VILLAGE OF GREENPORT
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK STATE OF NEW YORK

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2019-2020 TENTATIVE BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING

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Old Schoolhouse Building
Greenport, New York

April 9, 2019
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

GEORGE HUBBARD, JR. - MAYOR
MARY BESS PHILLIPS - TRUSTEE
JULIA ROBINS - TRUSTEE
PETER CLARKE - TRUSTEE

ROBERT BRANDT - TREASURER
PAUL PALLAS - VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
JEANMARIE ODDON - VILLAGE DEPUTY CLERK
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(the Meeting was called to order at
6:00 p.m.)

(Whereupon, all stood for the pledge of
allegiance.)

MAYOR HUBBARD: Thank you.

Okay. You have before you the proposed
tentative budget for 2019/2020. It was
stamped in the Clerk's Office on March 20th
following State Law.

The second page has the tax levy, the
increases, the spending, the assessed
valuation and all.

The bottom line is the tax rate change
of 2.09 percent which is below the State 2
percent tax cap limit because we had a
surplus that was left over from previous
years so we're in compliance with State Law
on that.

All the other general funds -- I mean,
we basically, the general funds, the
enterprise funds, electric, water and sewer
are all done as part of the overall budget;
but that's not the stuff that we actually
vote on when we vote on the budget.
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Besides that, that's what we have.

We have only got one person from the public here at this point. If Chatty has any questions, you know, Tim from Suffolk Times, if anybody has any questions on any part of the budget, you know. I mean, it's a lot of pages, but it's all been laid out there. It's all pretty much straightforward.

We're filling a few positions that we're open. We're doubling up on our TCOs out of the budget. The taxes went up the 2 percent just to the cover bond project we had last year with the curbs, sidewalks and roads last year; it's a modest increase for that. Besides that, it's really status quo. Revenue was up a little. Expenses were down a little. We had a little leftover money from last year that we rolled over. That's basically it. It's a very straightforward simple budget, and there wasn't a lot of drastic changes or anything in it.

If anybody on the Board has questions for the treasurer on any item on it.
TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I know you answered this once for me, Robert, when we had our discussion over the budget, but on A3094 which is the Tree Committee grant, are they in the process of doing another grant?

MR. BRANDT: I was told that they weren't pursuing that this year, but you said you heard otherwise.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I thought I heard -- maybe I'm just --

MAYOR HUBBARD: No.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MAYOR HUBBARD: They were not planning on that but actually if they did go for those grants, as we've done them in the past, were 24-month grants; so, if anything, if they did get it, they have to spend whatever money gets spent this year, apply that for it and you would get it in the following year.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MAYOR HUBBARD: So it would not be revenue coming in this year.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.
MAYOR HUBBARD: So they had just the $12,000 as their normal line item for expenses; but if they decide to go for a grant, they do get approved for it, they got two years to spend the money on it.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

It's just, I heard -- I don't think they did it last year. They didn't apply for one, I don't think.

Did they?

MAYOR HUBBARD: Correct.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I mean, it's just --

MAYOR HUBBARD: I mean, they offer them every year, but it takes two years to do it and the process, actually from start to finish is about three years, so they've done it twice and John's kind of backing off a little bit with other stuff, so we may end up doing one, but that would be for a future-year budget.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: The TCOs, we were doing two-and-a-half TCOs or one full-time TCO?

MAYOR HUBBARD: We're looking to hire
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two part-time TCOs, so one all the time with
Greg filling in when he's not doing other
stuff.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MAYOR HUBBARD: So they'll at least be
working three-and-a-half days per week, so
somebody would be on seven days a week,
somebody would be working. Middle of the
week will be a split shift, 11:00 to 4:00 or
something or we're gonna work it out, but
we're gonna hire two part-time TCOs along
with Greg still doing, filling in when
somebody else can't and with his other
duties when he's around.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

So I do remember that there was a
transfer from reserves from the building
inspector at one point when we started the
budget, it was a higher amount. You
discussed something about a part-time
building inspector, is that still --

MAYOR HUBBARD: We're looking at that
but also the money that was in there, it was
budgeted for a senior building inspector
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with a higher salary with benefits. It was
at 110,000 and we dropped it down to 80, 75
--

MR. BRANDT: There abouts, yeah.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Somewhere around there.

We never actually advertised the job
for the 80 salary, we were at the 50. We're
looking at moving it up to maybe 60 if we
had to and with the benefits, it would be in
the 75 to $80,000 range.

MR. BRANDT: When we worked on that
part, this was before they made an official
decision, so it was still the building
full-time and full-time TCO was what was
originally planned, so to help them fix
according to that, so that's where that
number came from and then we changed it
after.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So the transfer from
reserve may just be a little different by
the time they get through it or we --

MR. BRANDT: If we even need it. If we
even need it. The funding has now been
given back, so there's 30 of that and TCOs
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usually pull in revenue from the get-go. We just don't know with the building inspector. I mean that's gonna streamline the Code Enforcement Department, so it should help with the revenues, but I don't expect to see that revenue line, you know, boost right out of the gate.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MR. BRANDT: So we may not touch it at all at the end of the year, so.

MAYOR HUBBARD: I mentioned at the meeting we had, the organizational meeting, there's a couple gentlemen that are retiring from where they are and looking for some part-time work. Possibly they could come here and work and try to train our people so we would be hiring a lower-level person to start in the Building Department because everybody that's on the list, the top 30 people on the list, none of them have experience, so they scored hundreds on the test, they're on the list, but they have no experience, so they're gonna have to be trained, so we're looking -- nothing against
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Greg who is there now, but Greg is still learning himself. He's only got two years' experience so to have somebody senior come in, Greg would start teaching them, have a senior person that's retired working part-time just per diem for us to teach them what goes on with it and bring another person up behind Greg so that we'll have two people full-time that are gonna be able to do that, but it's gonna take two years for them to be trained.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MAYOR HUBBARD: So that is the intention of going with the Building Department, so somebody that's been doing it for 35 years, they're retiring somewhere else, come in, no benefits, no nothing, just working per diem for us, they'll train our people and get them up to speed as they're going through the training.

So that's why it went from 110 down to 80 and probably if we hired somebody, we'll probably be more hiring in the 40s as a new person to go forward, so that number would
TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.
And the CSEA contract, if I remember correctly, isn't due 'till 2021?

MAYOR HUBBARD: Correct.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So we won't start on that until next year.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Yeah. We'll start that, you know, in the end of 2020 because it expires May 31, 2021; so we'll start that mid-2020.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

Because the retainer here for labor counsel, I think if I remember correctly, we worked closely with that, even when we were doing the negotiations. Wasn't that part --

MAYOR HUBBARD: Some of that, that's part of what the --

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: That's part --

MAYOR HUBBARD: -- we hired them, that's part of their normal services, so there would be no additional cost on that.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: The fire truck, we all know about that. Okay.
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MAYOR HUBBARD: Yes.

We've got the 565,000 in there with 92,000 going in when the new budget starts June 1st.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: The truck takes a while to get here so.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Well, the truck won't be here 'till fall and then whatever surplus they're gonna have from this budget we're in right now, we'll rollover into that, and we should be clear with the 710,000 that's needed.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: But they pretty much, the shot their load; have they not?

MR. BRANDT: In this budget that we're in, no.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MR. BRANDT: Certainly not.

MAYOR HUBBARD: 2018/2019 budget, there's still money left over. If it doesn't get used, it should cover the difference.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: We're still gonna have retainage, but we're not there yet
because we're not at the end of the year.

MR. BRANDT: Correct.

MAYOR HUBBARD: We won't know that 'til after June, then he trues-up and everything.

We don't normally transfer that money until after the auditors are done, but if we needed to, we would just take it from the equipment line item.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MAYOR HUBBARD: If we need 20 or 30,000 or 40,000, whatever, we would take it from there and then when he does the true-up after the audit in December, then we would just transfer the money back.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

MR. BRANDT: Glad I could answer.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Sorry.

MR. BRANDT: No, you said it more succinct than I would have said it.

MAYOR HUBBARD: I do numbers and everything. I wasn't gonna let them order the truck unless I knew how we were gonna pay for it.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: We were all doing
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that. We were all trying to figure out

how --

MAYOR HUBBARD: -- got this here, got

that there, we got next year's money, just

wanted to make sure we had that covered with

no bonding again. So we're staying the
course for the past 12 years.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: LOSAP, we went up --

MR. BRANDT: LOSAP's at 290 now and

that's to cover the extension from 30 to 40

a year.

The bills are still coming in

relatively under that, but we'll just keep

paying down our difference there because we

have been underfunded for so many years, so

we just did a resolution last month for

the --

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Right.

MR. BRANDT: -- We'll just continue

that until we get caught up after the --

MAYOR HUBBARD: The referendum we had

in August to extend it from 30 to 40 years,

and we also did include that in the

paperwork that went to the Town for them to
fly their percentage of it. Robert and
Steve did work on that and sent the
paperwork to the Town in March and then
again in August after the referendum had
passed, so that the Town knows that they
were assuming a portion of additional money.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I think, if I
remember correctly, the Fire Department, is
it this year or next year --

MR. BRANDT: Two more years.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Two more years and
we have no debt at all, correct?

MR. BRANDT: The budget that we're
looking at is the last cycle.

Right?

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: No, there's one
more.

MR. BRANDT: There's one more after
that.

I'm sorry.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Smaller, it went from
120 down to 35 and then the --

MR. BRANDT: -- is gonna be 32 and 29.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: As far as their
debt, as far as the Fire Department, they'll have no outstanding debt.

MR. BRANDT: Correct.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: The only outstanding debt we'll have is Mitchell Park which is what --

MR. BRANDT: 2024 for Mitchell Park.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Then we have electric bonding for Mitchell Park.

MR. BRANDT: That's done, I think, it's '29 or '30. I don't have it in front of me. I'd have to see the spreadsheet, but that's only four years now, so we got time on that.

MR. GANNON: I'll ask a question.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Sure.

MR. GANNON: It says the tax levy increase 3.83, and it's within the cap so there was some acceptance to qualify.

MR. BRANDT: The calculation is based on a lot of -- it's not a straight 2 percent. They give you credits towards retirement funding and such, so the calculation isn't a straight 2 percent ever for that. It actually works out less, our
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increase went from 989 to a million 27 and
that's what that difference is. We're still
well underneath the 2 percent tax cap by the
State's rules. We left $12,000 on the table
to take the full 2 percent.

MR. GANNON: From last year?

MR. BRANDT: No.

In this calculation, we could have gone
up another $12,895 on the levy, we didn't.

MR. GANNON: What were the things that
the State allows you to have that don't
count against the cap that --

MR. BRANDT: Pilot payments and such.

They do a whole calculation and it
never is 2, it's like 1.66 percent one year,
next year it's like 1.46, it was one year;
so it varies, it's never a straight flat 2
percent like they say, there are variables
that they calculate.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Different numbers and
everything, the bottom of the page is what
the actual tax rate change is, but you have
different calculations the way they assess
values and everything else, so you're seeing
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the 3.83, that's really not the overall number.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Kept the same budget cut --

MR. BRANDT: You can see the growth factor, if you keep going. You did your homework, yeah.

That's how they drive it. This is the calculation page for it.

Again, that 3 percent you're pointing out is the difference between our levy from last year and this year, it has nothing do with the tax cap.

MR. GANNON: All right.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Any other questions?

TRUSTEE ROBINS: I just want to comment, I like the summery, the way you laid this out, it's easy to follow.

MR. BRANDT: Thank you.

George and I -- since you've been in, I've been using this format.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Yes.

Anything else?

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: No.
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MAYOR HUBBARD: Okay.

Offer a motion to close the Budget Hearing.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Second.

MAYOR HUBBARD: All in favor?

Aye.

TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Aye.

TRUSTEE ROBINS: Aye.

TRUSTEE CLARKE: Aye.

MAYOR HUBBARD: Opposed?

(No response.)

Carried.

Thank you all for coming.

(Time noted: 6:15 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEW YORK )
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK ) ss:

I, STEPHANIE O'KEEFFE, a Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify that the within is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings taken on April 9, 2019.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of April, 2019.

______________________
STEPHANIE O'KEEFFE

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