

**Village of Rhinebeck
Village Board
Special Meeting- Budget 18-19
Minutes
February 6, 2018
7:00 PM**

Mayor Bassett opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Gary Bassett	present
Deputy Mayor Richard Lewit	present
Trustee Howard Traudt	present
Trustee Brant Neuneker	present
Trustee John Rossi	present

Also present was Treasurer Karen McLaughlin and Police Sgt. Pete Dunn,

POLICE- Sgt. Dunn discussed the proposed police budget and that the guys get a 2% increase and uniform allowance went up from \$550 to \$575. Sgt. Dunn went on to discuss the special events that they cover and require more than the regularly scheduled shifts and do not get reimbursed for. He talked about the cost of Sinterklas for the police dept. and other departments. In the past other organizations helped pay, but they do not anymore. He also mentioned that there is a cost for the highway department as well to assist and to purchase signs, garbage bags, barricades and overtime pay.

The mayor stated that he wants a line item for Sinterklas in the police budget of \$7,000. The mayor reported from his inquiry with NYCOM that we as a municipality cannot charge to protect the public. We cannot charge because our job is to protect the public. Trustee Traudt asked if the Highway can charge. That is a good question. He also said they can ask for donations.

Sgt. Dunn also discussed the Hilary Clinton book signing cost and we were not paid. The mayor reported that he sent them a letter with all the hours and expenses and asked for a donation to cover it and has not heard back.

The marathons do pay for the events because they want to ensure a police officer on every corner for safety.

Sgt. Dunn stated that he understands the budget but the tax payers are subsidizing these events.

Trustee Neuneker reported that the Village is a draw for DC County as well and we should get something in return.

The mayor reported that the attorney said we should put our regular staff on and the event should shoulder hiring private services even if they have to be police officers. The only problem is that you lose control of the public safety for our residents.

Trustee Lewit asked if we can build it into the Special Events licensing fee. Mayor reported that since we raised that event fee, we have had no scheduled revenue and people have gone to Hudson. We are trying to tighten up our event fees, but don't want to lose events to other municipalities. We are a big draw for Dutchess County as a whole.

Now Porch fest is tax-exempt but they did pay for the police. Pete stated that as a police we have to barricade these soft targets so these many people don't get ran over.

Trustee Rossi stated that we need to be in control of our own police and events.

The mayor discussed the sales tax from the county favors cities and the Dutchess County Mayors & Supervisors Association is having a discussion to change that preference. The mayor will keep that conversation going.

Sgt. Dunn went through the police line item by line item.

Sgt. Dunn expressed concern that the Rhinecliff Central School District was in Fiscal Distress. The mayor reported that he spoke with the school superintendent. They do not have any unallocated fund balance. They had a huge influx of special ED students last year and due to the increase in that that population, they had extra expenses, had to use Fund Balance and they have not recovered from that, also it's not as bad as the paper stated.

Sgt. Dunn stated that he wanted to bring it to the attention of the Board that Danielle started the same time at the same rate as Krissy. She did not get regular increases and she was following the Police contract and she fell way behind in salary increases. Sgt. Dunn asked for the board to consider a pay adjustment for her to be where Krissy is on the pay scale. She is still bothered that she is so far behind.

Sgt. Dunn reported that the fees non-employees line item is where some of the event costs are charged.

The mayor discussed that Scott Minn from the Highway dept. will be working on all the Village vehicles. The goal is to do this in-house and reduce the cost of some of the village vehicle maintenance. Trustee Lewit suggested having rims for the winter tires and replace the wheels instead of taking tires off and on, Sgt. Dunn will look into the cost of that.

Also discussed, was the DC Sherriff's line item that the costs of Sheriffs for events run in and out.

He also asked to increase the Transfer to Capital – Police from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

The mayor asked to reduce the Equipment from 12,500 to 10,000 and the repair line item from \$7,000 down to \$4,000. All agreed.

WATER- Trustee Neuneker reviewed the Water Budget line by line.

He reviewed the revenue line items stating that we need to go over the meter rates which have not been changed since 2009. For this year's budget we are keeping it the same.

Trustee Traudt stated that he is concerned about the engineering we have already paid for and will have to do over if the project is postponed too much in the future.

The board went through all the line items and talked about Bryan Alix's salary. For Budgeting purposes, the board agreed to increase Anthony Valenti to \$16/hr with the 3% and Bryan to \$23.22 which is 3% and a \$2/hr raise.

Employee benefits stay the same as Tom Wallbank had a family plan and Bryan Alix has a single plan. The transfer to Capital will increase from \$170,000 to \$177,824.

Board agreed with the Water Budget.

STREETS-

Trustee Lewit discussed the Streets Department line item by line item. The board talked about salaries that are budgeted for 3% but subject to union contract discussions.

Trustee Lewit explained that if the Highway Dept. is going to do the vehicle maintenance for all village vehicles, they need a car lift and are going to try to get it from this year's budget.

Trustee Lewit went through the rest of the line items, he discussed doing about a mile a year of paving and wants to put \$35,000 in for the Village's portion and commitment of a street and use CHIPS as the balance amount for the differences. The mayor said he thinks we should have a more concrete plan of the exact street and project out the cost for that year. Trustee Lewit expressed the need to get on a financial cycle to get roads done.

The board discussed Platt, Livingston and Chestnut which may be dug up for water repair and we don't want to pave them before that, which is why it is important to have a more specific plan. The mayor suggested coming up with a 5-year plan with specific streets, costs and time frames.

Trustee Lewit agreed however stated that if the village is going to have a reasonable annual road paving plan, we should be allocating some funds providing an annual contribution for the paving of streets.

The mayor questioned \$20,000 allocated for fees non-employees and questioned if that would be enough.

Trustee Lewit to look into making the street paving schedule and also talked about putting in a crosswalk that lights up by the Tarapin crossing on Route 9. Sgt. Dunn also suggested one at CVS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Motion made by Mayor Bassett, seconded by Trustee Lewit and all were in favor to enter Executive Session at 10:45 pm to discuss a personnel issue. Motion passed.

Motion made by Mayor Bassett, seconded by Trustee Traudt and all were in favor to come out of Executive Session at 10:55 pm and re-enter the regular meeting. Motion passed.

ADJOURN- With no further business to discuss, Mayor Bassett made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Trustee Neuneker and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen P. McLaughlin, Treasurer