

PRESENT: Mayor Laureen Tackman, Trustees John Scatena, and Eric Cartier, Robin Wilson, Absent, Trustee Trevor Maughan.

MEETING **CALLED TO ORDER** by Mayor Tackman at 10:00AM with Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor and the Clerk presented the 2024-25 Village Budget. The overall budget is very lean and the main increases are in employee costs and health insurance, which has risen 12%. We have stayed within the 2% tax cap which will increase the tax levy by \$5,941.00. Garbage collection will increase \$5.00 per quarter due to increased tipping fees at the landfill, which we have no control over. The fire department utility has increased by \$679. Water and sewer budgets are balanced. We will increase rates for each by \$5.00 per quarter beginning in the July quarter. Water rates have not increased since 2017. We need to keep up with rising costs so we have no choice but to raise these rates. We are applying for a loan through Rural Water to purchase grinder pumps and do some needed maintenance to the sewer plant and this will hopefully alleviate some budgetary constraints. We have to continue to do more with less, as water leaks crop up daily and grinder pumps fail, we need to find a way to cover these expenses.

Mayor Tackman addressed the large number of unpaid water/sewer bills that are continually an issue. It is the same people, quarter after quarter, and we must chase them down for payment. Letters are sent once the bill become delinquent, and go mostly ignored. Then the DPW has to go around and hang shut off notices and then go back again to shut water off for non-payment. This has become a time-consuming process that the Mayor does not want to continue. Mayor Tackman made a motion to add \$50.00 to the delinquent customers if a notice has to be hung as well as an additional \$50.00 fee to restore service once it's been shut off. This policy will be in effect immediately and going forward, no notices will be hung and water service will be terminated for non-payment without warning, second by Trustee Wilson, all in favor.

Mayor Tackman made a motion to adjourn at 10:41am, second by Trustee Wilson, all in favor.