

Village of Schuylerville
Workshop minutes
Monday March 4, 2019

Dave Meager from Amsure Insurance presented on insurance for the fire department.

He explained that the fire insurance is written out separately from the village because it's part of a group program that pays dividends. This group has never failed to pay a dividend; last year it was 10% the year before it was 15%.

The building is insured for guaranteed replacement cost, as well as all equipment inside the building. Emergency vehicles are covered at functional replacement cost, with a \$2000 deductible.

We have a total of \$3 million coverage for any auto accident.

He touched briefly on the subject of cancer coverage for firemen, listing the types of cancer covered, as well as the fact that their company offers EAP employees assistance program.

The board reviewed the upcoming events, for which the organizers have submitted parade gathering permits to be approved at the next meeting.

The board also reviewed the upcoming scheduled debt installments that would be presented for approval at the next village meeting.

A resolution was presented to approve the letter of understanding which sets forth the responsibilities of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Historic Hudson Rivers Partnership regarding installation by the Greenway of an Empire State trail head on lands owned by the partnership.

All board members had a copy of the letter for review.

This letter needed to be approved prior to the regular meeting, therefore the resolution was presented to be passed.

Trustee LeBaron questioned the issue of liability regarding this trail head.

Mayor Carpenter stated that he had investigated the situation and discovered that the only instance where we would be liable would be one of gross negligence on our part.

Trustee Young made the motion to approve the resolution, Trustee Drew seconded, all in favor.

Mayor Carpenter had requested board members to participate in the budget by way of an online Google doc whereby the board could see previous year's numbers,

projected final numbers for this year and proposed numbers for the 2020 budget. Each board member was asked to contribute their own entries for the 2020 budget. The board went over any lines with differences in their entries and discussed the reasons why and came to agreements on each line.

There was a discussion regarding the Personal lines for the DPW. These lines were based on figures calculated from the salary spreadsheet on a tab on the Google doc.

Trustee Young stated that he felt that DPW member Ray Carr should be given more per hour than Patrick Grogan as he has been here longer.

Mayor carpenter advised that the higher rate of pay for Grogan was due to the fact that his job description position was mechanic as opposed to Ray's position of laborer, but he did agree that Ray Carr could make \$.50 more per hour than Patrick Grogan, as Ray Carr has been with the village longer.

There was some discussion regarding garbage revenue and whether we should survey the village to see if people would rather pay more on their taxes for the garbage services or continue purchasing garbage stickers. It was decided that a survey would be the best way to find out what the residents would prefer.

There was a discussion regarding the 5 acre lot owned by the village and the revenue that could be received from logging that lot. It was determined that there was at least \$40,000 to be made from logging this property. This was entered into the budget under A.2652.00 sale of forest products.

Trustee Young had entered an increase for both the Trustee Personal line and the Mayor personal line. He stated that whether or not he remains on the board, he feels that the board members deserve more compensation for the amount of hours they dedicate to the village board. This was agreed to by all.

Trustee Young had also increased the auditor line from the amount entered by Mayor Carpenter. He wanted the amount to remain the same as from prior years. Mayor Carpenter explained that the reason that the amount had decreased in the prior year was that with the previous treasurer, the auditor had needed much more time to complete the AUD, as the accounts were not current, and the auditor had to help the treasurer to bring everything up to date. Mayor Carpenter pointed out that now, with Treasurer Heyman keeping all accounts current, that the audit last year was completed in half the time.

Trustee Young stated that he would like to see a complete audit done of the books for a, "second set of eyes."

Mayor Carpenter said that Trustee Young could ask Dan Baker how much the audit for the water department had cost (this was before Treasurer Heyman, so she did not know the cost of a full audit) and that he would highlight that line until we could find out how much that would cost.

Mayor Carpenter stated that when Treasurer Heyman was hired by the village, he had hoped that the position could be a part-time position. He stated that Treasurer Heyman was having to work more than 30 hours a week on a regular basis, and that the position really needed to be full time. The current proposed budget has both the treasurer position and the clerk at \$45,000.00. Trustee Young stated that just as he felt that Ray Carr should get more than Patrick Grogan, as he has been with the village longer, that Treasurer Heyman should be paid more as well. He pointed out that Treasurer Heyman was training the clerk and had more experience at the job.

It was agreed to keep the clerk line at \$45,000.00 and increase the clerk treasurer line to \$47,000.00.

There was some discussion as to the Buildings Contractual line being lower this year than in previous years. Mayor Carpenter pointed out that the two years in which that line had been very high were one year the DPW garage needed a new roof and the next the Village municipal/firehouse building needed a roof.

It was determined that the DPW garage was aging and in some disrepair and that the account should have a larger balance to provide for the possibility of repairs needed this year.

Trustee Young asked about the comprehensive plan.

Mayor Carpenter stated that updating the comprehensive 2005 plan was something that he was planning to work on this year.

The board also discussed at length the purchase of a new dump truck which was being included in the budget. Mayor Carpenter felt that the village could find a good vehicle at \$150,000.00. He felt that a five-year ban at \$30,000.00 per year would be realistic, with an interest line accounted for in the budget as well for this.

Trustee Lebaron suggested that Rob Decker should look outside of the local vendors for this purchase. He also mentioned the state contracts.

Next for discussion was the sewer fund budget.

Mayor Carpenter pointed out that the budget that Sherman had presented did not reflect the changes that he should have made to compensate for the fact that he should have a reduction in expenses if he is not going to be taking in septage.

The Capital charge did go up, as the 2015 public improvement bond went up from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 for the remainder of the loan to 2028.

Sanitary sewer personal went up to allow for a raise in salary for Charles Sherman to \$60,000.00 and the assistant, Scott Brooks to go up to \$40,000.00 (upon completion of his WWTP operator courses.)

There was some discussion regarding a buyout for those who do not take health insurance. Mayor Carpenter stated that this was not currently in the handbook, and was something that the village might consider for next year.

Operating and Maintenance charges are now at \$212,796.46. The increase is mainly due to the health care, the salary raises and increased retirement costs.

Trustee Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Drew seconded, all in favor.