

**PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 5, 2010 – 7:30 AM**

Present:

Mayor

Robert Corby

Trustees

Tim Galli

Trip Pierson

Paula Sherwood

Absent

Steve Maddox

Treasurer

Mary Marowski

Recording Secretary

Anne Hartsig

Mayor Corby called the meeting to order at 7:40 AM.

The Treasurer reported that according to NYCOM, once the budget has been adopted, it may be amended prior to June 1st only if necessary.

Positions

The Treasurer was instructed to leave 40 hours per week for DPW crew members in place in the budget pending union negotiations.

The Fire Marshal position will consist of up to 8 hours per week. The budget allows for \$10,400 per year for this position.

The annual wage for the Part Time Building Inspector will be \$31,200 to be paid hourly. A **motion** was made **by Mayor Corby, seconded by Trustee Galli**, to amend the effective date of the establishment of the new Part Time Building Inspector position noted in Resolution #8 of 2010 to June 13, 2010.

Flowers/Tractor/Road Projects

There was some discussion about removing the funds for flower baskets and wreaths from the budget. Trustees Galli and Pierson said those items should remain in the 2009/10 budget and in the 2010/11 budget. It was noted that the deficit would be reduced this year if funds were not used for the flower baskets this spring. The final decision regarding flowers was deferred to the May 11th Board of Trustees meeting when Trustee Maddox would be in attendance.

Clarifications were made regarding DPW equipment and the Jefferson Road project. Funds for a new tractor are not in the adopted budget. Funds for the Jefferson Road project are also not in the budget.

Tax Rate

Mayor Corby stated that the tax rate that was adopted does not address a long term solution for the decrease in revenues. He said that the property tax rate has been at or below the rate of inflation so the Village has essentially reduced the property tax revenue stream over the years. He said records from the last 20 years show that the part of the budget derived from property tax has decreased while expenses continue to increase.

Mayor Corby said he has looked at other villages to get a bench mark in order to understand how Pittsford Village compares. He said the conclusion is obvious. The amount of revenue is too small. He said the property tax revenue source has not been adjusted enough to compensate for increased expenses. Decreased sales tax revenue and increased operating expenses have also impacted the budget. He predicts lack of revenue will be a continued problem next year. He suggested that starting right away, the Board must consider how to stop the long term deficit from

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increasing. If that is not accomplished, he said projects will be delayed and the village will not be able to afford to buy necessary equipment.

Long Term Solutions

Mayor Corby said that during this year's budget process, there was no real analysis of the long term shortfall in revenues.

Trustee Pierson stated that in the future, a budget such as what was adopted this year is going to double the Village's current fiscal problems unless the Trustees do some extensive planning. He said Mayor Corby's concern is valid. He said there are insufficient amounts in the budget for projects that are needed or for those that are behind in scheduling. He said it is clear that there is not enough money to do what needs to be done to make Pittsford Village the shining example of what a village should be. However, Trustee Pierson said he could not vote to increase the tax rate at this time. He said the Board should develop a packet that could be presented to the public. It including the Village's mission and future projects.

Trustee Sherwood noted that up to and including this budget year, residents have not attended meetings to complain about the amount of village taxes. Board Members concurred that it must be communicated to residents that increases in costs have exceeded inflation. Examples are healthcare costs, the cost of salt, fuel, equipment, asphalt, and the cost of all the basic things the Village does as a municipality. A capital project plan is needed. Such a plan would explain why taxes may increase. Trustee Sherwood said that any potential capital project plan could be phased. The plan could say that in two years, the Village plans to do project X. In three years, the plan is to do project Y etc.

* Trustee Pierson left the meeting at 8:35 AM.*

Contingency Fund

A **motion** was made **by Trustee Galli, seconded by Trustee Sherwood** to amend the approved budget to reflect the impact of Resolution #8 of 2010 keeping the total dollars unchanged but reallocating those dollars between wages for the Building Inspector and the Fire Marshal position with the savings being added to a contingency fund.

Vote: Corby – yes, Galli – yes, Sherwood – yes. **Motion carried.**

The Treasurer was asked to keep a record of which expenditures are included as part of the contingency fund.

Salaries

Board members discussed salaries and stipends. A **motion** was made **by Trustee Sherwood, seconded by Trustee Galli**, to direct the Treasurer to modify the salaries as directed.

Vote: Sherwood – yes, Corby – yes, Galli – yes. **Motion carried.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Corby adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM.

Anne Z. Hartsig, Recording Secretary