

Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

6:00pm

**Call Meeting to Order**

Mayor Sommers called the Work Session to order at 6:00pm

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Roll Call**

Mayor Sommers-Present

Trustee Nikolados-Present

Trustee Rue-Present

Trustee Massey-Present

Trustee Sabatino-Present

**Also Present:**

Michael Davidoff, Special Counsel

Richard S. Baum, Deputy Special Counsel

Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

BJ Gettel, Building Department

Gary Lasher, Village Treasurer

**Executive Order Compliance:**

Mayor Sommers acknowledged that we are compliant with all Covid-19 Health Pandemic regulations and Executive orders issued by the Governor of NYS in respect to conducting this Village Board Meeting via Video Conferencing with the Zoom App.

**Motion to accept the agenda**

A motion was made by Trustee Massey with a second by Trustee Sabatino to accept the agenda. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

**Public Hearing-20/21 Village Budget**

A motion was made by Trustee Massey with a second by Trustee Sabatino to open the Public hearing at 6:04pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Mayor Sommers announced that this meeting was set as a Public Hearing in the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and should have been a Work Session as we are still working on the Budget, but because it was noticed as a Public Hearing, I have to open it as such. So I just want to make sure that everyone knows what is we are doing.

I am going to have the Treasurer, Gary Lasher, explain. We were able to cut some more out of the budget and get the deficit down more. It was just completed about a half hour ago. So I will turn it over to Gary.

## 6/24/20-Village Board Special Meeting

Mr. Lasher stated that as of right now, the proposed levy is \$5,340,000.00, which gives us an under 1% tax increase with the increased value in assessed valuations this year and that's before the Board of Assessment Review meets, so I should have that number very shortly and we are at 97% of our Constitutional Tax Limit. This budget is as paired down as I could possibly get it, we dropped all raises, basically froze everyone's salary, we just took a very, very hard look at the budget. I moved one of the Account Clerks from the Court into Shared Services and spread her salary out amongst the different funds as the other two Account Clerks are and are not in the General Fund. If anyone has any specific questions, please feel free to ask, if not I'm done.

Mayor Sommers asked the Board for any further comments.

Trustee Sabatino stated that he went over the budget with the Mayor and Treasurer and is satisfied with it.

Trustee Massey stated that she also went over it with the Treasurer and all of her questions have been answered.

Trustee Nikolados stated that he has not had a chance to review the changes, but will have to take a look at it and will let the Treasurer know.

Trustee Rue asked if we are okay at the 1% increase. She stated that she lives in the Village and doesn't want her taxes raised, but she wants to be sure that we are okay. Said that she spoke with the State Comptroller's Office regarding the changes and things that we could do too, but she just wants to be sure that we are not too low or if we should be at the 2%.

Mr. Lasher responded that the 2% Tax Cap is a relative term that they came up with, the Tax Cap varies from year to year depending on the percentages and there's a whole calculation method of how that's determined. We're \$56,000.00 under the Cap, so I really don't have anywhere to go very much, we are \$150,000.00 under our Constitutional Tax Limit, so you can see there's quite a disparity between the two, so I'm comfortable with where we are, I'm not happy with it and wish we could drop it another \$800,000.00 in expenses, but I don't see where we can drop it.

Trustee Rue stated that in talking to the Comptroller's yesterday, our major problem that we have is in overtime and payroll. Is there any other way to try to reduce some overtime because they said that's where all of the money is over? We have to find a way to cut the overtime, maybe using one guy instead of two, I know that some of the summer people pay extra for their things on Saturdays, so it's not our expense, but we still need to find a way to cut it.

Mr. Lasher responded that he would rather not answer that question because it is a personnel matter, so we can discuss it at a later date and time and I can show you where the overtimes lies and in what departments.

The floor was opened to the Public three (3) and the no one spoke.

6/24/20-Village Board Special Meeting

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino to Recess the Public Hearing at 6:08pm until Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue to close the meeting at 6:10pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



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Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk