

A special budget work session meeting of the Village of Liverpool Board of Trustees was held on April 4, 2016 at 12:00 PM at 310 Sycamore Street, Liverpool NY.

Present:	Gary White	Mayor
	Nick Kochan	Deputy Mayor
	Jim Rosier	Trustee
	Dennis Hebert	Trustee
	Christina Fitch	Trustee
	Mary Ellen Sims	Village Clerk /Secretary

Also present at the meeting were:

Anthony LaValle	Village Judge
Russ Tarby	Eagle News
William Sanford	Village resident

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and all those present joined in the pledge of allegiance.

2016- 2017 Budget Work Session

Mayor White stated that the proposed budget has an increase of 1% in the tax rate(\$.12 per thousand increase), which would take the tax rate from \$12.45 to \$12.57. However, Mayor White would like to keep the tax rate the same as last year (\$12.45).

Mayor White asked Village Clerk Treasurer Mary E. Sims to present the budget:

Clerk Sims recapped the budget as follows:

The proposed budget is \$2,362,405.76 , with an increase in the tax rate of 1 % , which would be \$ 12.57 per thousand. The budget includes a transfer of \$85,000 from the HD Drainage Fund to cover the debt payment due on the bond. There is approximately \$ 188,000 left in the project and the project has just been closed out. The remaining funds in the project will be used to pay down the debt. The current unreserved fund balance is \$ 569,000. Clerk Sims commented that the first draft of the budget showed approximately \$ 195,000 from fund balance to balance the budget.

Clerk Sims requested that department heads look to see if they can reduce some of the requested expenditures. Bill Asmus reduced his original expenses by \$ 62, 100 and the police department will be reducing their personnel line. These reductions resulted in the budget that is being presented today.

The 2016- 2017 proposed budget includes capital expenditures of a police vehicle, dump box and the lease of a new garbage truck.

Mayor White stated that he would like to have the tax rate the same as last year, \$ 12.45 per thousand and take the shortfall from fund balance. This would amount to approximately \$ 15,000 from fund balance to balance this year's budget.

Mayor White asked for any comments from the Board:

Trustee Hebert agreed with keeping the tax rate the same as last year. He also felt that we should keep a fair amount of fund balance unreserved.

Trustee Rosier asked how this year's budget is going as far as expenses and anticipated revenues. Clerk Sims stated that expenses are coming in lower than expected.

Trustee Fitch commented that Model # 2 looks good. She thanked Bill Asmus for shaving off over \$ 62,000 from his original requests. She stated that she is comfortable with the request for capital purchases. She wants to keep the tax rate the same as last year.

Trustee Rosier commented that the new truck will have the capabilities of motorized lift for 90 gallon containers.

Mayor White commented that the request for a new police vehicle is part of the ongoing replacement plan for the police department. This keeps the police fleet in warranty and keeps the value of the vehicles up.

Mayor White asked if there were any questions from the Public:

Anthony LaValle, 101 First Street and Village Judge , asked to speak about the Court budget. He stated that last year the difference between court revenues and court expenses were about \$ 36,000. It cost the Village taxpayers approximately \$ 36,000 to run the court or \$.03 per \$ 1,000. He feels that his department is well run and efficient.

Trustee Kochan asked Judge LaValle to explain why the difference between revenues and expenses over the last five years has cost the Village more than \$ 180,000.

Judge LaValle responded that if tickets are down, then money is down. Police department is not writing the tickets, so revenues will be down.

Trustee Hebert commented that when the Village Board met with the Town of Salina Board, it was suggested that one way to save money would be to consolidate the two Courts. Also, the Consensus report suggested that Towns and Villages look at consolidating.

Judge LaValle asked how the Village could even think about consolidating the Village Court. He asked if it was worth taking the Court away from the people. The people in the Village want a Village Judge to look out for them.

Trustee Hebert stated that most persons that go to the Village Court are not Village residents.

Judge LaValle commented that if the Village were looking to get rid of a department, they could look at the police department, which is 60 % of the budget. Consolidating the DPW department could save the Village money. Judge LaValle stated that his department exists for pennies.

Mayor White stated that consolidating was suggested by Town of Salina and the Consensus Committee.

Judge LaValle commented that Town of Salina would probably love to take over the Village court. The suggestion for consolidation was not meant for Courts like Liverpool. It was meant for

North Country Courts that don't write tickets but have a sitting Judge or in cases where they can not find someone qualified to fill the position of Judge.

Judge LaValle stated that something else must be driving this, it is not being driven by revenue.

Bill Sanford asked what is required to abolish the position of Judge and the dissolution of the Court.

Bill Sanford suggested that the Village ask the people if they want the Court. He commented, "Keep the Village a Village."

Mayor White stated that Village residents are paying twice for the same Court services. Village residents pay toward the Town Court expenses.

Anthony LaValle, Judge, stated that this is not about revenue. He feels it is retaliation for him being the "whistle blower." He stated that his two Court employees had two harassment complaints against Mayor White. He stated that the Village was going to sweep it under the rug, until he demanded that the charges be looked into and a report generated on the findings. He asked that he be able to view the reports.

Trustee Kochan asked Judge LaValle to tell the Board what the words were in the harassment charges. Judge LaValle stated that he did not know but again asked for the report.

Mayor White asked that the Board resume Budget talks at this time.

Trustee Fitch stated she feels that the people need to be able to have a voice in the future of the Court and stated that, at this time, the revenue and expenses for the court department are in the budget and the budget is in a good place right now.

Mayor White summed up the proposed 2016- 2017 budget as follows:

- Tax Rate will be the same as present - \$ 12.45 per thousand
- Approximately \$ 16,000 will be taken from fund balance
- \$85,000 will be transferred from the drainage fund for the debt payment
- The budget includes capital purchase of police vehicle, dump box and lease of a garbage truck.

Mayor White asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made by Trustee Rosier, seconded by Trustee Hebert, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Sims, Village Clerk