

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon was held in Conference Room B of the Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York, on April 15, 2024.

Present: Robert C. Hayes, Mayor
 Amanda Hoffmann, Deputy Mayor
 Tom Cushing, Trustee
 Tim Batzel, Trustee (arrived @6:05pm)
 Patrick McCormick, Trustee

Staff: Ken Farrell, DPW Supt.
 David Piampiano, Fire Chief
 Bob Alexander, Code Enforcement Officer
 Christine Quinlan, Treasurer
 Tim Ferrara, Officer in Charge

Visitors: George Brown
 Jim Harrington
 Edward Forsythe
 Channel 8 News

Mayor Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Before moving forward with standard business, Mayor Hayes asked everyone in attendance to join him in a moment of silence to honor the officers who were killed in the line of duty in Liverpool, NY. He also asked that the flags be flown at half-staff.

PUBLIC HEARING- ANNUAL BUDGET (cont.)

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the public hearing was continued at 6:03pm. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Mayor Hayes discussed the budget, highlighting that the budget does not override the tax cap this year. He explained reasoning for the proposed budget, explaining that lower revenues, increased insurance costs, increased retirement payments, and a lower tax assessment are all considered when creating, reviewing, and adopting the final budget. He stated that water and sewer rates will remain the same and the tax rate will increase to \$5.172692 per 1000. All general funds are healthy, along with the capital reserves funds.

Treasurer Quinlan noted the following items:

- 2024-2025 final budget revisions include the following:

Page 1, SUM 25 worksheet

- Assessed value is \$238,581,552

Note: The final tax rate is \$5.172692, shown in our budget as rounded to \$5.17. The calculation is \$1,234,109/\$238,581.552=\$5.172692.

Page 2, TAX 25 worksheet

- 2023-2024 tax levy is \$1,187,175 with a tax rate of \$4.97

Note: All tax rates are shown rounded.

Page 3

- 23/24 tax levy amt. is \$1,187,175 with a tax rate of \$4.97
- 24/25 tax rate increase will be 4.06%
- 15/16 tax rate increase is 0.18%

Note: All tax rates are shown rounded.

The Water Fund Balance page (WAT25FB) and Sewer Fund Balance page (SF25FB) reflect the Income Survey project approved by the Village Board.

Mayor Hayes stated that it can be hard to be a new Board coming into the budget season late, however, feels confident that, with the current board’s expertise, and Treasurer Quinlan’s knowledge, efforts and willingness to meet and review with anyone who has questions during and after the budgetary process, the Village will continue to remain healthy and stable. The Mayor looks forward to being involved in the process next year with ideas of starting the process in early 2025 and holding workshops with department heads and the public.

Resident George Brown commended the Mayor for providing a “budget message” and finds that it is helpful in keeping the public informed.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Cushing and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board closed the public hearing at 6:07pm. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board adopted the 2024-2024 annual budget with the revisions provided. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

VOUCHERS and MANUAL CHECKS:

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the vouchers and manual checks/electronic payments were approved for payment from the following funds:

#1-GENERAL FUND	\$43647.87
#4-SCHEDULE C	\$14247.43
#5-WATER	\$18255.85
#6-SEWER	\$26469.44
#HH44-STORMWATER PROJECTS	\$316722.91
#TA00-TRUST & AGENCY	\$1035.14
TOTAL	\$420378.64

- Electronic payments/manual checks:

Paid electronically:

- Fed/NYS Taxes	p/r 24-07	\$13674.60
- Nationwide Retirement	p/r 24-07	\$2718.09
TOTAL:		\$16392.69

Manual Check:

- NYS Child Sup. Proc. Ctr.	Child Support	\$356.00
TOTAL:		\$356.00

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

DPW UPDATE:

Supt. Farrell provided the following update:

DPW Activity

1. Brush pickup
2. Built racks for horse stalls & installed in new 200' barn storage end.
3. Put horse stalls on racks.
4. Prepared restroom m trailer for solar eclipse, delivered and picked up from School. Went well, relatively easy setup, however it uses a lot of electricity.
5. Cleared catch basins & creeks in preparation for rain event.
6. Ran sewer on Genesee St.
7. Serviced equipment (lawn mowers, sweeper).
8. Installed water line to FD building at Driving Park.
9. Started picking up ice rink. Will complete 4/16.
10. Worked on string lights on Genesee St.
11. Rolled Circle Park, mowing grass.

WWT & Plant

1. Moved & hauled sludge.
2. Worked on DMR & Operators report.

3. 2nd. WET test (Whole Effluent Toxicity) samples from the river will be tested.
4. Mowed grass

Water

1. Worked on chlorine analyzer at plant.
2. Worked on water plant drying bed.

Misc.

1. Street light complete.
2. Working on Wastewater collection system maintenance plan for EPA.
3. Put together a tree list for Terry Tree, here next week. Will grind stumps.

MRB UPDATE:

Bill Davis provided the following update electronically, which Mayor Hayes reviewed with the Board:

1. WWTP Disinfection Project:

- GC is progressing work on the UV system foundation/channels/tankage.
- Allowance authorization approved by John and MRB due to relocations and modifications needed due to unknown elevations of underground sewer. (\$16,468)

2. Pebble Beach Rd PS:

- GC has removed old pump station building.
- Check valve replacement on discharge of new raw pumps scheduled for today. This should increase flow to design flow rate due to headloss experienced on main transmission line between pump station and WTP.

3. Joint Water Tank project

- Village, MRB, and BPD working on NYS EFC requested “Missing Items”.
- MRB working on Ag&Markets sign off – should have soon.
- MRB to provide O&M and EDU cost info for BPD submission
- Mtg scheduled for today to review project costs and payment options for Town. IMA will be required to solidify cost share and payment terms.

4. Triphammer Road Watermain Project

- MRB authorized to complete a study of the water transmission main replacement along with a new watermain per the request of the T/O Geneseo. Study will show justification for project and provide cost estimate. Study could be further utilized in the future for a Preliminary Engineering Report to seek funding.
- Study to also look at potential interconnection between Geneseo and Avon.
- MRB has started study and needs to schedule a site visit to walk watermain locations and evaluate potential alignments.

5. **Water/Sewer Income Survey**

- Jay Grasso approved to complete income survey by Village. MRB to arrange kick off meeting with all parties (Village, Town, and LCWSA) since survey will encompass entire service area of water and sewer system (for eligibility for funding). Town and LCWSA customers will also be involved.

6. **Wastewater Treatment Plant (SPDES renewal & Improvement Project)**

- MRB and Village WWTP Staff working on requirements for NY2A SPDES application documents so NYS DEC can complete review and renewal of SPDES permit.
- NYS DEC provided comments on Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). Responses and additional information requested to be implemented into the report by DEC/EFC. Additional treatment options were requested to be evaluated (which may be warranted if SPDES changes). Due to potential SPDES change, MRB suggesting Village consider EPG (Engineering Planning Grant). This grant could be used to address additional report info requested by DEC/EFC; could progress the detail in the report; and could be used to update the report due to any SPDES changes that may be experienced.

7. **Pretreatment Program and Sign Industrial Users**

- Kraft has indicated that they are looking to install a full size pilot Pretreatment System (DAF treatment). MRB and Village has provided comments and requested additional information.
- Kraft reported they are currently removing old treatment equipment (from original pre-treatment plant).
- Pilot scheduled to be in place by end of April and run for 3 months.

TREASURER UPDATE:

Treasurer Quinlan provided the following update to the Board:

Ongoing

- 2019 GVBA grant projects being discussed with the Village. Quote received for arena footing.
- The Board needs to determine additional use(s) of the ARPA funds.
- IT policy and procurement policy need to be reviewed and adopted at future meeting.
- Heather working on reporting salary & contributions as our former employee does want to retire from NYS.
- Attorney Whiting responded to NYPA re: outstanding invoice. No response from NYPA.
- Organizing sign purchase for Erie-Attica. Hitch rails are completed.
- National Grid's approval to install arms in process.

New

- National Grid completed streetlight arms work. Awaiting closeout documentation including final signoff, final invoice, as-builts and GIS mapping. Formal closeout meeting with Centrica to be scheduled.
- 2017 GVBA grant reimbursement check cut to GVBA. Awaiting reimbursement to Village.
- Working on 2018 GVBA grant contract forms and reimbursement request.
- Five Arch Bridge project bids received on April 9th. Bids to be reviewed and discussed at May 6th meeting.
- Working on water/sewer relevies, and prorated taxes.
- Filed FED and NYS quarterly tax reports.
- Submitted pre-budget Constitutional tax limit & tax cap forms to NYS.
- Working on audit RFP.
- Working on SLFRF project & expenditure report due on April 30th.

CODE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Code Officer Alexander offered the following update to the Board:

- Issued several permits.
- Would like to take the opportunity to “soften” the image of what code enforcement officers do. He is hoping that he can continue to explore with members of the community that he is looking for “compliance” not trying to get people into trouble. He also wants to work with residents to accomplish their goals.
- Will be away April 25th.

POLICE UPDATE:

Officer in Charge Ferrara updated the Board on the following:

- DCJS is all set.
- 72 calls since the last meeting. They have been assisting other agencies with ambulance calls and have had 52 traffic stops in the Village. The officers have been covering crossing guard duties on Main Street since our former crossing guard, Paula, left in March.
- Officer Matt McFadden and Officer Travis McFadden will be changing shifts. Officer Travis McFadden will be fulfilling Officer Matt McFadden’s duties as the SRO Officer at the middle/high school. SRO training school will hopefully be held in the summer.
- Looking into more training available for the department.
- Speed signs- one is currently not working. Looking into repairs and warranty information. The other is currently charging and will be put out into the community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

The following update was provided by Chief Piampiano:

- Truck inspection for tonight’s drill night.
- Helping with the Little League Parade and Kraft Day on the 27th.
- The standby for the solar eclipse went well. Everyone was well prepared.
- EMS calls continue to increase in the department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ELECTION 2024:

The Board reviewed the Fire Department election results from April 4, 2024. Twenty-one ballots were mailed to eligible voters with fourteen votes cast. Totals are as follows:

Chief David Piampiano- 11 votes
 Assistant Chief Dan Snyder- 14 votes
 2nd Assistant Chief Brian Strozewski- 14 votes

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the Board accepted the election results as presented. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C. Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

CLERK UPDATE:

The following items are updates from Clerk Randall:

- Provided- Invitation for the Pumper Company’s Annual Ladies Night Out to be held Saturday May 18 at Wildwood Country Club- RSVP to Barb Ippolito by May 10th.
- Call from Kurt Zobel regarding the Memorial Day Parade- wanted to make sure that it was still ok to hold the Parade- didn’t want to take it for granted. If he needs to come to a meeting he will.
- Copy of the updated internal phone list provided.
- Sexual Harassment/workplace violence training will be held on Wednesday 4/17 at noon in Conference room B.
- Clerk Randall told the Board that she will be having surgery April 24 and will be out of the office. She hopes to return by May 6th but will have her laptop at home to do payroll and death certificates.

Important Dates:

- **BOARD MEETINGS-** May 6th, 2024, May 20th, 2024
- **Closed On May 27th, 2024-** Memorial Day

MINUTES:

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board approved the minutes from the March 25th, 2024 and the April 1st, 2024 meetings. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C. Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Abstain
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Hayes opened the floor to public comments at 6:56pm.

- Resident George Brown discussed the code book, pointing out that he knows there is some cleaning up being done. He wanted to stress the importance of it being user friendly and hopes that the code department will continue to focus on properties around the village that need to be cleaned up.

There were no other comments.

TRUSTEE UPDATE:

Mayor Hayes asked members of the Board if they had any updates:

- ✚ Trustee Cushing let the Board know that he would be meeting at the Driving Park on 4/23 with the Parks Commission to review the happenings. Trustee Batzel noted that something needs to be done about the Horse Barn. It needs to be cleaned out and not used for any other purpose than the horses. He also feels that the insurance requirements should be looked at again and that there needs to be a better idea of what is going on there, especially if we are having more horse events. Supt. Farrell believes that a letter should be issued to the renters to clean up the barn, with specific expectations, and feels that there should be no more “verbalizations”. A letter is documentation.
- ✚ Deputy Mayor Hoffmann gave an update on the truck committee, stating that they continue to move forward. They are hoping to come to the Board to discuss the final specs in order to send out for bids. The bylaws are almost complete. They will need to be reviewed and will have to go through a public hearing for adoption by the Board as a replacement in the code for the current regulations. The department is also looking into starting a “Rams Program” for kids between the ages of 14-17 years old, hoping to encourage youth interest in the department and future recruitment.
- ✚ Attorney Whiting was left off of the appointment list at the organizational meeting. Mayor Hayes asked for a motion to accept the appointment.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board accepted the appointment of Attorney Jake Whiting as the Village Attorney. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board entered into executive session at 7:00pm and left Conference Room B for the Whitney Room in order to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes

Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board exited executive session at 7:27pm and returned to Conference Room B. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board opened public session at 7:27pm. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the Board agreed to promote the summer help for the Village and increase the rate of pay from \$15.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert C Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

The Village Board expressed that Chief Geer, who was suspended without pay at the March 20th, 2024 special meeting, will be placed back on the payroll effective April 19th, 2024 per civil service law. The suspension with pay will remain until further notice.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board adjourned at 7:31pm by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Randall
 Village Clerk