

**VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
APRIL 19, 2006
7:30 P.M.**

Present: Deputy Mayor Vernon
Trustee Christopher Hansen
Trustee Nancy Hays
Trustee Oliver Parker

Absent: Mayor David McFadden

Clerk: Deborah Matthews

Also: Susan Goodfellow, Sally Sonne, Jim Burger, Bryan Colwell, Gardiner Hempel,
Doug Benedict, Greg Gross, David du Pont, Alan Heywood, Joanne Vernon

Deputy Mayor Vernon called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINT ELECTION INSPECTORS

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Vernon, seconded by Trustee Parker, that election inspectors for the June 20, 2006 Village Election be appointed as follows: Nils Gerling, Tuxedo, NY, as Election Inspector and Chairman of Inspectors at a rate of \$13.25 per hour, and Joyce LaBar, Theodora Darling, and Penny Menzie (as an alternate), Tuxedo, NY, as Election Inspectors at a rate of \$11.25 per hour.

Vote of the Board: Trustee Hays – aye
Trustee Hansen – aye
Trustee Parker – aye
Deputy Mayor Vernon – aye

The motion was passed by a 4-0 vote.

ADOPT SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Deputy Mayor Vernon stated that the Village has always had a policy but this is a ‘best practices’ and the Village is going to commence annual training of employees. This Friday there will be a training seminar for all Village staff and the new policy must be in place. He suggested a change to the complain form (change the wording ‘authorized by the Village to receive’ to ‘filing’). The Board was in agreement with the change.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Vernon, seconded by Trustee Hansen, that the Sexual Harassment Policy and Complaint Form as prepared by Amteck Public Sector HR Consulting, under the direction of Michael Richardson, the Village's Labor Relations Consultant, be adopted as the official policy for the Village of Tuxedo Park, replacing the existing policy previously adopted in 1997.

Vote of the Board: Trustee Hansen – aye
Trustee Parker – aye
Trustee Hay – aye
Deputy Mayor Vernon – aye

The motion was passed by a 4-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMENTS ON 2006-2007 BUDGET

Village residents who spoke during the Public Comment period were: Susan Goodfellow, David du Pont, Jim Burger, Sally Sonne, Michele Lindsay, Alan Heywood.

Public comments: Budget line items should be increased for attorney fees and capital expenditures for dam issues, employee salary comparisons should be better researched using job descriptions as well as job titles then discussed in executive session, pleased that the water fund shortfall is being addressed by raising water rates, the Tuxedo Park School should have been advised beforehand of an increase in their sewer charge, a request was made for a reduction in the sewer charge, suggestion that Village staff be given an apology regarding public discussion of their salary, disapproval of 20% increase in water rates, Tuxedo water rates one of the highest in the area, there could be a new source of revenue but the Board declined water system hookup to two developments, concern that 0% was put in the budget for police, objection to cost of mailing Mayor's newsletter.

Written comments submitted for attachment to minutes: David du Pont and Jim Burger.

The public comment period was closed at 8:06 p.m.

DISCUSSION – was held by the Trustees

Trustee Hansen stated that he based the Tuxedo Park School sewer charges on an analysis of their water usage. He will adjust the sewage charge based upon the suggestions made by Jim Burger, Principal of the Tuxedo Park School. Trustee Hansen will prepare a memorandum explaining the calculation that can be used every year to calculate the sewer charge.

Deputy Mayor Vernon stated that the Board discussed several different methods of increasing water rates including a graduated scale and different percentages. The 20% increase was agreed to by all five Board members and customers will be charged for actual use.

Trustee Hansen stated that if we could buy water for less from an outside source then it may make sense to use an outside water company. The Board will explore options for the water company.

Trustee Parker requested \$250,000 for future capital expenditures, citing the Wee Wah Dam, Police Station, and bridges as examples.

Trustee Hansen stated that the infrastructure should be looked at and money put aside over time, or if there is an emergency, the Village has the ability to borrow the money.

Trustee Hays stated that the budgeted line item for legal fees should be increased by another \$15,000.

A discussion was begun on the 0% increase in the police budget. Because it relates to contract negotiations the board voted to go into executive session.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Vernon, seconded by Trustee Hays, that the Board adjourn to executive session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss the status of the police contract negotiations. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

REOPEN REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Vernon, seconded by Trustee Hansen, that the Board reopen the regular session at 9:14 p.m. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

CHANGES TO BUDGET

The Board is in agreement for revision to three line items in the proposed 2006-2007 General Fund budget:

1081A – Payment in lieu of taxes (Tuxedo Park School) – from \$9,238 to \$5,084
14202A – Legal fees – from \$60,000 to \$75,000
16202A – Buildings equipment – from \$33,500 to \$83,500 of which \$65,000 is earmarked for infrastructure expenses needing Board of Trustees approval prior to spending.

Trustee Hansen stated that the above will increase the budgeted expenditures by \$70,000+ and be a 5.5% increase over the 2005-2006 budget. However, excluding last year's one time, extraordinary expense of \$150,000 for the court settlement and a reduction this year of \$25,000 for the retirement fund payment, the actual increase to the Village (General Fund) Budget is 12.8%.

ADOPT 2006-2007 BUDGET

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Vernon, seconded by Trustee Hays, that the 2006-2007 General Fund Budget be adopted as presented, that it will include the changes above for increases in budget line items 1081A (\$9238 to \$5,084), 14202A (\$60,000 to \$75,000), and 16202A (\$33,500 to \$83,500), and that prior Board approval is required for the \$65,000 allocated for infrastructure in 16202A. The tax rate for the 2006-2007 fiscal year will be \$37.66439 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Vote of the Board: Trustee Parker – aye
Trustee Hay – aye
Deputy Mayor Vernon – aye
Trustee Hansen – no

The motion was passed by a 3-1 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Vernon, seconded by Trustee Hays, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The vote was 4-0 in favor of adjourning.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Matthews
Village Clerk