget(s):

Overview – Mayor Tackman noted that this was a big challenge to get the arrow pointed in the right direction. The Board worked many nights to make as many cost savings as possible for the Village tax payers, and they will continue to work on this budget. Overall revenues are down, expenses are up and the assessed valued dropped significantly. Hoping for a larger decrease. The proposed budget still funds Police for the next 7 months. Looking at all areas and all departments, but presenting here tonight where we are at now.

Comparison to last year, this proposed budget is **\$4,686,282**, decreased (\$370,639) from the current year \$5,056,921.

Revenue

Revenues are \$4,686,282, proposed for 2014/2015 year. \$1,574,977 from non-property tax and \$3,111,305 to be raised through property taxes. Nothing will be taken from fund balance.

Revenues from non-property tax sources include: payments in lieu of taxes, interest earnings, fees, court fines, franchise fees, fire protection contract, CHIPS, sales tax, state aid and grants.

General Fund

The General Fund contains main activities of the Village for fiscal year 2014/2015 expenditures are \$4,484,918 (2013/2014 is \$4,795,177). (\$310,259 less than last year).

Made substantial cuts, across the board and impacting every department.

Wages are \$1,207,092 with benefits at \$1,089,576 [\$2,296,668] comprise 51% of the budget. Budget proposes no increase for employees. (Last year wages & benefits were 57%). No plans to add staffing.

Debt accounts for another 11% (\$509,538). Debt is primarily from the two construction projects for the Municipal Building and Hanlon Pool Bathhouse, as well as the First Street Road Reconstruction.

Not proposing, at this time, to take anything from fund balance. NYS Comptroller recommends 5% as an acceptable level. The Village will conservatively have approximately 13%.

Mayor Tackman reviewed individual Department budgets:

Police - is \$547,150 (\$134,728 less than last year [\$681,878]). Police budget is primarily negotiated items from PBA Agreement. This budget is for 7 months operations until December 31st.

Fire – Fire Department budget is \$594,943 (\$45,662 less from last year’s \$640,605). Fire budget is mainly equipment, much in need of repair to maintain safety.

DPW – \$778,725 (\$76,704 less than last year’s \$855,429) budget includes street maintenance, street lighting, and snow plowing. Some operations will be reimbursed with CHIPS funding (\$40,000).

Court – is at \$62,032 (\$982 more than last year’s \$61,050).

Village Office - is \$149,287 (\$1085 less than last year’s \$150,372), with Building Maintenance at \$125,060. This does not include separate operating expenses for Auditors, Attorneys, Engineers, and Elections.

Codes – is \$58,425 (\$8,283 increase from last year’s \$50,142).

Parks & Recreation - \$121,195 (\$9390 less than last year’s \$130,585), plus an additional \$16,500 for senior programs.

These are General Fund department budget and not actual operating costs (does not include insurance, benefits, or debt).

The tax rate will drop to **\$16.01** for the General Fund. Taxable assessed values are approximately \$6 million less this year at \$181,831,176.

G Fund/Sewer Budget

Expenditures in the sewer fund are budgeted at \$201,364. Rate is \$.92 per 1000 assessed valuation, less than the last 5 years’ rate of \$1.20.

Still operating under a DEC Consent Order which requires remediation.

F Fund/Water Budget

System leased to OCWA since July 2008. No longer have operating budget for water fund.

COMMENTS:

Pat Bacon asked about \$75,000 for street lights

Trustee Daniel J. Wagner noted increases in utilities across the board.

Mayor Robert T. Tackman reported this account is for the public use for street lights as well as the maintenance for street lights owned by the Village, such as those on the Rt. 290 Bridge and at the Park.

Sally M. Seeley inquired about rumor that Police Officers will be getting a financial payout for accepting the Department's abolishment.

Mayor Tackman reports that the Village is obligated to negotiate the impacts. Have had preliminary discussions with the PBA.

Mrs. Seeley asked if they will receive raises at the Town of DeWitt.

Trustee James E. Carr, Jr. reports that they will receive approximately \$2000 more.

Mayor Tackman reported that they are all members of the PBA, even the part-timers. We still need to address the impacts of the contract.

Sally Seeley suggested that a token amount may be owed the part-timers as they are losing their jobs.

Trustee Carr noted that the contract demands that the Village payout sick time owed to the full time Officers. This is approximately \$80,000.

Lucy Anne Forkhamer asked about the Street Administration account. Who is paid under this account?

Mayor Tackman reported that the DPW Superintendent wages are from the A5010.0101 account.

Lucy Forkhamer asked number of employees working in Codes Enforcement.

Mayor Tackman referred to the wage schedule that lists all departments and all employees. This schedule is adopted along with the budget. Along with the Code Enforcement Officer there are 2 Rental Inspectors (one position is currently open) and the Building/Fire Inspector.

Pat Bacon asked if the Village vehicle is still parked out on Myers Road.

Mayor Tackman reports that this issue has been addressed. There are times when the Code Enforcement Officer must respond from home, but the Vehicle is currently parked out front. The only take home vehicles are used by the Chief of Police (his is issued from another municipality) and the Fire Chief's vehicles.

Trustee James E. Carr, Jr. commented that this is not the final adopted budget, yet. Still have nine days to work on trying to reduce it even more. A tax rate of \$16.01 is still too high.

Lucy Anne Forkhamer asked about senior programs. Who writes grants? There should be money out there someplace for seniors.

Mayor Tackman reports that he will be working with the Parks Director. Each Department is responsible for searching out grants that may apply. NYCOM, the Board, the Mayor's Association all work to be informed of any opportunity for funding assistance.

Governor Cuomo simplified the State's process with a consolidated funding application and the assignment of Regional Economic Councils. Also looking to have the Brownfield Steering Committee expand their role to serve also as a local Economic Development council.

Pat Bacon asked about work done at the Veteran's Memorial. They took out the trees.

Mayor Tackman reported that the Village is working with the American Legion. Preliminary plans include a wall and salute to all branches of the military. Village DPW did assist with tree removal, along with Town of DeWitt and Onondaga County crews to clear and clean the site. Understand that the project has separate funding. Plan is to have restored and ready before Memorial Day.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Tackman adjourned the public hearing until **Wednesday, April 30th at 6PM.**

Hearing adjourned at 6:29PM.

**PUBLIC HEARING
LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2014
AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF LIMIT
April 21, 2014**

**6:30PM Public Hearing – Local Law #2 of 2014
A local law to Authorize a property tax levy in excess of the limit
established in General Municipal Law §3-c.**

Mayor Tackman called the hearing to order at 6:30PM.

Local Law No. 2 of 2014 reads as follows:

**A Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in
General Municipal Law §3-c**

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of East Syracuse to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2014 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c which 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 sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Board of Trustees of the Village of East Syracuse, County of Onondaga, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2014 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a Court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the Court's order of Judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

COMMENTS

Mayor Tackman noted that even though the Village is proposing a budget that does not exceed the property tax cap limits, and actually a budget that reduces the tax rate, it is recommended by NYCOM and other municipalities that have in place this local law as a safe guard measure.

This does not impact the Governor's proposal for rebates this year.

Sally M. Seeley expressed that it makes no sense to have a tax cap and this measure to circumvent it.

Mayor Tackman reports that this is a safe guard. The Village has adopted in 20012 and 2013 as well.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Tackman closed the hearing at 6:35PM.

**SPECIAL MEETING
Village of East Syracuse
Board of Trustees
April 21, 2014**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, **Mayor Robert T. Tackman.** called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:36PM.

Present: Trustee James E. Carr, Jr., Deputy Mayor Barbara Falcone Quonce, Trustee Daniel J. Wagner, and Mayor Robert T. Tackman.

Also Present: Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby,

Excused: Trustee Carol Para

Four Village residents and guests attended, as well as a representative from the *Eagle News*.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quonce - To accept the following vouchers for payment:

From **Consolidated Fund** Abstract, vouchers numbered 49973 through 50039 and Abstract in the amount of \$30,359.57.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

Local Law No. 1 of 2014 – To Abolish the Police Department

Election Results

Proposition #1

333 YES

199 NO

Shall the Village of East Syracuse adopt Local Law No. 1 of the year 2014 abolishing the Village of East Syracuse Police Department pursuant to Section 8-800 of the NYS Village Law, and perform a Transfer of Function/Consolidation of the Village of East Syracuse Police Department

with the Town of DeWitt Police Department, and further should the Village contract with the Town of DeWitt for the extension of additional police services within the Village of East Syracuse as proposed?

Motion – by Trustee Carr, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To accept the results of the Special Election held April 16, 2014 and file Local Law No. 1, of 2014 with the NYS Secretary of State.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – nay, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

Property Tax Cap - Local Law No. 2 of 2014

Motion – by Deputy Mayor Quonce, seconded by Trustee Wagner -To adopt a resolution approving Local Law 2 of 2014 of the Village of East Syracuse, a local law to allow the Village of East Syracuse to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2014 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by GML§3-c. Said Law shall become effective immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

DPW

Motion – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Carr - To approve the expenditure for tree removal by Bartlett Tree Experts for \$4856 (from A8560.0430) for trees at 219 East Heman Street, 221 East Heman Street, 406 Silver Street and 216 West Ave.

Discussion: Mayor Tackman reported that because of the size of these trees they are beyond the capabilities of our crew to take down.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

Motion – by Deputy Mayor Quonce, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To approve work by DBR Plumbing to furnish and install recirc line for hot water. Work will be done for exchange of services for surplus equipment.

Discussion: Mayor Tackman commented that this resolves both issues to everyone's satisfaction.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

§211 Waiver(s)

Motion – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quonce - To apply for §211 waiver for Chief of Police Donald Morris.

Discussion: Mayor Tackman reports that Chief Morris' current waiver expires the end of June. Will request that we can retain his assistance through the transition. Requesting that not re-canvass Chief of Police list again for this transition period.

Trustee James E. Carr, Jr. noted that in the past he has voted against this waiver but in this situation, and in lieu of the results of last week's special election, he will support it. **Mayor Tackman** noted that Chief Morris is considered a full time employee but works part time for two municipalities under terms of an intermunicipal agreement.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

Motion – To apply for §211 waiver for Director of Operations Randy Capriotti.

Discussion: Mayor Tackman reports that Randy is currently working with a waiver through April 2014. As a retired Police Officer he needs a waiver to continue to accept his pension and work for in the public sector.

Trustee Daniel Wagner noted how utilizing retirees it helps to keep costs down as the Village does not contribute towards retirement or provide health benefits.

Trustee James Carr asked about the civil service job title and restrictions to additional duties under that title. Noted that Randy's duties have expanded beyond the scope done by Frank.

All Village employees are civil service. Most job descriptions do not restrict additional duties not delineated in the job description.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52PM.

PUBLIC HEARING
April 30, 2014
Proposed fiscal year 2014/2015 Budget

PUBLIC HEARING: Review of Preliminary Budget

Mayor Robert T. Tackman called the continuation of the public hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2014/2015 budget to order at 6:02PM.

This Hearing continues from the April 21st hearing and discussion.

Review of Preliminary Budget(s):

Overview – Mayor Tackman noted the change made since presented on Monday, April 21st.

- Restored funding for Fireworks (with offsetting revenues expected) and flowers for main street (10 pots to start);
- Eliminated Local Government Efficiency study funding for Police;
- Anticipates buy-out for accumulated sick time, as per PBA agreement;
- Take \$166,000 from Fund Balance (reduces to approximately 9.5%)
- Scrutinized Sewer funding following last year's adjustments and completion of Tank project.

These adjustments to budget presented last week (April 21st) results in General Fund appropriations of \$4,568,418 with non-property tax revenues of \$1,583,977. Taking \$166,000 from fund balance leaves \$2,818,441 to be raised by taxes. This means a tax rate of \$15.50/assessed 1000, which is a 5.5% decrease from last year (16.41 tax rate).

The Sewer fund is down to \$150,364 with no other revenue resources all will be raised through taxes, but this is down to \$.70 (from last five year's rate of \$1.20).

Total budget is **\$4,718,782**, with a total tax rate of **\$16.20**, and overall tax decrease of 8%.

Two-Year Comparison

2014/2015	Appropriations	Revenue	Appropriated Fund Balance	Amount raised by Taxes	Tax
Rate					
General Fund	4,568,418	1,583,977	166,000	2,818,441	15.50
(-5.5%)					
Sewer	150,364			150,364	.70 (-42%)
TOTAL	4,718,782	1,583,977	166,000	2,968,805	16.20 (-8%)
2013/2014	Appropriations	Revenue	Appropriated Fund Balance	Amount raised by Taxes	Tax
Rate					
General Fund	4,795,177	1,708,197		3,086,980	16.41 (+22%)
Sewer	261,744		(1,503)	263,248	1.20
(0%)					
TOTAL	5,056,921	1,708,197		3,350,228	17.61

COMMENTS:

Mayor Tackman shared news of a competition with himself, Trustee Wagner and Trustee Carr adopting a Welcome Sign. The other Board members will judge at the end of the year whose they liked best. His will be the Burnet Ave Bridge sign; Trustee Wagner has lower James Street and Trustee Carr Hartwell Ave. Came about because he didn't like the fake flowers.

Mayor Tackman reported that made significant changes from the first tentative budget. Made more challenging with fewer revenues and loss of assessed value.

Lucy Anne Forkhamer commented on the fireworks. She has spoken with American Fireworks Company out of Utica. They do the fireworks for DeWitt Canal Days and Solvay's celebration. They can do it for cheaper than Zambelli. With Zambelli you're just paying for the name.

Mayor Tackman said he will share this with the Park's Director. The Village has not yet signed a contract.

Lucy Anne Forkhamer questioned \$3000 under street cleaning.

Mayor Tackman noted that no new vehicles are included in the budget but repairs, maintenance and supplies may be increased because of the age of equipment.

Lucy Anne Forkhamer asked if Blue Cross is still the provider for health care.

Mayor Tackman reports that Excellus Blue Cross is the current health care provider. Each year the Board reviews the plan option and looks at other plans. Try to select the plan

and provider that best suits the needs of our employees. Employees currently contribute 25% toward health care premiums. Try to keep that stable to offset the fact that employees have not had any increases in 3 years.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Tackman closed the public hearing at 6:16PM.

**SPECIAL MEETING
Village of East Syracuse
Board of Trustees
April 30, 2014**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, **Mayor Robert T. Tackman**. Called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:16PM.

Present: Trustee James E. Carr, Jr., Deputy Mayor Barbara Falcone Quonce, Trustee Daniel J. Wagner, and Mayor Robert T. Tackman.

Also Present: Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby,

Excused: Trustee Carol Para

2014/2015 Budget

Mayor Tackman presented the proposed **General Fund Budget**.

Motion – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Carr - That the **General Fund Budget** for fiscal year 2014/2015, consisting of appropriations of **\$4,568,418**; (\$1,583,977 of non-property tax revenue; \$166,000 in un-appropriated fund balance; and property taxes of \$2,818,441) be adopted as a department budget and not a specific line item budget, along with the accompanying Wage Schedule.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Tackman presented the **Sewer Fund Budget**

Motion – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Carr - That the **Sewer Special Revenue Fund Budget** for fiscal year 2014/2015, in the amount of **\$150,364** non-property tax revenues is \$0; appropriated fund balance of \$0; and \$150,364 in property taxes, be adopted as a department budget and not a specific line item budget.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

A copy of the above budgets is attached and made a part of this record.

OTHER BUSINESS

Levy taxes

Motion – by Trustee Carr, seconded by Trustee Wagner - That **taxes** for the fiscal year 2014/2015 be levied on a total taxable value for the General Fund of **\$181,831,176** (\$6,236,025 *less* than last year's \$188,067,201) and for Sewer Fund of **\$218,385,720** (\$987,421 *less* than last year's \$219,373,141) at rates, per thousand, as follows:

Sewer Maintenance Fee – at a rate of \$.70 per thousand, to produce **\$150,364**;
General Fund – at a rate of \$15.50 per thousand, to produce **\$2,818,441** (with \$166,000 to be taken from fund balance \$286,539 *less* than last year's \$3,086,980).

Discussion: Additional charges totaling \$4382 will also be added to the tax bills for:

Inspections	1800
Grass cutting	2065
Trash pick up	150
Reimbursement	367

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia J. Derby
Village Clerk