

A budget workshop of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Delhi was held on Tuesday, **March 11, 2025** at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Boardroom.

Present: Mayor: Jeffrey Gearhart
Trustees: Jeremy Fitch, Ian Lamont, Barbara Sturdevant and Janet Tweed

The meeting started at 6:05 p.m.

The tentative budget has been completed for the board approval of it in its entirety.

Discussion was had on the General budget, which as it stands right now is \$2,047,941.00, which includes the police budget as requested by Chief Mills as the PBA agreement hasn't concluded their negotiations.

There was some conversation regarding the bell in the tower at Village Hall that belongs to the Rural Fire District. There is concern as to whether it is safe as there has been no inspection in some time. Code Officer Morgan will go up next week to inspect.

After some discussion, there was talk that perhaps the village should draft a letter to the Rural Fire District asking that the bell be removed from the tower as they have mentioned and budgeted for some time.

There was also some discussion of the fire escape whether we should get an updated quote for repair / replacement of the fire escape. There was also talk questioning whether it wouldn't make more sense to do the parking above village hall with a ramp entrance directly into the Police Department, which would also need to be quoted.

Trustee Sturdevant had created a document by fund that showed the increase and decrease by ledger for discussion and understanding by each of the board members.

The Water budget, Sewer budget and Joint Activities budgets were also reviewed and questions were asked and answered. The board seemed mostly okay with the tentative budget. The police budget is likely a little high as the negotiations are expected to come in less than the proposed budget given by Chief Mills.

Trustee Fitch advised the board that he felt with the way the economy is that he feels perhaps we should not raise taxes this year and stick with raising water, sewer and CAP fees this year.

Mayor Gearhart said the tentative budget is projected with a 2% increase to property taxes rate, which would increase tax revenue slightly more than 2% because of the increased assessments. Also in the tentative budget is increase of 5% for Water, Sewer and CAP rates.

Trustee Sturdevant felt that we should leave 2% increase for property taxes this year and if we receive a share of the sales tax revenue from Delaware County, we could raise taxes less next budget year.

After much discussion, it was felt we would present the 2025 – 2026 tentative budget for the public hearing next week as it is currently.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve the O & M budget of \$1,526,000.04 and authorize Stacey Eggers @ Red Door to submit Village of Delhi Sewer budget to NYC DEP for their approval. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch advised that they have a meeting for PBA negotiations 3/19/2025.

Mayor Gearhart mentioned that we may want our Village attorney to negotiate future agreements with the unions.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to present the tentative budget totaling \$4,741,803.98 (General is 2,047,941.00, Water is \$910,320.00, Sewer is \$1,756,357.98 and Joint Activities is \$27,185.00)

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Cairns
Village Treasurer