

March 24, 2014

Board of Trustees

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York
Village of Celoron
Community Center

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A Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Celoron, New York was held on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Schrecengost, Trustees Grundstrom, Kogut, Mattison and Young

Others Present: Village Clerk-Treasurer Shirley A. Sanfilippo, MMC/CMFO, Village Attorney John D. Vanstrom, Mallory Diefenbach of The Post-Journal and 3 members of the public

Mayor Schrecengost called the Public Hearing to order and asked the Clerk to read the legal notice.

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TENTATIVE VILLAGE BUDGET**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Tentative Budget for the Village of Celoron, New York for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2014 has been completed and filed in the office of the Village Clerk, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during regular business hours.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a budget hearing will be held by the Village Board of Trustees to consider the Tentative Budget as presented on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the Community Center, 47 Dunham Avenue, Celoron, New York 14720.

The proposed salaries for members of the Village Board of Trustees are as follows:
Mayor: \$1,600 Trustees (4): \$2,800.

By order of the Board of Trustees
Dated: March 10, 2014
Shirley A. Sanfilippo, MMC/CMFO
Village Clerk-Treasurer

Publication Date: March 13, 2014

Mayor Schrecengost asked if there was anyone present who wished to address this public hearing on the Tentative Village Budget to please step to the front, give your name, address and please limit your comments to three minutes.

Warren Gertsch, 103 N. Hanford Ave., asked if the Board was going to go through the budget line by line.

Mayor Schrecengost responded, "No" and asked Mr. Gertsch if he had any particular concerns.

Mr. Gertsch questioned the \$2,000 under Contractual for the Village Attorney.

Mayor Schrecengost explained that covered the costs of the Fall Training School.

Trustee Kogut stated that the Board decided to send him because things change.

Mr. Gertsch questioned the \$12,000 expenditure for Equipment in the Transportation appropriation.

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Mayor Schrecengost explained it was to purchase a truck.

Mr. Gertsch asked how many vehicles were being purchased.

Mayor Schrecengost replied three.

Mr. Gertsch questioned why the interest expense was only \$500.00.

Clerk-Treasurer Sanfilippo stated it was because payments had been made on the BANs, therefore, the interest expense was less.

Becky Holmstrom, 11 Melvin Ave., said she felt the administration was doing a fine job.

Mayor Schrecengost read the following letter:

Roger Williams
12 Rowley Court
Jamestown, NY 14701

To Mayor Schrecengost and the Village Trustees:

We were unable to attend tonight's meeting and ask that our opinions be presented at tonight's meeting. We have been residents of Celoron for twenty years. As you might imagine, we have seen our property taxes rise steadily over that period of time, not only from the village but also from the school district and the Town of Ellicott. We also knew Rick Slagle when he was mayor and Tom Bartolo when he was mayor, and we always felt hat (sic) they were looking to provide basic service to the residents of the village and the lowest cost possible. With less than 1200 residents in the village, it is our opinion that the village should only be providing the most basic of services to the residents and that every expenditure should be challenged as to whether it is really necessary. Over the past several years we have seen additional "services" provided by the village and it appears that these addition services have been initiated there has been a corresponding increase cost to the village taxpayers. Many of these services are "nice" but are they really necessary.

Some examples that we would question would be the following:

Garbage pickup by the village: how much does this cost the village and the taxpayers and would the village be better off in terms of total expenditures by turning the operation over to a private firm. What about the ongoing costs of labor and fuel plus the costs of repairing and eventually replacing the equipment required.

Summer Rib Fest: This is a nice community activity but why is the village supporting it financially? If the village is making a profit off the rib fest what are the down side risks and potentially downside costs in those years where the rib rest (sic) doesn't do well for whatever reason (attendance, weather, etc.)? Why not turn this over to a private promoter and have the village receive payment for hosting the event. With less than 1200 residents how is this potential cost justified.

Summer Concert Series: Again, nice, but with less than 1200 residents should the village be doing this?

Summer Wind Cruises: Not sure what this costs the village but again with less than 1200 residents should the village be doing this?

Children's Christmas Party: Again, nice, but is this something that a village of less than 1200 residents needs to be doing?

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Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk: Is it really necessary to have two people at the village hall all the time? Could the necessary work be done by one person or one full time and one part time person as was done recently as several years ago.

It is our understanding that many of the duties performed by the one full time and one part time person are no longer performed by the current clerks including payroll, and one less meeting per month. Even with less work the budget for the clerk's office personnel has risen drastically.

Questionable expenditures over the past several years: It is also our understanding that there have been a number of questionable expenditures over the past several years including:

#1 some \$1300.00 for published copies of the code books and \$10,000.00 for the code book itself when the village code book was already in the computer system and could readily accessed and copied at substantially less cost.

#2 – purchase of a backhoe in 2011 to replace one that was only three years old

#3 – purchase of a large flat screen TV for the community center that is unused 99% of the time.

In closing, we would like to challenge the village leadership team to comb thru the village budge and separate out those items that are really necessary for the functioning of the village from those items that are "nice" but not absolutely necessary. And then to justify each and every one of the later (sic) as to the cost vs. benefits and upside potential benefits vs down side costs.

Again, we appreciate your time and regret that we could not attend tonight's meeting.

Roger and Patricia Williams (typed, no actual signatures)

Mayor Schrecengost called three times for anyone present who wished to address the public hearing.

Mayor Schrecengost adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:18 p.m.

Shirley A. Sanfilippo, MMC/CMFO
Village Clerk-Treasurer