

Board of Trustees
Village of Tarrytown
Special Meeting No. 3
April 13, 2016
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Fixell, presiding; Trustees Brown, Butler, Hoyt, McGee, McGovern and Zollo; Village Administrator Blau, Village Treasurer Hart, Village Attorney Silverberg and Village Clerk Booth

Public Hearing – Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Trustee Zollo moved, seconded by Trustee Butler and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

Mayor Fixell asked if anyone wanted to address the Board on this matter. No one appeared.

Administrator Blau noted that the tentative budget for 2016-2017 had a 1.14% tax increase and now the tax increase is at 1.33%. Mr. Blau noted that the difference was due to loss of assessables that were realized from tax grievance day. However, the tax levy was unaffected. Mr. Blau noted that this is the lowest tax increase since before 1997-1998.

Administrator Blau made the following presentation to the Board:

In my capacity as Budget Officer for the Village of Tarrytown, on March 18 I submitted the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. This proposed budget is the fifth tentative Village budget that is subject to the New York State tax levy cap and the second and last year that the Village budget is subject to the tax freeze. Pursuant to the previous directive from the Board of Trustees, the tentative budget submitted meets the requirements of the State tax levy cap. All of the previous budgets that have been subject to the tax levy cap have included increases in the tax rate to address the actual tax revenue loss related to assessment decreases due to tax certioraris. I am pleased to report that the assessment roll for FY 16-17 actually increased by \$148,477. This assessment increase is \$93,281 less than the \$241,758 that was included in the tentative budget document, due to tax certioraris filed and associated reductions granted by the Village Assessor. All of the budgets that have been adopted by the Board of Trustees since the implementation of the tax levy cap by New York State have been compliant with the tax levy cap.

The base tax levy cap percentage number for the FY 16-17 number is .12%, which based upon the tax levy for FY 15-16 would allow for the Village to increase the tax levy in FY 16-17 by \$18,193 and remain within the tax levy cap. To the advantage of the Village, when the Board adopted the budget for FY 15-16, the Board did not utilize the entire tax levy within the tax levy cap and a portion of this amount, \$235,924 was available for use in the tentative budget for the Village to remain within the State tax levy cap. The tax levy increase, as proposed in this tentative budget, is \$247,444.00. This proposed tax levy increase is \$6,444.00 less than the tax levy cap amount.

The development of this tentative budget reflects the same framework as previous budgets – the maintenance of services to our residents that they have come to expect with the minimum tax increase to pay for those services.

I would like to provide a brief summary of the tentative budget for each of the Village operating funds.

GENERAL FUND - The tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 includes General Fund appropriations of \$23,077,826 and non-property tax revenues and fund balance of \$7,669,290. The appropriations in the tentative budget increased by \$737,834. Revenues increased by \$490,390 in the tentative budget, an increase of 6.83%. The tentative budget does not include an increase in the appropriation of “unassigned” fund

balance, which has remained at \$600,000. This is the same amount that has been appropriated since the FY 08-09 adopted budget. The tentative budget provides for an increase in the amount of appropriations to be raised by the real estate tax levy of \$247,444, or 1.58% from FY 15-16.

These numbers generate a proposed tax rate of \$311.59 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, up from \$307.51 in the approved budget for FY 15-16. The proposed tax rate is an increase of 1.33% over the tax rate from FY 15-16. Village budget records were reviewed back to Fiscal Year 1997-1998. This proposed tax rate increase is the lower than any adopted tax rate increase going back to FY 97-98. Per the Village Assessor, the average single family home in the Village of Tarrytown is assessed at \$15,000 and utilizing this average assessment figure, the proposed tax rate would generate an increase in Village taxes for the average single family homeowner of \$61.20.

WATER FUND - The tentative budget for the Water Fund provides for appropriations and revenues of \$5,619,791, an increase of \$615,642.00 from the budget for the FY 15-16. 81.22% of the increase in the Water Fund budget is attributable to an increase in the amount proposed for water purchases. In addition to an increase in anticipated water purchases on the expenditure side of the budget, there is a compensating increase in water sales on the revenue side of the budget. In addition, there is an additional employee proposed in the Water Department who will work on the distribution system. For comparison purposes, the Villages of Sleepy Hollow and Briarcliff Manor both have four full time employees working in the department. The proposed increase in staffing would bring the full time staffing in the Tarrytown Water Department to three.

LIBRARY FUND - The tentative budget for the Library Fund actually decreased by \$53.00, from the FY 15-16 adopted budget. The Personal Services – Professional budge line decreased by \$17,171 with the retirement of a long term librarian and a replacement hire at the lower salary range. There was also a decrease in retirement costs of \$23,591 and in debt service of \$8,992. The decreases more than compensated for the increases in the tentative budget.

Trustee Hoyt moved, seconded by Trustee Zollo, and unanimously carried, that the hearing be closed.

Adjournment to Work Session

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee McGee and unanimously carried that the Special Meeting be adjourned to the Board of Trustees Work Session at 6:10 p.m.

Carol A. Booth
Village Clerk