

Village of St. Johnsville Board of Trustees Meeting

5-1-2025, 6:00 pm to vote on 2025-2026 Budget

Community House

Present: Mayor White, Trustee's Steve Elwood, Gary Warn, Melissa Baker. Auditor, John Lull.

Public: Nino Polidori, Janice Zoller, Chris Weaver, Larry Schoff, Kim Snell, Janice MacLauchlin, Clark MacLauchlin, Jeff Swartz, Dennis Clark, Art Dockerty, Jim Kierzinski, Donna Springer, Bucky Springer, Dina Brundage, Jamie Carter, Stephanie Cuomo.

Public Comment- None at this time, Nino, Kim, Dina, and Jeff wish to speak at the end.

New Business: discussion on budget and % of raise in Village tax rate. Discussion led by John Lull, raise in rates discussed between 7% and 12%. John spoke about the Constitutional Tax Limit and the importance of trying to keep it below 85%. This year we are at 96%.

He notes that last year's tax increase was actually 9.2%

6:45 Motion by Trustee Elwood for a 7% increase, no second. Discussion continues.

6:55 Motion by Trustee Baker to set tax increase at 10%, 2nd by Trustee Warn. Aye by Mayor White, No by Trustee Elwood. Motion passed

Public Comment: Nino Polidori asks if the budget we are addressing today is the same as the one the public was given yesterday; the answer is yes. He also Questions line #105 on the budget concerning the blended amount of \$41,000 for office staff, this was addressed by John Lull. He also asks if a 2nd person was hired for the Marina the answer is no. He also wants to know why a clerk isn't taking minutes. When we get one, she will. Marissa is unable to do it as she works a 2nd job. Kim Snell notes that she walks around the village a

great deal and asks about what we are doing about our blighted properties. Mayor White explained that we have a registration program for abandoned and blighted buildings, and the Village is addressing the problem. She also asks if something can be done about people letting their dogs relieve themselves on the streets. Mayor White told her we would try and address this through Codes. She also asks how the Village got into the financial shape it is in, the Mayor, explained the monies were moved between accounts by the treasurer that were not authorized by the board, as well as grant funds used for purposes other than those intended. She disputes this possibility.

Janice Zoller asked for clarification of the office staff salaries, now that they will be part-time positions. Amounts given by John Lull. Nino asks when minutes will be available. A draft is required to be available within 2 weeks. Janice Zoller asks why the mayor was not aware of funds moved between accounts by the Treasurer. The Mayor, Trustee Warn and Trustee Eisele, all commented that she was not asking for permission or asking for resolutions. Jeff Swartz asks when all funds will be replaced by. Issue addressed by John Lull, all monies borrowed from funds will be replaced by June 30th.

Next regular board meeting set for 5:30 on Tuesday May 20th.

Adjourn: 7:14pm Motion to adjourn by Trustee Elwood, 2nd by Trustee Warn

All ayes, meeting adjourned.