

Okay. It is seven Oh seven. This is a board meeting of the village activity board of trustees. It's Wednesday, April 1st. It also happens to be the birthday of our deputy mayor. So we'll say happy birthday, deputy major. So we're doing this, uh, this is our first virtual meeting. Uh, it looks like all the world's going to have to function this way a lot going forward. And, um, so this, uh, this meeting is being recorded. Later there will be a, a complete what's it called? Transcript. Transcription. Yup. And there will also be minutes produced. So, Mmm. So we called this meeting to talk about the tentative budget. I would just maybe talk to the board for about five minutes about the kind of broad strokes of the budget and then we can get into deeper conversations. So, um, as budget officer, I'll just tell you the context in which this budget was drafted.

The big deal is this fiscal year starting June 1st, 2020 will be the first in which Tivoli does not have a F fund or a G fund. The water fund and the sewer fund. Now last year we had two months of three funds and 10 months of one fund, the general fund. Um, but when that budget was written, it was still like a three fund budget. And historically Tivoli has being a small place. You know, we've got one truck, we pay for it out of the a fund and the F fund and the G fund. We've got DPW who do mowing at the park, fixing water mains and their salaries and their benefits are spread across three funds. Um, we knew that this, this was coming when we were going to go down to a single fund. And so for the last, couple budgets, we have been moving liabilities that were in the water and sewer funds back into the a fund to try and ease the pain of this moment.

For example, last year we took 30% of the clerk's salary and 30% of the treasurer salary, which used to be an F and G and we shoved it into the a fund. And we were able to squeeze that in. Um, the biggest piece that was not shoved over into the, a fund in the f and g uh, relates to James Simmons, his, salary, and his benefits and particularly, the health insurance. So when I sat down and wrote out all our liabilities, we had about \$48,000 that needed to find a home in the a fund. So that's really painful. Mmm. You know, I, I, we anticipated this budget, you know, crunch when we started looking at transferring the water and sewer funds. The challenging choices we have to make right now were no reason not to transfer the funds or transfer the systems and with them the funds to the water authority. So, Mmm. But now we're here and it's time to deal with this. So the way I dealt with it in my tentative budget is, the tax cap calculation for a village this year is 1.78%. That's how much we could raise taxes without going over the cap. A 1.78 allows us to put 10,000, \$179 into our revenue line for taxes. So that's one place that I'm proposing we make up this deficit. Right. I went through the revenues and looked at all our treasurers reports from this year and where I could, I identified revenues that we might say we can realistically expect to be higher. And I increased those revenues. Um, primarily was fines. I can remember about 10 years ago, fines were coming in at like \$2,000 a year. The last couple of years it's been more like 12, this year and the fiscal year ending soon. We had I think anticipated. We're just going to look at it real quick. Mmm. Where is this? All right. I'm not finding it real quick. I think maybe someone will find it while I'm talking, but Mmm. It looks like the copy

I have just has it set eight 2010 on the second page of the budget. Thank you. You have a debt. It has been at 12. You bumped it up to 18.

Perfect. Thank you. And the reason I did that is we're already at 18 in this year with two with two months left. So 16 out of your 48 right. And then I don't think there were other revenues. I was able to really increase very much, responsibly. Mmm. Oh, there was one other one this year we did actually get the big check from Bard college. So for many years they were giving us like 20 or 25 then for a bunch of years it went down to about 7,000. But this year we did receive, 23 so where it says gifts fire and rescue 27 Oh seven. Mmm. You'll see that. That's the big jump I put in the real number, you know, presuming they're going to come through with that much again.

So those are the two pieces. So that gets you like two thirds of the way I think.

Right. And then the rest of it was going through expenditures and cutting things out. Um, and I'll go through those in a second. I'm remembering one other thing. Mmm. We are obligated under the collective bargaining agreement with our DPW, a union, that they are getting a 1.5% a pay increase this year. The contract the last few years. Um, we are in the third year of our three year contract. It was 1.65, 1.65 and 1.5. So though it's not, it's a fraction of a percent, Hey, it doesn't have to go up as much this year as we thought. Um, and our traditional practice around here is that we give that same raise to the non unionized people. Uh, clerk, treasurer code enforcement. Yep. Um, so then, where I reduced expenditures, police was one, which, you know, we've, we haven't gone to our budgeted amount in recent years. I hope that continues. I'm a little anxious about taking any revenue away from that, you know, because you never know. Um,

right.

Uh, buildings was a big one. Buildings, we always have money left over and so that was one where Mmm.

Took it down to 10,000 down.

Yeah.

A 16, 20.

Got it. And there, there are a few other ones that came down. We should look at attorney. Might be another one. Yep. Got it.

Right. 75,000 from the budget. Yeah.

That's kind of the broad picture of how I strategize this. I figured out what do we need to accomplish? What is the problem? The problem is no more F and G funds in which to spread out our costs. And then how are you going to do that? And there's two ways you can either increase revenue or lower expenses. And so by doing those and you know, a few smaller ones like them, that's how I ended up with a balanced budget. It does have taking the tax increase to the cap. A 1.78.

Yeah. Doing looks like, you know, you just divided it differently. The fire department and they TFD administration.

Yeah. And that's something we should talk about because for quite a few years now, our budgets have had the, a quote chief's line, um, being smaller than the quote, you know, admin line. Um, and that's been real for some, so kind of political perceptions, I believe in the fire department. Now we understand and I think they're starting to understand that it's really one pot of money. I mean, these budget lines as we have seen every month, we make our best guesses at the beginning of the year and then we move things around as we go. And, so, you know, I think the current, chief has been very Mmm, responsible and also very active and I think it makes sense to, you know, maybe a balance those two lines more than we used to.

Yeah. Hi. Hey guys.

All right. Well, welcome.

As I recall, looking at the items that are in those two fire lines, that TFD administration tends to keep like the oil to keep the firehouse warm. The, um, electrical, they, um, alarm system. A lot of those things that are contractual and not really reduceable are in that TFD line. And in the chief's line, things like replacement of equipment, uh, new, Mmm. Uh, oxygen for the, the ambulance, those kinds of items that tend to show up. Yeah. But they have been really good at getting grants for a lot of those things.

They have been. Yes. Um, and as you're waiting into the details, I wanted to let the board know, I've got the budget binder here with the requests sheets and whatnot. So if you want me to go in here and look anything up, I can certainly do that. Um, and I just want to let trustee Schneider know who joined us a

little bit later, um, that we're on the, uh, free zoom. So if we suddenly all get cut off cause you get a 40 minute meeting, uh, I'll just start it, start a new meeting

actually that

really hang on to my muted. Um, they've actually suspended that time limit for the time being, so you will not get kicked off, uh, after 40 minutes. Um, because the need is so

great. Thank you though. Sure. Yeah. Mmm

Hmm.

So I think, you know, the way we've been operating with our budgets, I think we understand like the big question is, are you going to raise taxes or not? If so, how much? And once you settle on your projected revenues and projected expenditures, you know, the actual budget lines, you want to do your best guess at the beginning of the year. But you know, we do budget Mods every month and things shuffle around. So that's kind of how my, my like attitude towards how I wrote this. But I think I'll be quiet now and let you all talk for a bit about this.

No, it looks good to me. As you say, these things are difficult to predict and the kinds of things that may go up here, such as the firehouse, um, project will come hopefully largely from donations, correct?

Oh yeah. We don't have any capacity in this budget, in our regular operating revenues to pay for an expansion that's like way outside of what's possible.

I, their matches on any of our grants that we need to be aware of.

Yes. Um, the big one will be the shoreline stabilization, uh, which at this time is, it's still possible to happen this construction season this summer. I mean, the governor has been restricting his interpretation of what is essential construction. so that may change again. I did learn the other day that water treatment facilities and water facilities are essential construction, so our water tower is not going to be effected. Um, but shoreline stabilization, well, I don't know what they'll say at any rate. The match on that is 25% of the grant award, which works out to about \$114,000. Now we, when we applied for that grant, which it took us two cycles to win, we did a bond resolution that would allow us to go out and borrow that if we needed to or chose to so that we could show to the grant giver that we were serious.

Um, and we said, well, we'll worry about it if we won the grant. Well, we did win the grant. Uh, and of course we've just done it a lot of borrowing, which is another thing we should talk about in this budget. The new, the new borrowing. Mmm. So I'm, I'm more resistant or reluctant to borrow, although I believe interest rates are to be zero. So maybe it's a good time, but that's the one match we'll have to come up with. I know that we had strategized that if we won that grant, we'll say we're ready to borrow, but if we win it, then maybe we'll, you know, go to some of our, uh, supporters who might have deeper pockets and say, okay, don't you want to help us advanced towards the park and maybe we won't have to borrow that whole amount and CSX, what do they have in it?

They're participating but they're not paying for any portion of our, correct. Correct. They want to, uh, piggyback on our project and do some shoreline stabilization of their own North of our parcel. Um, but they're going to pay for that separately. Um, essentially, you know who, whichever contractor we select, um, they're gonna going to pay for a, an add on to do their section. So all the construction happens as part of one project, which I think from a practical implementation point makes tons of sense. Mmm. It also is a chance for us to do Amtrak a favor, um, and build relationships. Cooperate. Because certainly we're going to need them, uh, getting along with us and cooperating when we build the park. Uh, and I do want to talk, I didn't talk about the, uh, the debts and the loans. Um, in this budget. The good news is the, uh, payment on the pumper truck, which was a 20 year loan, got paid off final installment this year.

So that created a lot of room in the budget. Uh, I think the annual payments were something like 24,000.

Now we went out and we just borrowed like 160,000 for the fire equipment that was lost in the fire. Right. Some things that ends up to have a that's going to be 17,000 a year total. So that eats back into the savings of the other debt rolling off. But we, we are like about \$6,000 a head on that by going from the bigger loan to the smaller loan. Um, we have one more year in our village hall repairs. That was for the elevator. So there's a 14,000, \$200 my ability in this budget in the coming year that will not be there the year after. So that's \$14,000 that we will be able to play with, so to speak. Mmm. And the fun balance. So, um, I don't have the figure, I believe we're close to 200,000 still, you know, give or take a few. It's still quite healthy. It ends in the meeting

twice. I am, I do apologize. I just can't get my video and my audio to sync. So I'm missing every other word that you're saying and then,

Oh dear. Is that or is it working
and I'm still having issues.

I think there's a way to call in also on a phone. Nope. So you know, it's, we've enjoyed, uh, you know, five years ago when I came in as mayor and you know, a lot of, there's a lot of change of administration. Um, we inherited a very, very nice fund balance. Um, but we have been sort of giving that money back to the people in projects and services the last five years. And we are definitely because of the transfer to the water, we're entering our tightest fiscal year for sure. No question. We're not going to be able to, you know, we may not be able to do \$25,000 worth of sidewalk every year like we've been doing for example. You know, and I think the way things are going in the world of, it's even more of a time to hang on to what you got.

And we still, it's still like 25 or 30% of her total budget, isn't it?

Yes.

Yeah. So it's a healthy,

yeah. You know, we were also fortunate in that just as we were about to lose the F and G funds, you know, superintendent Simmons retired as water and sewer superintendent and came back as a part time worker. Uh, so his costs to us drops about \$50,000. Yeah. A year. And like if that hadn't happened, this, the pain we're feeling right now would have just been, I don't know. I don't want to think about it. Yes.

dip energy, man.

I hope so. I keep getting disconnected so I'm not logging off. It just kind of kicks me off and I get a blank screen.

Okay. All right. We're hearing you well right now. Good.

it looks to me I found most of the booby traps in the bedroom and you've made some very reasonable decisions. Um, and you're sensitive to the taxpayer in Tivoli, um, and made the decision to allow the 1.5 or whatever the number was of, uh, increased tax, which is below that 2% cap. And I think this year is we, um, recapitalize our water system that giving people that room in the village Texas is an appropriate decision.

[inaudible] we do anticipate that the first, uh, painfully larger water sewer bill is going to hit our residents, uh, in the spring of 21. So, you know, if we raise taxes, yeah, the 1.78 this year, it's sort of spreading out the pain. I would love to not raise taxes at all next year if that's we find ourselves that's at all possible. Um, because those water bills are gonna hurt all of us. Alright. Anticipated they are anticipated. Yes, we're going to spend a lot of time in the coming 14 months getting everyone ready for

that envelope. The deputy mayor has my back literally practicing our social distancing and see the six feet. Yeah.

Are we going to sing happy birthday at the end?

I certainly think we should. Yeah.

Is everybody getting along fine at home in this strange world or living in,

yeah. Yeah. It's interesting. So I've got two teenagers who are essentially homeschooled all the time. Um, we can certainly, uh, talk about more aspects of the budget if, if, if you have questions or comments or whatever. But I want to mention a couple things while we're together. Mmm. We are going to need tonight before we adjourn to set a public hearing on the tentative budget. Uh, once we do that, we can't tinker with it at all. Um, the, um, state comptroller requires that villages hold a public hearing on the tentative budget before. Mmm. I can't remember if it's the 15th or the 20th of April, but the, we have a board meeting on the 15th. So I would propose we have a, um, Hey, look, a gift from zoom. Are you getting that? Thank you, sir.

Unlimited minutes. Okay. So yay. Awesome. Mmm. So yeah, a little bit later I would ask for a motion to set the public hearing on the tentative budget for the 15th. Mmm. And also at that meeting, uh, the other technical, um, work to finish is these meetings that we have, um, any board meeting that we're doing this way now is supposed to be posted in a way that the public could be watching us right now on, on their computers. Um, and even have a, either like a call in or an email or a chat, a way for them to comment. Now you know, there's the ideal and there's concern. So tonight we're doing this but on the 15th, I hope we're going to be doing more

expanding your ticket though scale as we go.

Right. Did you hear Emily's question? No. No. So the CDBG for the park, how does it affect the budget? Um, CDBG is, uh, it's entirely the grant and in fact, um, there is not necessarily a match. So that is like the best grant program out there for little places like us

because it's like 75,000,

uh, 70,000. Yup.

Yeah. Any ideas really just for upgrades in the park?

Yes. Uh, making the bathrooms, the envy of the world is the first and primary thing, uh, including security cameras, um, repaving all the paths, the asphalt paths. Um, make them, you know, four feet wide higher than the ground so they don't flood pulling out all the old rubber benches, putting back, uh, fewer, um, benches that look just like the one at the bus stop, that kind of more classy iron bench, um, paving under the pavilion. So, you know, when we do that senior picnic every June, there's a path into the pavilion, which is the lowest point. It's silts up. It gets slippery. It's terrible fixing that. It's a lot of good stuff. New water fountain.

Yeah, yeah, yep. It's a wash because whatever you spend on the CDBG, you just go get reimbursed for from the County. Yup. Good question though. I mean there, there can be a cashflow thing with those grants, you know, because you usually have to spend the money and then go get reversed and then get back. Right? Yup. I feel like I ask this question right. So the point ones, which are all the salaries, so that is, yes. Uh, the deputy mayor asked, uh, on the snow removal lines, we have a 0.1 and a 0.4 that are both called snow removal. So anything that's a 0.1 is a salary. And for example, uh, I have here in the budget binder the salary distributions for our employees. For example, um, Jim is spread across four lines in the a fund. Um, Cody spread across five lines in the A fund and Ralph was spread across three lines. So one of those lines is snow removal. Hmm. The snow removal point for that is buying the salt

and sand if we ever like bring in a contractor to help in a big snow, that kind of thing. Yup. You're welcome. Got it. Yeah.

So is your mic is muted? Uh, she's not getting sound. Oh, there you go. Can you hear me now? I apologize. It appears that we're struggling with an unstable internet link or internet connection right now. So I just dialed in from my phone. Yeah. Clever. That should help. Anyway. Yeah, we're hearing, well Emily just asked about the revenue line in lieu of taxes, which is \$2,000. That is provost. Oh, okay. So as the entity that they are, they don't pay regular property tax but they do make a small in lieu of payment. Got it. Okay.

So, um, you know, when we have our public hearing on the 15th, um, we then have until the, uh, 30 how many days were in April 30. We have until the 30th to actually adopt the budget. So, um, you if we have comment or we have further thoughts ourselves, um, after tonight we can't work on this at all. After the 15th, we can work on it. If we are happy with it on the 15th, we could pass it after the hearing. Um, and we want to spend more time on it or time with it. We will have to schedule another meeting, um, later in the month. Currently our only other scheduled meeting before the budget has to be passed is the 15th. [inaudible].

Are you ready to receive, um, PR motion?

Yeah. Yes.

I move that we set a public hearing to review this tentative budget for April 15th at 7:00 PM.

Perfect. All right. Thank you. Second. Um, let's do, uh, let's do a roll call on this one cause everyone, it's like a, the Brady bunch. Everyone has a square here. So trustee has righty. Uh, trustee Cole, trustee Schneider and deputy mayor major and I also vote aye. Okay. So I'm going to um, get together with the attorney tomorrow. Drafts a, a notice for the newspaper, which is going to be a little different than our other notices because instead of saying the meeting's at 86 Broadway, it's going to have to have a bunch of a zoom info in it so people can know how to quote, you know, yeah. Attend the meeting. Yup. Yup. Okay.

I think that there is a way for you as the facilitator of the meetings, you mute certain participants until a certain time and that might be a way to manage public comment there.

Yeah. Yeah. I'm aware of that. And so you can, you can have everyone is muted when they join and then they can be un-muted by the host.

There's also I'm thinking that we should designate somebody to handle the chat feature during the meeting because you may get some written, um, chat comments from the public during the, the public hearing.

Right. Good. Yeah. It's going to take, you know, in order to write that notice properly, I have to figure out a lot of stuff tomorrow, but the whole world is learning this right now. So is there any, any other village business while we're here convened? It does seem to me like people are doing better at the social distancing around the village. Mmm. Yeah. And I also want to let the board know, you know, I've sent you guys a few emails that I've gotten, but I have received so much positive feedback from our constituents about the way the board is handling the Covid situation. Um, the communication coming from us through the email blast and certainly everything that the deputy mayor has worked on getting our, you know, uh, hood captains in place and um, it's kind of amazing. I've never seen so many people walking the loop and being so nice to each other.

I've been, I've been contacted by my, um, neighborhood, uh, captains and his wife. Um, so, um, it is, it's just very nice. Yes,

that's good. At least it was thanks to everyone who's stepping up and doing this. It's huge. Huge. Um, so is everyone, Oh, everyone's okay with this? A 1.78 increase. I think that's the big decision here. You know, I am not so tied up with what goes in which budget line. It's really like what's your total revenue and where's it coming from? And then what are your total, yeah,

it would be nice to not have to do it in this year, especially with the water system and transfer.

We'll send it through the two trustees. Ready? Trustee ezrati, you're the pro here. What is a 1.78 tax increase or a total of a, what is \$10,000 spread across our taxpayers? Like per household? Say?

Uh, I think we about 500 households. Uh, so \$100. \$20. \$20. Yeah. \$20.

\$20 a household. That's what we're talking about. Yeah. So puts it in perspective. It does.

I was curious, Joel, last year we received, when you looked at what our tax revenue line was, it was actually higher than the budgeted line. Do you know what that was?

Um, I'm not quite how that works. Um, I have this one sheet in the binder, um, which is this, which probably no one can read, but there is a real sheet. I'm holding it. Uh, it's the tax levy limit calculation and it shows the real levy. Mmm. And then it's the levy before, uh, adjustments, exclusion. So that's when the \$2,000 pilot gets added in and this gets printed out, um, for us straight from the office of the state comptroller. And it just says what you're, um, taxable. The amount is so I think, so this is what I work off of, even if the actual taxes come in higher. Mmm. You know, I, I work off of this cause this is coming from the comptroller, but that could be properties, those kinds of things. I think so. Yeah. I think it's an obvious thing that what you can depend on.

Exactly. Yup. So, alright. If there's nothing else, it's been really fun to do this with you all. Uh, certainly miss sitting around the table. No. Uh, we might be doing this for quite a few months, I'm not sure. So we'll get used to it. We'll work all the bugs out. That's all. Yes. We'll work the bugs out there. There may be some more tests by the mayor, uh, particularly on the, you know, watching in real time aspect and the chat feature. So participate. Yeah. Great. Okay. A motion to adjourn. Still move. Uh, that was moved by Cole. Seconded by major. All in favor? Aye. Aye. 7:45 PM we are adjourned. Thanks guys. Thank you. Well done, everybody be safe. Bye.