

Village of Bloomfield Board of Trustees Meeting of February 25, 2015

Present were Mayor Mark Falsone and Trustees Francis Coleman, Dave Conklin, Scott Kimball, Clayton Barnard.

Excused was DPW Supervisor Brian Rayburn.

The meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. with the pledge to the flag.

5:30 Privilege of the floor: none

Minutes: the minutes of the January meeting were accepted as submitted.

Mayor's report:

1. Discussed street clock. Letters will be sent to property owners on the four corners of the business district to determine the best location on Rte. 444 for the clock. Further discussion is tabled until the March meeting.
2. Sales tax revenue is approx. 8.1% higher than this quarter last year.

Clerk's report:

1. Board reviewed monthly financial statements for January.
2. Abstract #9 (vouchers 282-313, HG25) was audited and approved in the following amounts: general fund \$8914.97, water fund \$4027.55, sewer fund \$49,676.02, sewer capital Fund \$5261.40 and trust and agency \$8307.95. The clerk declared that all services have been rendered and all goods have been received. Trustee Barnard motioned, Trustee Coleman seconded and it was unanimously carried to pay the bills as presented.
3. Trustee Conklin motioned, Mayor Falsone seconded and it was unanimously carried to make the following transfers: in the general fund \$1140 from A1990.4 Contingent to A5010.4 in the amount of \$1106 to pay Chatfield for the Park Place project and to A5680.4 in the amount of \$34.
4. The planning board will review a special use permit for apartments in the upstairs of 4 E Main St. in the Village Center District. They may also receive two other applications for local businesses that wish to expand.

CEO report: the board reviewed the monthly report. There were no questions or concerns.

Public works report:

1. Some preliminary work for phase 1 of the sewer capital project construction has started.
2. Winter projects such as plowing and cleaning have begun and will continue.
3. Received 2 sealed bids for our dump truck as follows: B&B Builders \$16,250 and Victor Enterprises \$23,552. The trade-in allowance for the new dump truck was \$15,000. Mayor Falsone motioned, Trustee Kimball seconded and it was unanimously carried to accept the bid of \$23,552 from Victor Enterprises for our used dump truck.

6:00 pm Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2015

The public hearing for the proposed local law to allow a tax levy in excess of the tax cap was opened. There was no one present from the public. There were no written or phone comments concerning the proposed local law. The reading of the legal notice was waived.

The Village has maintained a levy at or below the tax cap for the past four (4) years. The Park Place project, major work at the intersection of Main and South Ave., and equipment purchases are scheduled for the new budget which require a larger tax levy than permitted by the State.

The public hearing was closed at 6:23 pm. Trustee Coleman motioned and Trustee Barnard seconded that Local Law #3 of 2015 to allow a tax levy in excess of the tax cap be adopted and the roll call vote was: Trustee Coleman – yes, Trustee Kimball – yes, Trustee Barnard – yes, Mayor Falsone –yes and Trustee Conklin-yes, and the law was duly adopted.

Standing committees/Special Committees: no reports

Unfinished business:

1. Water/sewer policy: current policy allows that if an account's water is shut off for a billing quarter, the account is rendered inactive and no bill is sent out at the end of that quarter. The property owner is thus excused from paying any base rate for the fixed costs and debt service for either water or sewer during that quarter. The lump sum sewer charge will be reviewed to determine what portion should be attributed to fixed costs and debt service. A draft local law will be reviewed to amend the water/sewer local laws to charge for fixed costs to all accounts regardless of whether the water is temporarily shut-off.
2. Mr. Wayne has requested relief from the sewer law when his business is closed. A study of the past three (3) years indicates that, under the present law, the business should not have been charged a sewer rate for one quarter/yr. Mayor Falsone motioned, Trustee Coleman seconded and it was unanimously carried that a credit of \$475.50 will be given to account #B1400

New business:

1. Received an energy audit from Enerpath, a subcontractor working with RG&E to study the lighting at the village office and the WWTP. The existing light fixtures would be retro-fitted with new LED tubes and ballasts. The two outside poles at the WWTP would be changed out. The estimated payback on the project at the WWTP would be approx. 2 years and the payback at the village office would be approx. 5.6 years. Concern was raised for the long-term maintenance and replacement costs of the ballasts and bulbs. A question was raised concerning any warranty. The topic is tabled until the March meeting so that more information can be obtained.
2. PESH violations were discussed concerning workplace violence prevention. The background study work was presented which lead to the proposed policy statement and risk assessment. Trustee Coleman motioned, Trustee Conklin seconded and it was unanimously carried to adopt the workplace violence prevention policy statement, the workplace violence incident report form, the workplace risk assessment, and the workplace violence prevention policy acknowledgement.
3. The board discussed the draft budget. It was noted that the contribution to the water reserve has been declining in each consecutive budget due partially to the reluctance to raise water rates. Due to the needed increase in both the tax rate and the sewer rate, it is felt that an increase in the water rate at this time would be too much of a financial burden on the community. A public hearing will be scheduled for the March meeting.

Adjournment: The March meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday, March 25. Trustee Barnard motioned, Trustee Conklin seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Conradt
Clerk/treasurer