

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL

Workshop – Water, Sewer and Fire Budget Meeting – Mon., October 26, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

Don Patton, Utilities Foreman, and John Chapin, Water/Sewer Superintendent and Fire Chief, presented the 2021 budgets for the Water, Sewer, Fire and Fire Fighting Facilities Funds. They went over the expense and revenue line items for each fund.

The following was discussed:

Water Reserve

John Chapin explained that the Water Reserve Fund is only used if absolutely needed.

Water

John Chapin began by saying that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) had not responded to the village's request for the money that is due them. Documentation has been given to Mr. Bond so that he can proceed with action against ODNR. ODNR owns about 80% of the reservoir and the village owns about 20% so they are to pay 80% of costs for upkeep of the reservoir. The amount due to the village totals about \$108,000. Currently, ODNR will not communicate with the village. Since they will not respond, Mr. Bond is going to move forward with action. Most of the other revenue for the water fund is expected to be similar to 2020. John Chapin and Don Patton stated they would like to request a 3% rate increase to water fees due to increased costs to the village.

John Chapin continued by saying there was nothing extraordinary on the expense side except an increase in the budget for the village's SCADA system. Some anticipated projects for 2021 include replacing some valves and hydrants; provide water to a few new houses; replacement of some older trucks; and a possible meeting room at the water treatment plant.

Sewer

John Chapin and Don Patton began by explaining that if council wanted to proceed with the Sewer Treatment Plant Improvement Project, there would need to be a rate increase to sewer fees. John Chapin and Don Patton both thought the project was very needed. Much of the equipment at the Sewer Treatment Plant is outdated. They thought it was necessary to move forward with the project to allow the Sewer Treatment to be as up to par as the Water Treatment Plant is since the recent Water Treatment Plant improvement project had been completed. The project would require a 25% increase in the sewer rates but the increase would not be based on water usage. If council agrees, they would love to have the increase in place by January 1st. John Chapin and Don Patton stated they would be willing to allow a smaller water rate increase if need be to allow for the sewer project to be done.

On the expense side, John Chapin and Don Patton noted that the budget was about the same as it was for 2020. There were no major changes.

Fire

John Chapin noted that the total fire budget was the same as it had been for 2020.

Fire Fighting Facilities

John Chapin explained to council that this was the fund that was used to purchase fire trucks. It also was used to purchase protective gear. Protective Gear is only good for 10 years so John Chapin was hoping to buy a few new sets of gear each year. This would allow them to avoid having to get a loan to purchase all the sets of gear at one time.

The workshop was adjourned for the regular council meeting.


Nancy Howell


Toby Thomas