

May 4, 2020

A special meeting (Public Hearing) of the Village Board held on the above date was called to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held remotely via Web Ex, to comply with Governor Andrew Cuomo Executive Order, due to COVID 19. The sole purpose of this meeting was to review and adopt the budget for 2020—2021.

Presiding: Bill Hunter Mayor

Board Members Attending Remotely: Jim Keyes, Jeff Linsner, Bryan Gray , Earl Lincoln

No persons from the public called or emailed to attend the meeting remotely.

Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 Budget

Mayor Hunter opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was properly advertised in THE DAILY MESSENGER on April 28, 2020. Due to COVID 19, notice of this meeting was also posted on the front door because at this time due to NY Pause order, the public cannot enter the Village Office. The notice was also placed on the Village web site.

Discussion was held on the proposed 2020-2021 budget. This budget changed from the tentative budget because right after the tentative budget was accepted, the State of New York, and the entire world changed due to the COVID 19 virus.

Discussion was held on the budget. Trustee Gray asked about the \$3,000 that would have been received as a revenue and spent as an expenditure for the Sulphur Springs Festival. Mayor Hunter explained that because the festival has been cancelled this year due to the virus, this revenue and expenditure will not happen.

Trustee Gray asked about the \$30,000 expenditure for a new snowplow. Mayor Hunter explained that this item had been ordered. Trustee Linsner explained that this type of equipment can take twelve to sixteen months to arrive.

Mayor Hunter informed the Board that he has provided all employees and the fire department a memo, that states, due to the anticipated loss in sales tax revenue, no expenditure over \$200 is to occur without his approval.

All members agreed that this is a serious financial situation, due to the loss of sales tax revenue and that all departments need to continue to watch all expenditures, even if they were in the budget.

Trustee Gray asked what the plan is if sales tax comes in even less than expected. In the 2020-2021 budget sales tax was reduced by approximately 25%. Mayor Hunter explained that this is a lean budget and difficult decisions may need to be made if businesses cannot re-open soon or survive the Pause NY order.

Trustee Gray stated that painful decisions may need to be made in the future and that at this time there is no legislation to provide any financial relief to municipalities.

Trustee Lincoln questioned why the street improvement budget was reduced an additional \$10,000. Clerk Reals explained that the budget was re-worked numerous times and at some point, she made an error. The Board agreed that the street improvement budget would be \$110,000 and that the street reserve would be \$30,000, not \$40,000.

Trustee Lincoln questioned \$10,000 that Supervisor Lannon wanted for future water work on Stephens Street. Clerk Reals explained that there was not \$10,000 available for this and that former Trustee Blondell had this in his long-term budget plan for 2021.

Mayor Hunter explained that difficult times may be ahead, and everyone needs to understand that at this time with the COVID 19 virus there are too many unknowns.

Meeting of May 4, 2020 continued:

Motion was made by Trustee Keyes 2nd by Trustee Linsner to adopt the 2020-2021 budget. Mayor Hunter called for a roll call vote which resulted in Trustee Lincoln voting AYE, Trustee Keyes voting AYE, Trustee Gray voting AYE, Trustee Linsner voting AYE and Mayor Hunter voting AYE. Carried.

Budget for 2020-2021

General Fund = \$1,759,662

Water Fund = \$387,694

Sewer Fund = \$446,830

TOTAL = \$2,594,186

Tax Levy = \$717,9841 – which does not stay under the property tax cap. The Village did pass the local law to exceed the property tax cap.

	Tax Rate	Equalization Rate	Change in tax rate From 2019-2020
Town of Manchester	\$7.43	91%	up .20/1,000
Town of Phelps	\$7.20	98%	up .08/1,000

The main reason for the difference is that the Manchester side of the Village has a 91% equalization rate and Phelps has a 98% equalization rate.

No changes in water and sewer rates. Water remains \$33.00 for 0-5,000 gallons and then \$5.15 for each 1,000 gallons thereafter and sewer remains \$70.00 per unit. Both are billed quarterly.

The public hearing was closed at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Reals
Clerk/Treasurer