

**Village of Rhinebeck**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 26, 2016**  
**7:00 pm Village Hall**

Present: Mayor Heath Tortarella, Deputy Mayor Howard Traudt, Trustees Scott Cruikshank, Gary Bassett and Sean Kemp. Also present: Tom Johnson, Highway Dept., Rick Lewitt, resident and Karen P. McLaughlin, Village Treasurer.

The mayor opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BUDGET-** Mayor Tortarella reminded the board that the tax cap this year is .12% as per the New York State Office of the Comptroller and that equates to a \$1.849 increase in the overall budget to stay under the tax cap and tax freeze. He also informed the board that the health insurance quote indicated an 18% increase. That combined with the union agreement of a 1-2% increase will require cuts in other areas such as supplies, services and equipment.

The mayor assigned the Trustees their department responsibilities for the budget and asked them to work with the department heads to complete the budget proposals by February 12, 2016.

The board reviewed the format of the working budget, as well as a review of the Operating Statement. Treasurer McLaughlin discussed some of the over-budget items and will be presenting budget amendments at the regular meeting. The board directed her to work with Trustee Cruikshank to determine if any of the Engineers billed charged to the General should go to Water and/or Sewer.

**TREES-** The board discussed the list of trees to be taken down. They will each submit which ones they believe are most in need of removal. When the list is received, it will consolidate to a list that has the vote of 3 or more from the board to be removed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made Mayor Tortarella, seconded by Trustee Cruikshank and all were in favor to enter executive session at 8:45 pm.

In Executive Session, the board agreed to terminate an employee and post the vacant position.

Motion made by Mayor Tortarella, seconded by Trustee Cruikshank, and all were in favor to close Executive Session at 9:25 pm and re-enter the regular meeting.

**IT-** Trustee Bassett discussed the new IT proposal and the necessary coordination. Trustee Cruikshank stated that he wants to make sure that all the systems can work together. Trustee Kemp reported that he knew of a company that wants to submit a proposal. The mayor announced that he wants to get all the information together and get it done.

**ADJOURN-** Motion was made by Mayor Tortarella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Traudt to adjourn. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen P. McLaughlin, Treasurer