

PRESENT Mayor Welch, Trustee Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Marasco, Superintendent Wills, Engineer Marino, Law Counsel Leone, Chief Previte, Clerk Fundis, Deputy Clerk Vazquez

PUBLIC MEETING A special meeting was held in the Mayor's office with Pat Brown from Brown & Co to discuss the 2019-2020 financial audit. Brown made the following statement:

Thank you for having Brown & Co as auditors for the Village; in our role, we do serve the Board so if ever any questions about audit report or other financial issues feel free to contact me.

The audit went well and I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and assistance with the audit.

The Village received an unmodified audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 5/31/20, which means the Village financial statements are in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and reporting requirements. An unmodified opinion is desired and highest opinion form for financial audits-all entries proposed by us are reflected in the financial statements. It is not an opinion on the day-to-day operations or spending plan/efficiency of the village.

Overall, the Villages total financial position of the operating funds improved over last year and are in stable and good condition. All funds have surplus fund balances, water is low due to amount used in 2021 budget.

General fund unrestricted fund balance is \$1,331,999 which is \$69,567 less than 2019 and represents 42.5% of 2021 budget (2019 unrestricted fund balance was \$1,401,566 or 47.5% of the 2020 amended budget).

General fund balance increased by \$129,282 to \$1,817,183 as a result of revenues exceeding budget by \$37,735 and expenditures and transfers under budget by \$356,422 resulting in a favorable budget variance of \$394,157

General Fund revenues shortfalls:

- Utility and mortgage taxes were under budget by \$6,288 and \$3,144 respectively
- Lewiston landing was under budget by \$25,471
- Chips was \$24,696 under budget while chips expenses were \$7,199 under budget
- Expenditures generally all within budget except:
- Clerk/Treasurer was \$2,301 over budget
- General fund has operated at healthy surpluses the past 5 years (Average for the five years \$186,043) while holding tax increases to a minimum. Village has operated better than budget each of those years.

Water Fund unrestricted water fund balance of \$11,413 is 3.0% of the 2021 budget and \$59,327 less than 2019 (2019 was \$70,740 or 20.5% of 2020 budget) due to amount appropriated in 2021 budget.

Total fund balance decreased by \$3,371 from 2019 with revenues \$2,079 over budget and expenditures \$14,114 under budget resulting favorable budget variance of \$16,193.

Water fund revenue shortfall was in interest/penalties, Expenditures all within budget except for water purchased from county was over budget \$3,211

The decrease in fund balance of \$3,371 was \$16,193 better than budget and a favorable budget variance.

Water fund has been operating at deficits since 2016 (hand out sheet)

Sewer fund unrestricted balance of \$158,353 is \$11,056 higher than 2019 and is 35.4% of the 2021 budget (2019 was \$147,296 or 32.9% of the 2020 budget).

Total sewer fund balance increased \$11,056 vs 2019. The increase in sewer fund was \$11,877 more than budgeted (favorable budget variance)

Revenues were \$22,264 under budget and expenditures \$34,141 under budget resulting in a favorable budget variance of \$11,877.

Sewer fund revenue shortfall due to estimated sewer usage, Expenditures all within budget

Sewer fund has operated at deficits since 2016 all budgeted for so 2020 operating surplus is a positive turnaround.

The fund balances of the Village, except possibly water, are strong and in good position due to prudent and conservative budgeting with realistic revenue and expense estimates and just about where you want them to be, general fund is high but given sales tax volatility it is good reserves are higher.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Welch called the Village Board Work Session to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00pm.

BUSINESS

Fun-Fly R-C Model Airplane Club

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Fun-Fly R-C for use of The Richard F. Soluri Park for helicopter/model airplane club flying from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Law Counsel Leone asked that liability insurance be provided by the club, as has been done in past practice.

DISCUSSION

Snow/Shoveling Sidewalks

Trustee Marasco thanked Superintendent Wills and the Department of Public Works for the work they did cleaning up the sidewalks during the recent snowstorm; this was noticed and appreciated by our business owners.

Street Sign Update

Mayor made the following statement regarding sign updates:

The proposed bike lane on Cayuga Street will have small directional signs denoting the bike route attached to our existing stop signs. This is a safer alternative route for youths and families to travel instead of the shared bike lane on Center Street. These small signs are designed to direct cyclists through the Village of Lewiston and to the continued bike route to the surrounding communities. I have not seen the proposed signs yet, but I made them aware that they had to be conscientious of adding additional signs in the village. This Bike Trail is a good thing for Lewiston. It brings people into our community to see what businesses, events, history, and attractions we have to offer. Bike Trail directional signage is important because people from out of the area need direction to continue on the trail.

As far as placing more signs in the community, we are making an effort on removing signs. You said "if one sign goes up, one sign comes down" We recently removed nine street signs along Center Street because they were old and faded and unreadable and we are not replacing them with new signs, so I guess we are ahead by nine. This is still a work in progress, and we may remove more signs. Keep in mind Center Street is a NYS Highway and the Department of Transportation dictates what signs must be installed along the highway for direction, information and safety. We are currently working with DOT to remove the large green state highway sign and the large Welcome to Lewiston sign at the corner of Ninth and Center Street, and possibly other Center Street signs that may not be needed. We are also considering removing the old faded street sign poles at the intersections and replacing them with new street sign poles that will match the existing antique street lights. This is very costly and I have asked DOT to consider replacing street sign poles and signs during the Center Street resurfacing project this year.

I personally invited Mr. Simonson to a NYS DOT meeting regarding the resurfacing of Center Street where he could voice his concerns about the signage and the overhead wires. I have kept him informed about the upcoming schedule for the resurfacing, signs that have been removed, and the possibility of removing utility poles and wires.

At no time did anyone from the De-sign group contact me or my board members to ask what kind of signage was proposed for the bike trail along Cayuga Street. I have never been invited to any of their meetings, where I would be glad to answer their questions or concerns. All of the Village meetings are open to the public where their questions and concerns could be answered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Village Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:00PM.

The next Zoning Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:30PM.

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting to be held on Monday, March 8, 2021 is cancelled.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Trustee Marasco seconded by Trustee Eydt and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:09pm.

Shannon Fundis, Clerk