

Rochester Village Board – Special Board Meeting
3/17/2025

President Suerdieck called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. with the pledge.

Members Present: Trustee Carver, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Kindred, Trustee Munroe, President Suerdieck, Clerk Gerberding,

Public Forum:

N/A

New Business:

Discussion of FY2026 Budget:

President Suerdieck explained that the three department heads put the budget together for the most part on their own. He reviewed it, asked questions, and shared details.

On page 6, the number reflects a 20% increase in water billing. Purchased water has already seen a 32% increase from CWLP so that percent increase was built into this budget as well.

Office Manager Marsh explained the 2-page Excel document was current rates for various utilities and proposed new rates for comparison. Pres. Suerdieck also explained that Office Manager Marsh did research with neighboring cities/villages to do a comparison of rates for water and sewer.

Pres. Suerdieck stated that he spoke with the Williamsville President recently to compare numbers – current, projected increases, etc. and learned some new information that he shared with the board.

Trustee Hendrickson asked Supt. Foster if there was anything that would be new this year. Supt. Foster stated that Public Works needs a generator and that would be added to the water budget line. The windows at their facility are drafty and other maintenance will need to be done this year to keep his buildings up to date and functioning.

The Village has tried to have water and sewer charges to residents be the same. Last year was the first year they were split. As a result, the sewer budget amount is lower and trailing the water amount.

Trustee Hendrickson asked Supt. Foster if between the maintenance and equipment purchases, he believed he had budgeted enough for Public Works? Supt. Foster responded absolutely. Additionally, he added in relation to equipment, in the parks' budget, there is \$30,000 for a "scooter" (a utility vehicle). The one they have been using finally died this year so something will need done to replace it. He is looking at a Kubota as a replacement piece.

Trustee Munroe asked Pres. Suerdieck if he believed the 20% and 5% increases bring everything up to pace? He responded yes, the Water budget is stable but the Sewer budget is in need so these increases will help.

Trustee Hendrickson asked what the 5 items under water under capital expenses are for. Office Manager Marsh explained that those are bank account balances. So that is money in the bank that we can access as needed.

Pres. Suerdieck added the only two loans left to pay off are: 1 - the watermain project down W. Main Street with three 6-mo payments left; and 2 - the lift station right outside the Village Hall with about 3 years left.

Chief Sommer stated that his big purchases are:

- body cameras – that amount is lower because we are in the maintenance time frame
- radios - need updated to meet regulations
- Computer equipment – for new computers (5 new computers and 10 new docks for the cars)
- Salary – dependent on the union negotiations

Trustee Munroe asked where the union negotiations are at this point. Pres. Suerdieck and Chief Sommer both stated they are waiting on the FOP. That budget amount may need to be refigured depending on how those negotiations go.

Trustee Hendrickson asked Office Manager Marsh if she had any big increases. She responded that the only big item she wants is a monitor on a large swing arm by the front customer window. This would enable office staff to work with customers and show them details on the computer screen about their individual accounts. The other large cost will be maintenance items - flooring inside the office area and hallway, windows (in offices and entryway area), carpet, paint, peeling of eaves outside, etc. All of this would be figured in on the Village Hall Maintenance line.

Trustee Munroe asked about Health insurance coverage. There was a 12% increase this past year. IMRF fluctuates because of the percentage changes in payroll and benefits.

Pres. Suerdieck stated that no major projects are budgeted for this next year, which will leave some cash on hand.

Trustee Hendrickson reminded everyone that Tree City USA requires a demonstration of \$2 per resident expenses budgeted annually – where is that in the budget? Office Manager Marsh stated that it would be in the Arboretum line. As a result of this reminder, she will combine \$4,000 from the Arboretum line and Community Park Improvement (also \$4,000) into one line and change the name of the line from Arboretum Expenses to Arbor Expenses to make it cleaner. Trustee Hendrickson said that there was a fund for the Arbor Committee and asked where that is. Office Manager Marsh explained that she has the check register with the amount listed. She can't remember the exact number.

Pres. Suerdieck would like to see the pond renovation completed this year. Pretty accurate numbers have been collected for the pond work of approximately \$300,000 for the entire project. This is not in the budget right now, but there is some cash on hand (in the bank) that could be used instead. That amount is approximately \$220,000.

Trustee Munroe asked where the renovation of N. Walnut Street is reflected. Pres. Suerdieck stated that he is still waiting for the engineers to finalize their plans and estimates. Without real numbers, he could not include it. Even with new gutters and drop-offs, drainage will continue to be a problem in that area.

Supt. Foster provided an update on the traffic lights on N. Oak Hill Rd and W. Main. He was informed this morning that the equipment inside the light is in need of repair, and everything is on a timer (each direction). Supt. Foster talked with the County. They told him to get a hard bid (about \$40,000) to fix the entire light. The Village would pay up front and then the County reimburse us for 2/3 of the cost.

Trustee Munroe requested in terms of personnel, the Village continue with increases as available for the 5 staff (3 department heads and 2 office staff).

Trustees Munroe, Hendrickson, and Carver agreed that the pond and traffic light need taken care of this next year.

Next meeting - Should we meet again next Monday instead of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting? Everyone agreed with that.

Board members expressed appreciation to the department heads for their hard work on the budget. Trustee Munroe stated the last few years have been smoother than before.

Pres. Suerdieck explained how the budget lines are laid out – some by law, some by income, some by need.

Trustee Carver asked how much we have in the TIF fund. Office Manager Marsh stated she thinks it is at \$2.1 Million. That money can only be used within the TIF district. We are continuing to earn some interest in the TIF money.

Trustee Harry reminded everyone that the Village gets about 4.35% of the amount paid via property tax. Office Manager Marsh stated the 5 categories that go into that amount.

Motion to Adjourn

Trustee Hendrickson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Munroe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Gerberding
Village Clerk