

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN
MINUTES OF 2020-2021 BUDGET WORKSESSION
Thursday, April 8th, 2020 at 6:00pm

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and NYS Executive Order #202.1 the meeting was held remotely via Zoom. There was an issue with the audio setup which was resolved and the Mayor opened the meeting at 6:10pm. Board members Colleen Meeder, Isaac Gratto, Donna Higginbotham, Kirk Ayers and Ryan Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer Jeanette Ramm, Chief Operator Jay Irwin, and one member of the public, Gary Emory, were in attendance.

Mayor Meeder used a slide presentation to work through each budget line item comparing the 2019-2020 budgeted amounts, actual to-date 2019-2020 spending, and proposed 2020-2021 amounts. The donated Main Street buildings and Food Pantry are new items on the budget and the mayor explained what effect to costs and income they added as these items were not initially budgeted for. The mayor told trustees she wanted to waive the April and May rent for the two businesses on Main Street that have closed due to the pandemic, in an attempt to help them stay in business once the restrictions are lifted.

During the discussion on grants and federal assistance Trustee Ayers asked if the village would still receive funding for the WWTP upgrades since the federal government has been spending so much on the current pandemic. Could the government reassign that money? Mayor Meeder said that the Sewer and Water upgrades are secure. We already have commitment letters for those grants from the previous fiscal year's budget so we will still receive that money. We do still have to apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) funding, and with all the economic uncertainty during this pandemic we cannot know for certain what funding will be available going forward. Mr. Irwin said that he had received an email confirming that both water and sewer projects are essential and will continue as planned. There may still be delays due to the current restrictions on labor, etc., but the projects will continue.

Mayor Meeder explained increases to items such as "police" (includes a second crossing guard), "animal control" (based on this year's rat/cat issues), "sidewalks" (included new rails along Main Street) and "code enforcement" (also responsible for enforcing Covid-19 protocols, public safety and fire inspections). Code enforcement is an essential, nonfunded mandate. She explained that the Farmer's Mill personal services were just a reallocation of previously budgeted personal services to the village. It did not add to our budget, it just reallocated time worked from another area in the village to the mill.

The fund balances are in much better shape than prior years, since previously the general fund was subsidizing the water and sewer funds. Mayor Meeder talked about the interfund transfer (for the DIP system) and how the previous years' deficiencies are being made whole. The general fund's budget balance is \$712,522, the water fund's budget is \$194,950 and the sewer fund's budget is \$257,200 giving a total budget of \$1,164,672 for 2020-2021. The budget includes the tax levy of \$207,292 which has a 1% increase to the real property tax, which is much less than what was permitted, but we are trying to maintain a comfortable increase to help residents.

The mayor clarified our cash position over the last two years and the projected year. She spoke about the new property assessments, explaining that our properties were very under-assessed, and our

assessor has the responsibility of making the assessments equitable. A time for questions concluded the general meeting.

Motion to suspend the regular meeting and enter into executive session to discuss a legal contract at 7:51pm.

Moved by Trustee Ayers Seconded by Trustee Higginbotham
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Motion to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Ayers Seconded by Trustee Sanders
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Respectfully submitted
Jeanette Ramm
Clerk-Treasurer