

Youngstown budget passes; board to meet with YVFC

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Village of Youngstown approved its 2021-22 budget of \$1,781,089 Monday evening following a public hearing on Zoom that saw limited input from the community.

The budget reflects matching totals of \$1,261,929 for both expenses and revenues on the general account line, plus equal amounts of \$238,950 (revenue and expense) on the water line and \$280,210 on the sewer line. It also includes compensation for the Village Board of Trustees as follows: mayor, \$7,498; deputy mayor, \$6,151; and \$5,656 each for the three village trustees.

The 15-page detailed budget

summary PDF is available for viewing online at youngstown-newyork.us.

At the Monday session, the only comments heard came from representatives of the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co., who had questions over the village contract with YVFC. President Greg Robertson Sr. and official John Mies said the numbers presented to the village had differed from the fire company.

"We had some concerns about the budgeted money for the fire protection contract. We see that it's different that the amount we requested our budget that we sent to the village," Robertson said.

Mayor Raleigh Reynolds said the difference is reflected in how

the village opted to fund its increase to the fire company.

"The budget you sent to the village, we had meetings on this and we had agreement between the village and the fire company that we would give the 2% increase in monies over what you got last year," he said. "But the additional monies you wanted would be the in-kind services that we provide by keeping the lot plowed out in the wintertime and things like that; the same as we had done last year."

Mies said, "When we met, that in-kind services was to relieve the situation of a short contract last year, and last year's only, and that's how it was passed by this company."

Reynolds said the village has

its limits in handling what the fire company was requesting.

"It wasn't for last year's only," Reynolds said. "We've been dealing with this for a few years with the fire company and, to get where you need to be, is like a 4% increase over what we had last year. And as the village, we cannot absorb that kind of an increase. We met with you guys, and we came to an agreement with the fire company that we would continue with the 2% increase, and the other 2% would be taken up by the in-kind services that we provide to the fire company."

Mies said, "It was never that understanding with the fire company."

Village Attorney Tom Caserta

said, "I completely disagree with that. We have (had) a provision for years for in-kind services that included the plowing. We determined the kind of money (was) needed. We can absolutely stop plowing, and the fire company can pay far more than that to have somebody plow. I thought this was a done deal and everyone understood what we were doing. If the fire company doesn't understand that, then we'll sit and talk to them again."

The conversation ended with the fire company and the village agreeing to sit down and discuss the matter. Village officials said any changes to the budget from the YVFC discussions would be addressed via amendments.

OFN: Patriots' Day highlights 'Revolutionary New York'

Many Americans are familiar with the events of April 1775 in the Massachusetts villages of Lexington and Concord. It was then that British soldiers and Massachusetts militia clashed and began the American War for Independence.

What is not as well-known is how the events of April 1775 impacted the New York frontier.

On April 17, Old Fort Niagara will host a day of living history programming honoring veterans and recalling how New Yorkers reacted to the news of armed conflict in the Boston area.

Visitors to the fort will experience presentations about how New York prepared for war with Great Britain, what Fort Niagara looked like in 1775, and how the

Revolution divided New Yorkers politically.

Reenactors portraying British and American forces will demonstrate muskets and cannons typical of the period and, at 2 p.m., will conduct a ceremony honoring veterans.

Other living history programs include demonstrations of 18th century period cooking, women's

roles in a military garrison, military engineering, storytelling and fife and drum music.

Visitors are asked to please wear a facial covering and practice social distancing. More information is available at www.oldfortniagara.org. Veterans and active duty military with identification are admitted free.

Old Fort Niagara, currently

open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, is a Registered National Historic Landmark and New York State Historic Site operated by the Old Fort Niagara Association (a not-for-profit organization) in cooperation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

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