

**VILLAGE OF WALWORTH
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Village Hall, 227 N. Main St., Walworth, WI

MINUTES

Call to Order: President Connelly called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: President Tom Connelly, Trustees Louise Czaja, Dan Mizialko, Kristi Reiersen, Pat McMahon, Randy Maynard. Also Present: Police Chief Ryan Milligan, DPW Tim Boss, Clerk Treasurer Sabrina Waswo, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Lisa Rogers, Attorney Brad Lochowicz. Public in Attendance: Kelly Freeman, Bob Ball.

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from Citizens Present: Any item presented to the Village Board by a citizen will be heard and may be placed on the next regular meeting's agenda. None.

Communication and Miscellaneous Business – Discussion, Consideration, and Action on the following:

Public Hearing on the proposed 2020 Utility Budget and adoption

President Connelly opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Rogers provided highlights from the Utility budget. The budget remained conservative in the revenues. Interest income was increased as we are seeing a significant increase with combining the accounts. The loan proceeds listed are for the utility's share of the end loader and the server upgrade and new computers. The salaries have been reclassified between supervisor versus laborer as with being a Class C Utility versus a Class D, the PSC requires more detail. The reclassification happened a couple years ago and it's based on users. The salary for the new part-time Administrative Clerk position is located under General Admin Salaries Expense in the water budget and Billing and Collections Expense in the sewer budget. This adds about \$9,800.

Water plant repairs increased as DPW Boss would like to do some value replacements this year. We allocated money for the water tower painting and sewer equipment replacement. Trustee Czaja said we added \$5,000 for an outflow pipe and \$7,000 for chlorine tanks to our water tower to comply with DNR regulations. She noted we have not included anything about borrowing for the FWWPCC loan. It's unlikely that we will have to pay anything towards that loan in 2020. President Connelly said he asked about the timeline for establishing the preliminary principal and interest payments for the Clean Water Fund Loan. Doug York's response was the work won't even be completed until next November, so we anticipate the payments won't be due until 2021. Next budgeting season we will have to budget just principal payments as Strand, the engineering firm, is getting us a zero percent loan. We received a \$150,000 grant, total project costs are \$750,000. That grant amount is based on medium household income and other factors. Czaja questioned if we are getting a budget from FWWPCC and if they are required to publish the budget. Connelly was not sure if there is a requirement that they publish the budget. Overall change to their budget was minimal, about 1.4%. The only thing that changed was the maintenance funds were reallocated into design fees for this upgrade. Czaja stated since we are not regulated we should keep our eye on a sewer rate increase in 2021.

President Connelly closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

Czaja/Mizialko motion to approve the 2020 proposed water and sewer department budget. Unanimously carried.

Public Hearing on the proposed 2020 General Fund Budget

President Connelly opened the 2020 General Fund Budget Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m.

Clerk Treasurer Waswo reported the total levy for the Village is \$1,536,442 (General Fund \$1,351,484 and Library levy \$184,958). This is an increase from last year's levy by \$30,303 or 2%. Our net new construction was only 0.719% , which only allowed a tax increase of a little over \$4,000. Because of that we took a deeper look at our non-levy revenue to get closer to our actual audited numbers. We increased revenues by \$190,470 – 19.5%. The overall budget increased by \$220,272 – 8.9%. Our assessed value increased by \$1,698,700. The Village's mill rate will be \$7.058, an increase of 8 cents per thousand. The full mill rate with all entities is \$22.32, of which the majority is the grade school. She provided an example of a house with an assessed value of \$200,000 would increase by \$282 from last year. The village's portion of that increase is \$17.77.

The biggest change in the budget was moving the John's Disposal recycling costs to the tax bill. John's increased recycling by \$12,634, for a total cost of \$50,744. The cost to the taxpayer will be \$58.80 unless they have additional cans. Currently we have 863 users. This will be formally approved by resolution. Salaries increased by 2% as we are adding a 20 hour part-time employee in the Clerk Treasurer's Office at \$17.50 per hour – total of \$19,592. Half is the Utility expense – \$9,796.

Health Insurance increased by 6%. The village pays 88% of the lowest cost plan available to Walworth County. In 2020 the Village's costs will be \$17,182, in 2019 they were \$16,639 – about a \$6,200 increase.

The Village and Utilities total borrowing is \$366,420. This is higher than we have done in the past. The General Fund portion is \$222,922, and the Water Sewer portion is \$143,428. The five year borrowing includes a server upgrade and new computers for Village Hall and the Police Department, additional communication equipment for the SRO position at BFHS, body cameras, a Police semi-truck scale, fire turnout gear, and the Baxter Woodman Drainage Study. The 10 year borrowing items are an end loader, DPW truck and \$60,000 in roadwork.

President Connelly received a call from a resident concerned about the borrowing, noting the Village should develop a capital improvements plan.

President Connelly closed the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

Czaja/Maynard motion to approve the 2020 General Fund Budget as presented.

Czaja is very concerned about the State of Wisconsin's position on the levy limit. With small municipalities having a zero growth, it is restrictive and directs the Village to borrow. It's built on history. If history is bare bones, we don't get beyond the bare bones. It's very difficult to function with these restrictions. We are doing everything possible to try and get vacant lands already platted in the village built. We have two subdivisions. One is limping along but there are 100 lots available with water/sewer connections and roads that are deteriorating. Connelly agrees and feels the State needs to consider the fact that we just absorbed a huge increase in recycling and insurance, and a union contract with guaranteed increases. The State needs to offer municipalities some relief or figure out some other revenue funding ideas as it is unsustainable.

Roll Call: Czaja, Mizialko, Maynard, Reiersen, Connelly, McMahon voting "yes." Unanimously carried.

Approval to use the \$1.00 allowable increase from the 2018 unused levy
Czaja/Reierson motion to use the \$1.00 allowable increase. Unanimously carried.

Resolution 2019-8, a resolution placing the recycling costs as a user fee on the tax bill
Reierson/Czaja motion to approve resolution 2019-8. This was previously in the tax levy. Recycling is facing a nationwide increase. The fee is going directly to pay for that program.
Roll Call: Czaja, Mizialko, Maynard, Reierson, Connelly, McMahon voting “yes.” Unanimously carried.

Ordinance 2019-4, an ordinance adopting the 2020 General Fund Budget and establishing the 2019 Property Tax Levy for the Village of Walworth
Czaja/McMahon motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-4, an ordinance adopting the 2020 General Fund Budget and establishing the 2019 Property Tax Levy for the Village of Walworth.
Roll Call: Czaja, Mizialko, Maynard, Reierson, Connelly, McMahon voting “yes.” Unanimously carried.

Resolution 2019-7, a resolution recognizing the 2019 tax levies
Czaja/Mizialko motion to approve Resolution 2019-7.
Roll Call: Czaja, Mizialko, Maynard, Reierson, Connelly, McMahon voting “yes.” Unanimously carried.

Hiring part-time office staff in Village Hall to assist with Clerk Treasurer and Utility duties
Czaja/Mizialko motion to hire part-time office staff for 20 hours a week after January 1st. Unanimously carried.

Amending the clothing allowance for non-union employees to be paid out annually on the second paycheck in February
Maynard/Reierson motion to amend the Employee Benefit Summary forms for clothing allowance for non-union employees to be paid out annually on the second paycheck in February. Unanimously carried.

Adjournment
Mizialko/McMahon motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Sabrina Waswo, Clerk Treasurer