

Mayor Bucciferro called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro

Mayor Bucciferro presented the FY26-27 Executive Budget with tax rate increase of 11.47% and tax levy increase of 11.63%. Mayor Bucciferro stated that the budget presented maintains the Village's current level of services. This includes, but is not limited to, Police, Fire/ALS, infrastructure maintenance, parks, Village Court, and Building and Codes. Mayor listed the following as Major Budget Drivers:

- Health insurance costs
- Retirement obligations
- Municipal bond payments
- Operating costs for an additional municipal building
- Significant increases in National Grid rates
- Unfunded mandates (such as MS4 requirements)
- Contractual obligations
- Stagnant State Aid disbursements

Mayor suggested the following additional reductions for board discussion:

- Reduction of part-time summer help
- Reduction of staffing of bathroom trailer for Freedom Park concerts; increased to 38 concerts
- Code inspection/code enforcement— part-time position
- Alternative energy sources for new buildings

Mayor stated that the board will meet on Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00p.m. to make any amendments to presented budget.

Trustee Cook: Cannot support a 12% increase to the tax payers. Retirement costs have increased 105% since 2013; healthcare costs have increased 110% since 2013. Questioned how the Village could operate more efficiently. Asked how much of the increase is related to the Municipal Facilities Project; Mayor stated 1.79%.

Trustee Gray: Increase inter-municipal agreements with neighboring communities. Provide resident survey to hear what services residents prioritize. Retirement, healthcare, National Grid costs all increasing; hopefully will begin to stabilize. Garbage costs the average household \$14/month; removing garbage from the budget would reduce the taxes but shift the costs onto the taxpayer. Department Heads need to continue to review budgets. Municipal Facilities Project approved by voters; project was long overdue. In favor of some of the items the mayor mentioned.

Trustee Brown: Adjustments are not going to get us where we need to be; costs are skyrocketing out of control. 12% increase is unsustainable; Department Heads need radical reimagining of budgets.

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Trustee Solotruck: Trustees have not received an increase in pay for several years; moved here for the services. Level of services invaluable although not manageable over the years; increase shared services discussions. Removal of garbage from the budget would place additional costs onto the taxpayer. Department Heads needs to review budgets and make decisions.

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray to enter into executive session related to contract negotiations.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Mayor Bucciferro reconvened the board at 7:50p.m. with no action.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gray adjourn the meeting at 7:50p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees