

Special meeting (BUDGET WORKSHOP) of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held in the Conference Room, Municipal Building, 49 State Street, Brockport, New York, April 22, 2009 at 8:00am.

PRESENT: Mayor Morton Wexler, Trustee/Vice Mayor Maria C. Castañeda, Trustee David J. Wagenhauser, Trustee Scott W. Hunsinger, Trustee Hal S. Legg, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli, Treasurer Gina M. Tojek, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti

EXCUSED: Village Attorney David F. Mayer, DPW Superintendent Harry G. Donahue, Building/Zoning Officer Scott C. Zarnstorff, Fire Chief Scott Smith

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jim & Joan Hamlin, Norm GianCursio

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wexler called the meeting to order.

MISSION STATEMENT: "To provide a high quality of life for all residents, exercising fiscal responsibility and preserving Brockport's unique heritage and historic character."

BUDGET DISCUSSION took place in workshop fashion.

Points / highlights included the following:

- Village is in a bad financial position – new Treasurer assumed Board was more aware of position & implored Board to think not only of this year but plan for years to come as it will take a while to get back on our feet.
- Budgeting can't be merely an annual forecast – need to look more long term.
- Getting rid of a single service won't do it.
- There are no one-time fixes. Everything needs to be looked at.
- There are huge labor contracts (Police Department and DPW), employee benefits and legacy costs coupled with decreased revenues.
- The proposed budget does not provide for capital needs or fund the reserves.
- Tentative and Preliminary budgets equate to 10%-22% tax increase
- Need to enhance communication. Can't change history, but can improve upon
- Start with discretionary lines
- Global economy impacts as well – uncertainties
- Many municipalities are struggling – not just us
- Can't use third party ambulance fund balance to offset general fund
- Total Village fund balance is only \$167,000 – can appropriate up to that amount, but not wise
- Ideal fund balance would be \$1.2 million
- Total Village contingency is only \$25,000 – more prudent to keep fluid than lock in to reserves
- Need to cut costs and services or impose a significant tax increase
- Every department has to cut costs, follow and stay within budget
- Have a family mentality – live within our means – may mean lowering expectations and being satisfied with what you have (i.e. fire/ambulance equipment may not have all bells and whistles)
- Mayor and Treasurer need to work with Department Heads – keep track of costs
- Importance of Mayoral leadership and supervision/direction of Departments
- Unknowns hard to deal with – employee injuries that cause overtime, severe weather that results in excessive plowing and salting, etc.
- New Board will need to identify what are considered essential services
- Can be politically charged and painful – but hard choices have to be made
- Need to evaluate implications of eliminating services
- There are experts that do analyses – organization wide reviews – lengthy process
- Need to appropriately fund those essential services – can't keep deferring to the next year
- Can't put government on layaway
- Need to start putting some money in the bank
- Be sure all services make fiscal sense – what we're getting in return is worth the cost
- Improvements can be made to budget process in future
- Need to re-evaluate authorizing multiple volunteers to conferences (i.e. 2 or 3 not 7 or 8 to FDIC)
- Need to control legal costs – not pick up phone as often to attorneys
- Chief Varrenti argued against Trustee Castañeda's suggestion to consider eliminating a shift or day of police service – can't be done from an operational standpoint and crime doesn't take a day off – concern that Board members have no concept of what it's like to run a Police Department – contract issues, scheduling issues, etc.
- Need for grant writing / administration – not miss out on funding opportunities
- Possibility of eliminating dispatch service
 - o 911 improvements
 - o Majority of Monroe County uses 911 alone – very few have local dispatch
 - o Could create a part time clerical/administrative position to handle paperwork
- Need to seriously consider cutting services AND increasing taxes – but, to what extent?

~9:10am – Trustee Wagenhauser had to leave.

Action Items:

Changes made to Revised Tentative (Preliminary) Budget 6/1/09 – 5/31/10:

➔ Trustee Hunsinger moved, carried 4/0 to make the following changes to the Revised Tentative (Preliminary) Budget:

Account #	Description	Tentative	Preliminary	Revision
Expenditures				
A1010.4	Board of Trustees	\$500	\$500	\$0
A1210.4	Mayor – Contr	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500
A1650.2	Dispatch-Equip	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0
A7550.4	Celebrations	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$3,000
A1420.4	Law-CE	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$60,000
A6410.4	Economic Development	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
A7510.4	Historian-CE	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
A8510.4	Community Beautification	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
A8989.4	Edu-Cable/Channel 12	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
Revenues				
A1640	Ambulance Charges	\$405,000	\$450,000	\$465,000
Line to be added:				
# ?	Farm Market Manager			\$2,000

Treasurer Tojek was directed to incorporate the above changes and provide the Board with a revised preliminary budget – one version that maintains dispatch service and one version that eliminates dispatch service.

To be revisited:				
A7145.4	Senior Program	\$12,000	\$12,000	consider \$6,000
A8560.4	Shade Trees	\$6,200	\$6,200	consider what's needed to maintain Tree City USA status

Next scheduled meeting: Monday, April 27th 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

➔ Trustee Hunsinger moved, carried 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05am.

Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk