

**VILLAGE OF MANLIUS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 8, 2021 Special Meeting
Budget Workshop**

PRESENT: Via Web Meeting (Zoom streamed live on Facebook) Mayor Whorrall; Trustees McGrew, Abdo-Rott, Pilewski and Chapman

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Martha Dygert, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Lisa Baker, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Smith & Erin Trojan (Landscape Architect) of MSC; Chris Sherwood, DPW Superintendent; Jeff Lewis, Assistant DPW Superintendent; Jansen Casscles, Fire Chief

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Whorrall at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was a budget workshop and to hear a presentation by Ann Smith of the Manlius Senior Centre regarding a grant application for outdoor seating at the Village Centre.

PRESENTATION:

Ann Smith, Senior Centre Director, gave a synopsis of the grant available through AARP for upgrades to outdoor areas. She is asking for Board approval. There are two areas which are included in the proposal – Area #1 adding two age-friendly picnic tables with a shade canopy and landscaping across from the Senior Centre entrance. Area 2 would incorporate two (2) Stickleby-style benches, lighting, signage a trash can and landscaping.

She is asking for Board approval to follow through with the grant application. There would be no assistance required from the Village other than the possible installation of concrete.

Motion by Trustee Chapman, seconded by Trustee Pilewski to support the Manlius Senior Centre in the application for grant funding for outdoor seating on the Village Centre grounds. MOTION CARRIED 3-0

Administrator – Mrs. Dygert gave an overview of her budget lines. Increase in personal services shows the addition of one staff member. She answered questions relative to the training line and contractual services line. Attorney lines will be used up by year end and thus justifies keeping the same budgeted amount for 21-22. She went through the other lines including Central Data Processing and the Special Items.

Trustee Abdo-Rott asked about the Contingency line and if we request quotes for our insurance annually. Trustee Chapman stated that Haylor solicits quotes.

Mrs. Dygert explained the large increases in Employee Benefits, specifically the ERS & PFRS amounts and the health insurance. She also explained the tax cap.

Fire – (5:45 pm) Chief Casscles joined the meeting and explained his line items. With regard to equipment replacement for EMS equipment – they are looking at a cooperative program between departments to rent needed equipment from Physio Control and will save money both in the initial purchase and the maintenance contracts. From a budgetary standpoint it will stay at a flat rate for 10 years. Medic car replacement – will only be replaced if the value hits the threshold of \$30,000 by auction. Mrs. Dygert explained the revenue side of the Fire Dept budget. Trustee Chapman questioned the 6% increase in the Fire Dept budget and Mrs. Dygert explained the majority had to do with adding a Captain's position to the Department roster.

Trustee McGrew also confirmed he approved of this approach regarding the replacement of the medic car.

DPW – (6 pm) Chris Sherwood entered the meeting and began the discussion on his budget requests. Prior to the meeting he had forwarded a equipment replacement spreadsheet and summary of the reasoning behind the replacement plan and his request for equipment. He asked if there were any questions related to the spreadsheet.

Chris explained that they have purchased 12 pieces of equipment over the past 5 years and there are still 8 more to purchase. The plan he has put together a plan which would optimize the value of the equipment of the Village. An average of \$180,000 per year in prior years is what he used as the basis for his replacement plan.

Mayor stated that he left the replacement of the mini excavator because that is what was stated in the meeting prior to creation of the tentative budget and the DPW had brought the replacement request up to the Board mid-year 2020-2021. It was his understanding that the mini excavator was the piece of equipment the DPW wanted included the most, based on previous discussions.

His concern is there is no room in the budget for a \$440,000 equipment request. There are no other areas which can be cut without raising taxes. He feels possibly looking at a different format would be more beneficial. Looking at the overall budget – the cost of personnel and personnel-related expenses (benefits) are the largest portion of our budget and as we have equipment to operate and are still able to perform the jobs.

Janice stated that they are now proposing an increase of approximately \$248K net for equipment. Hank stated a long-term plan makes sense – based on concerns that have been made does it make sense to spread these out further, i.e. from 4 years to 5 years etc. At the Town they purchased short-term bonds to purchase equipment and left an essentially level debt service payment. Chris is working on spreadsheets to show where equipment is used and what period of time would be of the best benefit. Hank would like to see a cost analysis – 3 year trade versus using them for their full functional life (pickup trucks). Chris stated you need to get through the full 12 year cycle before you start seeing savings.

Mayor asked if the revenue shown is guaranteed and Chris said no but he has never had a piece of equipment sold under what was anticipated.

Trustee Pilewski stated that the Village needs to look at what we can manage from a budget standpoint. Commended them for the good job they are doing.

Jeff Lewis stated they can push trucks out further but there is a cost related to that and there will be increased maintenance cost. If we deviate from the plan, we will be having to play catch up.

Hank, Chris and Jeff discussed the purchase of the garbage truck we just recently purchased and why would we be changing it out at 5 years.

Janice asked what a comfortable number would be that the Village could work with. Tom would like to see some type of listing on a spreadsheet with more information to show what each piece is used for, what is vital, how much are each used.

Mrs. Dygert explained the pie chart and the unknowns relative to the Employee Benefits which is 22% of the total budget and feels it is difficult to commit to this plan based on those unknown costs.

Hank offered that the budget committee should talk and figure out what would fit within the budgetary constraints and bring that amount to the DPW administration to see what fits within this framework. Assessments in 2020-2021 went up which increased the tax levy but the Village did not increase the tax rate per thousand.

Adjourn

There being no additional items for review, it was on motion by Trustee Abdo-Rott, seconded by Trustee McGrew to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Dygert
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer