

Minutes
March 27, 2024 – Draft
6:30pm
Special Budget Workshop

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich held a Special Meeting for the purpose of discussing the 2024/2025 budget at the Community Center, 6 Academy Street in the Village of Greenwich. Present were Mayor Fuller, and Trustees Brown, Robinson, Grimmke, Trustee Vandewater, Trustee Brown (late arrival) and Deputy Treasurer Brown.

Mayor Fuller opened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Mayor Fuller received a request via email from Holly Harris for a letter of support for her application to secure a license from NYS to sell cannabis in her shop in Greenwich. The board wishes to have more information from Ms. Harris and will respond at that time. Trustee Brown was in favor of support. Trustee Robinson needed to think about it.

Mayor Fuller asked if 3% raises were included in the tentative budget. Deputy Treasurer Brown answered in the affirmative. Brown went on to point out on the revenue page, that Charter Communications does not appear to have an active franchise agreement. The latest one on file expired in 2017. The old contract stipulates that we pay their tax bill. In 2019 the tax levy was \$105.00. It has gone up every year to a high of \$12,000. This brings the revenue down to \$1,500 instead of the anticipated \$10,000. Mayor Fuller will contact our attorney regarding this matter. A prolonged discussion on how to up the revenue from garbage pick-up resulted in no change to the current status quo.

Trustee Grimmke wants to increase snow removal revenue by \$5,000 which is also the same as the expenditure. He believes this is the way the budget should be written to have a cushion. Deputy Treasurer Brown disagrees because it's artificially inflating both revenue and expenditures but agreed to revise as requested.

Trustee Grimmke pointed out that we need to cut \$137,000 as the current tentative budget stands. The Trustees asked about capping the employees' raises at 2% instead of 3%. The savings would be \$6,000. Financing the \$143,000 cost of the LED streetlights up front is another option. Trustee Grimmke pointed out that financing the lights burdens future budgets. Trustee Brown talked about the suppressed pay scale of Village employees compared to other municipalities, which the health insurance benefit does address. Trustee Robinson maintained that the village salaries are comparable.

Mayor-Elect Hurley asked if revenue from tickets issued by the Village Police came into the village now that the court is dissolved. The answer is "only parking tickets." She also stated she was uncomfortable with proposal with the 66% increase proposed for the mayor's salary. The board agreed to back off from that increase.

Motion to raise the mayor's salary to \$12,000 moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

The Clerk asked for her salary to be commensurate with Treasurer/ Deputy Treasurer's salary.
No action was taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Brown
and carried by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Dowling

Village Clerk