**PUBLIC HEARING**

**April 11, 2016**

**Proposed fiscal year 2016/2017 Budget**

**PUBLIC HEARING: Review of Preliminary Budget**

Mayor Robert T. Tackman called the hearing to order at 6:08PM.

Present: Deputy Mayor James E. Carr, Jr., Trustee Janet L. Mattox, Trustee Carol Para, Trustee Daniel J. Wagner, and Mayor Robert T. Tackman.

Also attended: DPW Superintendent Ron Russell, III and Village Clerk/Treasurer Patricia J. Derby.

Mayor Tackman presented the details of the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2016/2017.

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

**Review of Preliminary Budget(s):**

**Overview**

Comparison to last year, this proposed budget is **$4,123,294**  decreased ($269,219) from the current year $4,392,513.

### Revenue

Revenues are $4,123,294, proposed for 2016/2017 year. $1,460,627 from non-property tax and $2,505,292 to be raised through property taxes. Nothing ($0) 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, County payment to support Village infrastructure, state aid and grants.

### General Fund

The General Fund contains main activities of the Village for fiscal year 2016/2017 expenditures are $3,965,919 (2015/2016 is $4,268,963). ($303,044 less than last year).

Wages are $908,697 ($8175 less than current year $ 916,872, even with a 24% decrease from 2014 $1,207,092) with benefits at $724,570 ($64,426 less than current $788,996, even with 28% decrease from 2014 $1,089,576). Wages & Benefits combined are **$1,633,267** ($72,601 less than current $1,705,868, down again from 26% decrease from 2014 amount of $2,296,668) comprise **41%** (down considerably from 58%) of the budget. Budget proposes 2% increase for most employees and an adjustment for some part-time positions in recognition to NYS proposed increase to minimum wage.

Debt is down to 11% (**$443,470**). Debt is primarily from the two construction projects for the Municipal Building and Hanlon Pool Bathhouse, as well as the First Street Road Reconstruction.

Mayor Tackman reviewed individual Department budgets:

**Court** – is at $63,957 ($1184 more than last year’s $62,773).

**Village Office -** is $168,240 ($11,313 more than last year’s $156,927) This does not include separate operating expenses for Auditors, Attorneys, Engineers, or the Intermunicipal Contract with Town of DeWitt for Police services.

**Building Maintenance** at $134,500 ($12,899 more than last year’s $121,601).

**Fire** – Fire Department budget is $528,089 ($108,147 less from last year’s $636,236). Fire budget is mainly equipment.

**Codes** – is $61,391($500 less from last year’s $61,819).

**DPW** – $851,756 ($24,316 more than last year’s $827,440) budget includes street maintenance, street lighting, and snow plowing. Some operations will be reimbursed with CHIPS funding ($40,000).

**Parks & Recreation** - $167,509 ($21,082 more than last year’s $146,427), plus an additional $20,600 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 increase to **$13.60** for the General Fund**.** Taxable assessed values are approximately $783,968 more this year at $184,216,410 (last year’s rate was $183,432,441).

### G Fund/Sewer Budget

Expenditures in the sewer fund are budgeted at $157,375 ($33,825 more than last year $123,550). Rate is **$.72** per 1000 assessed valuation. This is due to the sewer project added to long term debt (15 years level debt).

**F Fund/Water Budget**

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

**COMPARISON**

Total budget is **$4,123,294**, with a total tax rate of **$14.32**, and overall tax increase of 4%.

***Three-Year Comparison***

***Appropriated Amount raised***

***2016/2017 Appropriations Revenue Fund Balance by Taxes Tax Rate***

General Fund 3,965,919 1,460,627 0 2,505,292 13.60 (+ 3%)

Sewer 157,375 157,375 .72 (+28%)

TOTAL 4,123,294 1,460,627 0 2,662,667 14.32 (+ 4%)

***Appropriated Amount raised***

***2015/2016 Appropriations Revenue Fund Balance by Taxes Tax Rate***

General Fund 4,268,963 1,557,229 305,000 2,406,734 13.13 (-17%)

Sewer 123,550 123,550 .56 (-25%)

TOTAL 4,392,513 1,557,229 305,000 2,530,284 13.69 (-18%)

***Appropriated Amount raised***

***2014/2015 Appropriations Revenue Fund Balance 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%)

**COMMENTS:**

**Mayor Tackman** provided a brief summary of changes made following discussions with Department Heads. Submitted requests would have resulted in a 23% tax increase overall, this Tentative Budget proposes a 3% increase for the General Fund. Fund balance is depleted with impact settlement with Police. Propose a 2% increase in wages for most employees, yet overall wages are down (due to retirements).

**Trustee Wagner** suggested that expenditures for judgments & claims and contingency be eliminated.

**Deputy Mayor Carr** stated he does not want any increase. Need to make cuts to get down 47 cents to current rate of 13.13.

While there is no question that employees do a great job it doesn’t seem justifiable to raise taxes and give raises.

**Mayor Tackman** stated that the tax rate is too high but is comfortable with presenting a modest increase to keep the level of services provided.

**Deputy Mayor Carr** remarked that we need to be comparable to other Villages. Should check and see what it costs others to run their DPW or Parks.

**Trustee Wagner** asked to look at wages, especially the lowest paid DPW. With changes to minimum wage need to offer a competitive rate.

**Trustee Para** asked that reconsider vehicle and equipment purchases. Some will have to wait another year.

**Mayor Tackman** proposed adjourning the Public Hearing to continue working on the tentative budget. Think we can get it down further and still offer raises for the employees.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Tackman adjourned the public hearing at 6:35PM to reconvene **Monday, April 18th** at **7PM.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**April 18, 2016**

**Proposed fiscal year 2016/2017 Budget**

Mayor Robert T. Tackman reconvened the public hearing from April 11, 2016 and called to order at 7:00PM.

Present: Deputy Mayor James E. Carr, Jr., Trustee Janet L. Mattox, Trustee Carol Para, Trustee Daniel J. Wagner, and Mayor Robert T. Tackman.

Also attended: DPW Superintendent Ron Russell, III, Village Clerk/Treasurer Patricia J. Derby, and one Village resident Sally M. Seeley.

Mayor Tackman presented the details of changes to the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2016/2017.

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

**Review of Preliminary Budget(s):**

**Amount to 2015-2016**

**Appropriated be Raised by Tax per**

**Appropriations Revenue Fund Balance Taxes thousand Change**

**General Fund** 3,954,945 1,482,505 55,000 2,417,440 13.12 .001%

**Sewer Fund**  157,375 0 0 157,375 .72+28%

**TOTAL 4,112,320 1,482,505 55,000 2,574,815 13.84 + .01%**

Mayor Tackman commented on changes made to tentative budget presented April 11th. General fund Appropriations were cut by $10,974; Revenues were increased $21,878 and $55,000 will be taken from fund balance.

No changes were made to the sewer fund.

These changes result in a one cent decrease in the General Fund, and increase in the sewer fund due to taking the sewer project to long term bond, with an overall tax rate of $13.84/assessed 1000.

**Comments**

**Sally Seeley** acknowledged the work that was done.

Mayor Tackman noted it was a team effort.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Tackman closed the Public Hearing regarding the 2016/2017 Preliminary Budget at 7:03PM.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Village of East Syracuse**

**Board of Trustees**

**April 18, 2016**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, **Mayor Robert T. Tackman.** called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:03PM.

Present: Deputy Mayor James E. Carr, Jr., Trustee Janet L. Mattox, Trustee Carol Para, Trustee Daniel J. Wagner, and Mayor Robert T. Tackman.

Also Present: Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby, and DPW Superintendent Ronald A. Russell, III.

One Village residents attended.

**2016/2017 Budget**

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

**Motion** – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Mattox - That the **General Fund** **Budget** for fiscal year 2016/2017, consisting of appropriations of **$3,954,945;** ($1,482,505 of non-property tax revenue; and property taxes of $2,417,440, with $55,000 to be taken from Fund Balance) be adopted as a department budget and not a specific line item budget, along with the accompanying Wage Schedule.

Polling the Board: Deputy Mayor Carr – yes, Trustee Mattox – yes, Trustee Para – yes, Trustee Wagner – yes, and Mayor Tackman – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Tackman presented the **Sewer Fund Budget**.

**Motion** – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Mattox - That the **Sewer Special Revenue Fund Budget** for fiscal year 2016/2017, in the amount of **$157,375** non-property tax revenues is $0; appropriated fund balance of $0; and $157,375 in property taxes, be adopted as a department budget and not a specific line item budget.

Polling the Board: Deputy Mayor Carr – yes, Trustee Mattox – yes, Trustee Para – yes, Trustee Wagner – yes, and Mayor Tackman – yes. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Tackman congratulated the Board – this is the third year in a row that the tax rate has gone down.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Levy taxes**

**Motion** – by Deputy Mayor Carr, seconded by Trustee Wagner - That **taxes** for the fiscal year 2016/2017 be levied on a total taxable value for the General Fund of **$184,216,410** ($783,969 *more* than last year’s $183,432,441)and for Sewer Fund of **$218,129.44** ($4,142.54 *less* than last year’s $222,271.98) at rates, per thousand, as follows:

**Sewer Maintenance Fee** – at a rate of $.72 per thousand, to produce **$157,375;**

**General Fund** – at a rate of $13.12 per thousand, to produce **$2,417,440**.

**Discussion:** Additional charges totaling $6853 will also be added to the tax bills for:

Inspections 350

Grass cutting 4791

Trash pick-up 1040

Sidewalk repair 672

Polling the Board: Deputy Mayor Carr – yes, Trustee Mattox – yes, Trustee Para – yes, Trustee Wagner – yes, and Mayor Tackman – yes. Motion carried.

**Changes to Employee Handbook**

**Motion** – by Trustee Mattox, seconded by Trustee Wagner - That the Village of East Syracuse Employee Handbook be amended to eliminate Section 610 Longevity Pay. This benefit will no longer be offered.

**Discussion: Mayor Tackman** note that this was talked about last year. To end this program we now have to take it out of the Handbook.

Polling the Board: Deputy Mayor Carr – yes, Trustee Mattox – yes, Trustee Para – yes, Trustee Wagner – yes, and Mayor Tackman – yes. Motion carried.

## 610 Longevity Pay

**Full-Time Employees** - the Village provides eligible full-time employees longevity pay upon completion of five (5) years of continuous employment and at every five (5) year intervals thereafter. Department of Public Works and Building Maintenance employees will continue to receive longevity pay in the amount of five hundred dollars ($500), as per the previously accepted agreement. All other full-time employees not covered under any other agreement will receive longevity pay in the amount of two hundred-fifty dollars ($250).

At the five (5) year intervals when eligible employees receive the longevity payment, the payment will be made the pay period following the employee’s anniversary date of hire.

In order to be eligible to receive the longevity payment, employees must be actively working and on the Village payroll at the time the payment is distributed.

**Union Employees** - the Village provides longevity pay to union employees according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

**Part-Time and Temporary Employees** - the Village does not provide this benefit for part-time and temporary employees.

**Motion –** by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Para - To eliminate the DPW step program adopted January 15, 2001.

**Discussion:** During budget preparation and in reviewing the Wage Schedule discussed state and national changes to the minimum wage and the impact this has on some of the lowest paid and/or newest hired employees. The adoption of the wage schedule offers a higher starting rate for DPW new hires instead of the step program.

DPW Superintendent Ron Russell commented that the step program is confusing. Appreciate a more competitive starting rate. Frustrating to hire and train people to only see them leave for more money.

Mayor Tackman offered this as a first step in a larger review of all wages. Many are inconsistent and not fair to the work expected and the length of service.

Trustee Wagner noted that DPW workers are all machine equipment operators and trained in all areas of operations. Believes they are worth a lot more. Knows several Towns are having difficulty finding qualified entry level people.

Sally Seeley clarified that the elimination of the step program will mean that they will actually have a better starting salary.

Trustee Wagner acknowledged that other employees are upset because they have been here longer, but noted that the DPW requires a CDL and other skills.

Deputy Mayor Carr asked what the starting rate for temporary workers is. This will remain at the $11 rate.

DPW Superintendent Russell reported that the does not believe that other DPW crew will have a problem with the increase. It’s a fair starting wage.

Mayor Tackman proposed having an Employee Meeting next week to explain the new budget and these employee handbook changes.

Polling the Board: Deputy Mayor Carr – yes, Trustee Mattox – yes, Trustee Para – yes, Trustee Wagner – yes, and Mayor Tackman – yes. Motion carried.

**DPW Vehicle Equipment Purchase and Lease**

**Motion –** by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Carr - To purchase 2016 Chevy Silverado from East Syracuse Chevy for $27,086.80, with plow package $32,706 complete.

**Discussion:** Mayor Tackman reported driving Truck 15 this weekend. It’s in rough shape.

DPW Superintendent Russell reported that was the easiest truck to share and not have to move a lot of equipment and supplies that they usually carry.

Deputy Mayor Carr asked how the new pick-up would be integrated into the fleet. Want to see it in use for day-to-day operations.

DPW Superintendent Russell reports that it will be used daily. Will replace 2 other pick-ups – Truck 15 and a diesel. Over the years found the diesels have other problems and didn’t really result in the expecting fuel savings.

Polling the Board: Deputy Mayor Carr – yes, Trustee Mattox – yes, Trustee Para – yes, Trustee Wagner – yes, and Mayor Tackman – yes. Motion carried.

**Motion –** by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Carr - To authorize the Mayor to execute and enter into a financing agreement for a 2015 Freightliner Sweeper from Tracey Road Equipment $199,869 with financing through Mercedes Benz Financial Services USA, LLC for 48 months with annual payments(arrears) of $53,200.44.

**Discussion:** Considered the financing options for four or five years or getting a BAN.

Deputy Mayor Carr asked when it the optimum time for getting rid of it. DPW Superintendent Russell reported on the problems and issues with the current sweeper – the screen fell off last week, suction hose is split and holes in the line. The previous plan was to replace in ten years, suggests that 7 or 8 would be better, with expectations for getting half the value back.

Agreement is to own outright at end of lease. Payment will be not for one-year, paid annually in arrears.

Discussed other major equipment purchases needed in next few years. Still need front loader. May consider that again in a few months. With other purchases needed opted for the four year financing instead of five.

Polling the Board: Deputy Mayor Carr – yes, Trustee Mattox – yes, Trustee Para – yes, Trustee Wagner – yes, and Mayor Tackman – yes. Motion carried.

**Fire Inspection Permit Fee**

Trustee Daniel Wagner asked the Board to re-consider the $25 fee charged to businesses for Fire Inspections. Hearing complaints that it’s just another charge the Village tacks on and they already pay enough in taxes.

Village Clerk Derby protested that this is a user fee and that those in that business should bear the costs, not the general population.

Mayor Tackman noted that it is part of the cost of doing business.

Deputy Mayor Carr reminded that there are public safety issues to be considered as well.

DPW Superintendent Ron Russell commented on inspection requirement for updates for changes in occupancy limits, as well as Onondaga County Health Department requirements for grease collection. Recalled issues with sewer line along CSX line with grease traps clogging the sewer. Without inspections there can be other problems that you wouldn’t necessarily think of.

Mayor Tackman commented on the review by NYCOM. Our fee is low compared to other municipalities.

Trustee Wagner noted that we didn’t have the fee for years. Business owners are upset to have to pay now and on top of their Village taxes.

Mayor Tackman proposed that as this is the first year imposing the fee, let’s look at the compliance and make any decision after have more information.

Deputy Mayor Carr suggested that it’s change that people object to. The fee is very reasonable.

**Trustee Comments**

Trustee Carol Para submitted written comments following the adoption of the 2016/2017 Budget.

*“Although I am happy not to have an increase in taxes, there are still a few expenditures in this budget that I do not agree with. I do not think the budget reflects the wants and needs of our taxpayers. I look forward to working with the community to see if their priorities are being acted upon by this Board.”*

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia J. Derby

Village Clerk