

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 4, 2016

PUBLIC HEARING to consider the Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2016-17

PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor	Marsha B. Merrick, Clerk/Treasurer
Sandra F. Brennan., Deputy Mayor	Eric Osganian, Police Chief
Matthew P. Cook, Trustee	Jason Frazier, Village Street Supt.
Margaret E. Duff, Trustee	Andrew Chanler, Fire Chief
Mary V. Rutigliano, Trustee	

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Laura Wrubel	Paula McClure	Nia Cook	Tina Cook	Faith Cook
George Cook	Matt Leader	Abbie Ainslie	Courtney Owens	
Michael Venturino	Samuel Larkin	Sean Perry	Rocco J. Dragani	
Eddie Lee	Sarah Simon	Matt McClure	Glenn McClure	
Anthony Rutigliano	John A. Rutigliano	John J. Rutigliano	Francesca McClure	
Raphael Rutigliano	Scott Hicks	Tom Wilson		

1. HEARING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the public hearing at 5:30PM, stating that the appropriate notification had been published. The budget was presented to the Board of Trustees two weeks ago on March 22; a committee consisting of Budget Officer/Mayor Hatheway, Deputy Mayor Brennan, Clerk/Treasurer Merrick, Supt. Frazier, Supt. McTarnaghan, Police Chief Osganian and Fire Chief Chanler developed the budget.

The department heads were exceptionally conscientious in their requests, and for the most part there are zero increases across the board, Mayor Hatheway stated. New initiatives include a School Resource Officer funded mostly (5/6) by Geneseo Central School with the remaining 1/6 cost included in this budget to represent the Village's share for the time the officer will not have responsibilities at the school. There is increased funding (an increase of \$1,000 over last year's \$4,000) in the budget for 1/3 of a main street manager, if we succeed in obtaining grant funding for a shared position with the villages of Mt. Morris and Perry. Five thousand more \$ has been added for a police vehicle replacement, due to anticipated cost increases. Three thousand \$ has been added to last year's budget line for replacing and trimming boulevard trees. Our annual tree trimming maintenance program has historically lessened damage from wind and other weather events. Additional funding has been provided for health and dental insurance as we are anticipating a cost increase of 11% this year. The largest increase (\$94,000) is for the debt service lines because the first payment on the Main Street project is due. One line that was defunded was for the Geneseo Building renovations. Typically \$20,000 has been set aside each budget year in a reserve fund for those renovations. That had to be eliminated for next year, and the Mayor is distraught over that being removed. The budget projects a slight decrease in liability insurance premiums and a projected increase in revenue for fines and forfeitures. Revenue from ambulance billing has been down considerably so those lines have been reduced accordingly. Ambulance expenditures are dependent upon revenues, translating into reductions on both sides. One additional reduction is board salaries, rescinding the \$300 increases granted 2 years ago. Although only a small amount of money is involved, the salary decrease is symbolic of the board's willingness to address the problem on a personal basis. Those are the major highlights of changes in the General Fund budget for 2016-17. The tax rate is calculated to be \$7.05

per thousand of assessed valuation, a 2% increase over last year's rate of \$6.91. In order to maintain services at the current level, and in order to start paying for the Main Street capital project, the Board is considering an override of the Tax Cap imposed by the State Government which this year amounts to a far cry from 2%, a mere 0.12%.

Eddie Lee asked about the main street manager and wondered if that person will be providing the same function as the merchants are currently operating under through the Geneseo Merchants Association? The response was no, the function will be more like what Louise Wadsworth has been doing through the County, including sign and façade improvements, but it is a big step further. Louise is involved in the grant process for the three communities that are the major entrances to Letchworth State Park. The concept is the brain child of the Mayor of Perry, Rick Hauser. The proposal is for a two-year grant through the United States Dept. of Agriculture. Laura Wruble stated that as a former Board member for the Chamber of Commerce, the gateway villages to the Park have not coordinated their efforts in the past, so she is in favor. Mr. Lee wondered aloud if there might be funding for that at the regional economic development level.

Sarah Simon asked about the large increase in the code enforcement line for the rental housing inspector. Mayor Hatheway responded that budget lines for code enforcement have been shifted a little with an increase in one line and a decrease in another as some functions are moved from the shared code office with the Town to a separate line for rental housing and fire inspections.

2. HEARING CLOSED:

Without further comments or questions, Deputy Mayor Brennan moved and Trustee Duff seconded the motion to close the public hearing. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Cook-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee Rutigliano-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion passed and the hearing closed at 6:00PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk