

Village of Cold Spring
Village Board of Trustees
85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Trustees Workshop
2-23-2021

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held an online workshop meeting via video conference pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 on Thursday February 23, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Present were: Mayor Merandy and Trustees Heidi Bender, Marie Early, Kathleen E. Foley and Frances Murphy.

RESOLUTION 05-2021 AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH PHILIPSTOWN FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Early for adoption and seconded by Trustee Foley, to wit:

WHEREAS, there are properties located in Philipstown referred to on the Philipstown Real Property tax bills as “Philipstown Fire No. 1” that constitutes the designated area within Philipstown to be served by the Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1; and

WHEREAS, Cold Spring and the Fire Company are willing to provide fire protection services to Philipstown, for said properties, under the terms and conditions of attached agreement; therefore

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Village Board does approve the agreement and that the Mayor is authorized to execute said agreement.

On roll call vote:

Trustee Marie Early voted:	AYE
Trustee Heidi Bender voted:	AYE
Trustee Kathleen E. Foley voted:	AYE
Trustee Fran Murphy voted:	AYE
Mayor Dave Merandy voted:	AYE

Resolution officially adopted on 2/23/2021 by a vote of 5-0.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The Board discussed a list of questions prepared by Village Accountant Michelle Ascolillo.

Property tax levy – how much to raise taxes, if at all

- Eligible for a total of \$1,790,147
- \$66,397 increase over FY20-21 is maximum allowed

- 1.0131% increase for tax levy growth
 - Allowable levy growth factor: lesser of 2% or inflation factor based on changes in CPS
- 1.0230% increase for tax base growth
 - Tax base growth factor: based on Tax and Finance determination of “quantity change,” such as new construction, newly taxable status of existing property or measurable improvements to taxable property within the boundaries of the local government or school district
- FY20-21 tax levy was \$1,723,750

Percentage increases are both greater than last year

- NYS allows a “carry over” up to 1.5% of the limit before adjustments or \$29,797
 - i.e., increase tax levy by the carryover amount in the following year
- Board deferred discussion about the tax levy until further development of the budget, but noted that:
 - Consensus is to minimize a tax hike if at all possible
 - The Butterfield medical buildings have come on to the tax rolls at an assessed value of \$1.3 million
 - Town of Philipstown has not reassessed property values for many years.

Changes in salaries – raises, additional staff, stipends

- Mayor Merandy suggested that this discussion would be made during an executive session, but that a 2% place holder should be included in the budget for now
 - M. Ascolillo will speak with department heads for their recommendations
- A new part-time (at least) Village staff position
- A raise was suggested for the Mayor in compensation of the ongoing increased workload

Changes in benefits

- Retiree health benefit contributions and overall costs expected to rise

Changes/additions to professional service contracts

- PBA contract under negotiation that may incur a 2-3% increase
- Budget for additional work by Chazen or similar organization to assist in assessment and engineering of dam repairs and/or abandonment of reservoirs and development of new drinking water resources
- Solicit for a new engineering firm for the Village
- Board to discuss the Village Attorney in an executive session

Additions to Village’s vehicle fleet

- Police department would like (1) new police car (to replace an aging vehicle)

- Highway department would like (2) new trucks
- Water and Sewer department would like (1) new truck w/plow attachment

Any large purchases

Any repairs to any municipal buildings

- New boiler for fire house
- Village Hall façade repairs
- Village Hall air conditioning
- Rock wall repair north side of Main Street between B Street and Orchard Street
- Roof panels at Highway garage
- Siding at new Wastewater Treatment building

Paving/sidewalks/storm drains/other CHIPS eligible expenses

- Engineering and repair of drain pipe on Fair St

Thoughts/comments on any regular yearly expenses

- Research sewer use rate to determine if it should be reevaluated.

Wish list

- Search for a cleaning firm to clean the bathrooms at the foot of Main St and at Mayor's Park
- Semi-permanent signage on Main Street regarding mask usage and social distancing
- Hand sanitizing stations on Main Street

POLICE REFORM & REINVENTION UPDATE

During the discussion it was noted that:

- Draft survey is nearly complete and Board comments have been received
- Survey to be available online and on paper
- Survey questions are being entered into Survey Monkey
- Survey to be issued in phases
- Draft report outline is in progress
- Work with Lexipol has been "going well" allowing determination about what chapters (taken from boilerplate) apply to the Village

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustee Early made a motion to adopt Batch #5919 in the amount of \$57,506.20. Mayor Merandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 2-6-2021 minutes as submitted. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 2-9-2021 minutes as submitted. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rebeca Ramirez, 13 Church Street, commented that the survey should include a wide variety of respondents.

Eliza Starbuck, 173 Main Street, commented that the phased rollout of the survey sends a message that the Village is not really interested in the responses. She also commented that the Village bathrooms should be open for public use “as a human right.”

Mike Turton, The Highlands Current, asked whether the issue of anonymous survey responses and IP address limitations have been addressed. *Trustee Foley responded that residents can speak anonymously to OIC Burke. She also stated that the issue of a single IP address limiting the resident responses has been resolved by allowing multiple residents at a property with a single IP address to solicit an individual response from the Village.*

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Foley seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor Merandy

Date