

Minutes of the FY 2023-2024 Tentative Budget Public Hearing, of the Board of Trustees, of the Village of Montgomery, was held on April 13, 2023, in the Village Hall, Court Room, at 133 Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY 12549, at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Brescia, Deputy Mayor Andolsek, Trustee Hembury, Trustee Lindner, Trustee Picarello, Atty. Will Frank, DPW Supt. Nelson, Chief of Police Herlihy, Village Clerk Rivera-Fernandez, Treasurer Palmieri, Court Clerk Nelson, Recreation Director Taylor, PB Chrmn. Conero, Ron Clum, Rita Santo, Don Berger, Maria Beltrametti, MaryAnn Lindner, Mary Lippincott, Chuck LaRocca, Kathy LaRocca, Johanna Sweikata, Sylvia Frumes, Nick Picarello.

#### OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Moved by Trustee Hembury, seconded by Trustee Andolsek, the Board opened the Public Hearing. Motion carried, 5-0 Ayes, 0-Nays.

Mayor Brescia asked the Village Clerk if all the paperwork has been filed to hold this Public Hearing.

Village Clerk Rivera-Fernandez replied, yes, all the paperwork has been filed to hold this Public Hearing.

Mayor Brescia asked for comments to be held to the end. He read aloud the FY 2023-2024 Tentative Budget page by page.

Page one: Mayor Brescia asked if there were any questions on page one.

Ms. Beltrametti asked where is the current year's budget rate, is it not always listed on page one?

Mayor Brescia asked questions to be held for clarification from Ron Clum.

Mayor Brescia phoned Ron Clum to see if he will be attending the Public Hearing.

Mr. Berger asked what the fund balance is?

Mayor Brescia said the appropriated fund balance is \$625,000 on page one.

No further questions were asked on page one.

Page 2: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions on page two?

No questions asked, regarding page two.

Page 3: Mayor Brescia asked regarding page three.

No questions asked regarding page three.

Page 4: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions on page four?

Mr. Berger asked is there a possibility of hiring a full-time police officer. Is a new full-time employee going to fill that vacancy, or is this an addition.

Mayor Brescia replied, yes, there is one addition.

Mr. Berger stated, so, you are going from four to five.

Mayor Brescia said the plan is to hire a Sgt. with quite bit of experience.

Chief of Police Herlihy said we have to bring a back a Department Sgt. first, because that was the last Civil Service Position that he held. Based on the score of his exam, we can then look to promote him.

Mr. Berger asked then Brian is going to become a Part-Timer and will fill that vacancy.

Mayor Brescia replied that is correct.

Mr. Berger asked with on probationary period.

Chief of Police Herlihy replied, he will have to serve a probationary period of six to eight weeks, but no more than twenty-six weeks.

Mayor Brescia asked if there are any further questions on page four.

No further questions asked regarding page four.

Page 5: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions on page five.

Mr. Berger has a question the DPW Supt. Nelson regarding the Snow Removal section.

We have had a few good years without a lot of snow, how does that translate from the current budget year to the next budget since there is a lack of salt usage.

Mayor Brescia stated that goes into the fund balance. The DPW Supt. Nelson has budgeted wisely, and has budgeted the same or a little more than last year.

Mr. Berger said he question is where does that money go?

Mayor Brescia stated the money goes back into the fund balance to help keep the budget below the tax cap.

Mayor Brescia asked if there are any further question regarding page five?

No further questions regarding page five.

Page 6: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions on page six?

He mentioned the library increase was originally \$4,000.00 and after the recent request, it's now an increase of \$6,000.00 which is a 22% increase over last year. It's probably not the largest line-item increase in the budget. However, he also had Buddy put figures together to see what other things are provided to the library where funds could be cut to give to the library.

The Village of Montgomery provides the library free space for the office and pays for expense of the maintenance and utilities. The utilities per year cost are approximately \$3,100.00 to \$3,200.00, the water and sewer are provided at the cost of \$64.00 twice a year. The roof was replaced on the back side of the library, for the total cost of \$36,955.00. In addition, to the replacement of the windows at the cost of \$41,000.00. The new heating system for the library was \$35,751.00, a few years ago. These are three major items the Village provides, that the Town does not. We also provide a cleaner one hour a day, five days a week, of which the Village also provides for the insurance. The Town is increasing their contribution from \$48,000 to \$60,000, however, they do not provide the library with services that the Village provides.

Much like Montgomery Little League, the Village of Montgomery is happy to host the Villages of Maybrook and Walden, but the Village of Montgomery DPW is doing a lot of the work in the park and are not getting the added help. We will soon be asking the Mayor's and the Town Supervisor for additional manpower to help with the maintenance or for whatever is needed.

He would just like to put it out and if he is still Mayor, will give another sizeable increase towards the support of the library. He knows Darlene and Randi were talking earlier about how the fund raising goes. Randi is more than willing to help put together an initiative for a fundraiser.

Kathy LaRocca said she just wants to clarify; you said \$60,000 is a big a payout. Well in the past, we have asked for more and only received an increase of \$500. She feels if their increases were more substantial in the past, this would not seem to be a large increase.

Mayor Brescia said he understands, and we have had some tight years there for a few years.

Mr. Berger believes the library is extremely important part of the Village of Montgomery. He does not have young children anymore, but he has grandchildren that love the library. He also feels the library needs more space and should not be underestimated the impact of the library.

Mayor Brescia said it may be possible with a host community agreement that something could be done for the library.

He asked if there were any further questions regarding page six.

No further questions asked regarding page six.

Page 7: Mayor Brescia asked, are there any questions regarding page seven?

Mayor Brescia stated the refuse (garbage) tipping fees have increased.

DPW Supt. Nelson said IWS is still cheaper than the County, (in audible).

Mayor Brescia asked if there are any other questions regarding page seven?

Mr. Berger asked if the Police Retirement is going to be enough to cover the new employees.

Chief of Police Herlihy replied, yes.

Ms. Rita Santos asked to go back to page six, regarding the Senior Center.

Page 6: Mayor Brescia said \$3,000 was added to the Senior Center Contribution. Are there any other questions regarding this page.

Ms. Santos replied, no. Thank you.

Mayor Brescia asked if there were any further questions regarding page seven?

No further questions asked regarding page seven.

Page 8: Mayor Brescia asked if there were any questions regarding page eight?

Mr. Berger asked about creating a bond, where is the threshold for borrowing, and is there too much debt to issue a bond.

Mayor Brescia said he does not know how to answer that question.

Atty. Will Frank said it goes through the credit rating. If the municipality has too many bonds, their rating is going to go down, making it harder to issue additional bonds. So, there is nothing in the states you must borrow at a certain level. If you issue too many bonds the credit rating is going to go

down and it becomes harder to get favorable interest rates on the Bonds and the BANS. It is in the local finance law and the village takes advice from their financial advisor, Capital Market or whom ever. Munistat and whoever is being used at the time. They would recommend to the Village, if they are at a limit where you would want to go with anymore borrowing, that would adversely affect your credit.

Mr. Berger said based on your answer, the credit rating. (In audible).

Atty. Will Frank said you go with the current rate until it changes.

Mayor Brescia stated the Village tries to bond when a bond when is going to be paid off.

Atty. Will Frank said a budget of this size and the repayment obligations, it is really good.

He wishes all his municipalities were this good.

Mayor Brescia asked if there were any further questions regarding page eight?

No further questions received regarding page eight.

Page 9: Estimated Revenue.

Mr. Berger asked where the school resource officer revenue is coming from?

Chief of Police Herlihy replied, the school resource officer revenue comes from the School District. (In audible).

Mr. Berger also asked about the revenue for the DARE officer.

Chief of Police Herlihy stated the DARE revenue comes from the County and is separate from the school resource officer.

An individual who did not state their name for the recorded asked about the revenue regarding Fines and Forfeited Bail, it's up by \$35,000.00.

Mayor Brescia said that is a good thing and he is very happy about it.

I know but how do we expect that?

Mayor Brescia asked the Chief of Police Herlihy to answer the question.

Justice Court Clerk replied, we are now receiving revenue for the fine period in which the Courts were not in session due to Covid, from 2019 through 2022.

Page 10: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions regarding page ten?

No questions asked regarding page ten.

Page 11: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions regarding page Eleven?

No questions asked regarding page eleven.

Page 12: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions regarding page twelve?

No questions asked regarding page twelve.

Page 13: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions regarding page thirteen?

No questions asked regarding page thirteen.

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Page 14: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions regarding page fourteen?

No questions asked regarding page fourteen.

Stmnt of Debt: Mayor Brescia asked if there are any questions regarding the Statement of Debt?

Ms. Beltrametti expressed her thoughts regarding the land acquisition for the parking lot, was purchased illegal and the open meetings laws were violated.

Mayor Brescia replied everything was done legally and the Village will have an additional municipal parking. He is aware that she is opposed to the purchase of the parking lot.

Trustee Lindner thanked Ms. Beltrametti for her comments.

Mayor Brescia moved back to receive questions regarding the budget.

Mr. Berger asked how do we know that we are within the tax cap.

Mayor Brescia deferred the question to Ron Clum.

Ron Clum said the allowable levy is calculated to be \$3,278,000.00 and now it's at \$3,252,000.00, which is under by \$25,175.00.

Ms. Beltrametti asked where is last year's budget rate, she recalls the budget reflecting both on the front page.

Mayor Brescia asked Ron Clum about this.

Ron Clum said he does not recall ever having both rates on the front page of the budget.

Mayor Brescia stated the budget is under the two percent tax cap with a 3.78 percent increase.

Mr. Berger said getting back to the fund balance, so initially you are taking \$625,000 out of the fund balance. What is remaining of the fund balance?

Ron Clum stated you have to look at the actual figures and project. So, the remaining is \$890,000.00. along with 2.2 months of revenue.

Mr. Berger asked what are the top two reasons to take out money out of the fund balance. Can you pay bonds out of the fund balance?

Mayor Brescia replied, some bonds cannot be prepaid, based on the terms of the bonds.

(In audible).

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Moved by Trustee Lindner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andolsek, the Board closed the Public Hearing for the FY 2023-2024 Tentative Budget. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

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Monserate Rivera-Fernandez, Village Clerk

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, of the Board of Trustees, of the Village of Montgomery, was held in the Village Hall Court Room, at 133 Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY 12549, on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 7:30 pm.

Present: Mayor Brescia, Deputy Mayor Andolsek, Trustee Hembury, Trustee Lindner, Trustee Picarello, Atty. Will Frank, Village Clerk Rivera-Fernandez, DPW Supt. Nelson, Chief of Police Herlihy, Don Berger, Maria Beltrametti, MaryAnn Lindner, Mary Lippincott, Johanna Sweikata, Sylvia Frumes, Nick Picarello.

#### CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brescia opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### MINUTES

To be completed for May 2, 2023 meeting.

#### REQUEST TO MEET WITH BOARD

None

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### RE: NEW BUSINESS

#### ADOPT FY 2023-2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Moved by Deputy Mayor Andolsek, seconded by Trustee Lindner, the Board adopted the FY 2023-2024 Tentative Budget. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

#### CREATE PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME POSITION FOR A SERGEANT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Moved by Trustee Hembury, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andolsek, the Board approved creating a Part-Time and Full-Time position for a sergeant effective immediately. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

#### EVENTS

Montgomery Little League Opening Day & Parade is being held on April 22, 2023, at 9:00 am.  
Mother Day is on May 14, 2023.

Village Wide Yard Sale Day, is being held on May 20, 2023, 10 am to 5 pm, it's a Rain or Shine event.

The Memorial Day Parade is being held on May 29, 2023, by Osborn-Fitzsimmons American Legion Post 521. The Parade line up begins at 10:30 am, at the corner of Clinton Street and Wallkill Avenue, (Contact Stacy Brescia-Spreer at 845-457-9661 Ext. 217, or email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:events@villageofmontgomery.org"](mailto:events@villageofmontgomery.org)) for more information.

#### APPROVE THE CONTRACT SERVICES FOR “TAKE FIVE”, FOR AN OUTDOOR CONCERT EVENT, HELD ON JULY 22, 2023, FROM 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM, AT THE CLINTON STREET BANDSTAND, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00

Moved by Deputy Mayor Andolsek, seconded by Trustee Lindner, the Board approved the contract services of “Take Five”, for an outdoor concert, to be held on July 22, 2023, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Clinton Street Bandstand, in the amount of \$500.00. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

#### PUBLIC PORTION

(In audible).

Mayor Brescia stated the Village is purchasing the parking lot. The Board is looking to fix the retaining wall and the fence.

Trustee Picarello updated the Board on the Ambulance District; it is ALS certified with plans to hire a chief of operations. This lowers response time to nine minutes. A drop call rate of 96 percent of calls with an ambulance district mutual aid.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Picarello, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board adjourned the meeting of April 13, 2023, at 7:56 pm. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

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Monserate Rivera-Fernandez, Village Clerk