

**VILLAGE OF PERRY  
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

A board meeting of the Village of Perry was held at the Village Hall, 46 North Main Street, Perry, New York at 7:00 pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021.

PRESENT:	Rick Hauser	Mayor
	Dariel Draper	Trustee
	Eleanor Jacobs	Trustee
	Jacquie Billings	Trustee
	Arlene Lapiana	Trustee

ALSO PRESENT:	Samantha Pierce	Administrator
	Christina Slusser	Village Clerk
	Matt Horn	MRB Group

GUESTS	Charles Miller	Village Justice
	Ernie Lawrence	
	Bill Davis	MRB Group via Zoom
	Jason Schwartz	Bernard P. Donegan, Inc. via Zoom

Mayor Hauser called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led in the pledge to the flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judge Miller addressed salary concerns for his current position as Village Justice saying that Perry is one of the busiest villages around and COVID has brought on a lot of issues to the court system. Work continues to pile up and 3 trials are still left to address from 2019. Judge Miller requested at least a \$2,000 increase in his salary for the next fiscal year.

**WWTP PROJECT UPDATE**

Bill Davis spoke about the WWTP Improvement Project. Bids were much higher than expected with the estimated project total at 10.1 million and bid totals at 13.2 million. There are a couple items that could be postponed to save on some costs: UV disinfection and aluminum domes. A 9% contingency is built in which could be lowered, but MRB Group does not recommend changing this.

There are no issues with the contractors who bid so the biggest issue remains the cost estimate of the project. The majority of the issue is believed to be COVID related, but there is really no way to project what the market will look like a year from now so postponing doesn't seem like

the best option. MRB Group has spoken to the contractors looking for things that could be cut out of the project, but there was not enough to make a significant impact.

Jason with Bernard P. Donegan, Inc. spoke about the financial impact of this project. Jason looked at a rates study for the Village from October of 2018. Rate increases were put into effect based on previous recommendations. Financing through EFC is at 0% interest which is the one good note. BPD looked at increasing the base rate rather than consumption. The worst case scenario is believed to be having to increasing the base rate from \$60 per quarter for inside users to \$87.50 and \$75 per quarter for outside users to \$102.50.

Some existing debt will be paid off in a couple years so the debt service could be helpful for funding the project. The Village could consider making changes to the sewer use law for users with multiple connections like apartment buildings. For example, adding another 100 users could knock off \$5 from the increase of quarterly rates. Rates of neighboring areas were looked at for comparison. Already in 5 years, sewer rates have doubled for the Village.

The Board will need to make a decision in about a week. The bond resolution will need to be updated and this process takes 60 days. Contractors will typically hold their bids for 30 days. The winning bidder could be approached and asked if they would hold their numbers for this extended time frame. BPD recommends that rate increases be put into place sooner rather than later – this June or possibly next June if the Village decided to use fund balance to put off a rate increase for a year.

#### 2021-2022 DRAFT BUDGET

After the last meeting, the water and sewer funds would be balanced. The previous recommendation to lower unallocated insurance was withdrawn based on additional bills received since the last meeting. The last question was on the police department fleet in the general fund.

Police department equipment was discussed at the committee meeting. The committee agreed to purchase a Tesla and one hybrid car, removing one additional hybrid saving \$19,250. The budget line for gasoline could be reduced because of the savings that will be offered by the Tesla, estimated at \$5,000 per year.

#### SALARY COMPARISONS

Salary comparisons were reviewed for the positions of Chief of Police, Village Justice, and Chief Water & Sewer Operator for the following Villages: Warsaw, Attica, Arcade, Avon, Geneseo.

The final budget presentation is set to take place on March 15<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing will be set for April 5<sup>th</sup> with the final budget set to be adopted on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

With there being no further business, motion was made by Trustee Draper at 8:57 pm to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Trustee Lapiana, and carried with all voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Slusser  
Village Clerk