

04/29/2026

**Board of Trustees
5:30 PM Community House**

Public Hearing

Present: Mayor Steven Elwood Trustee Melissa Baker-Battisti, Trustee Brenda Phillips, Trustee Thomas Steele, Treasurer Joanne Young, Deputy Clerk Cheri VanBrocklin

Public: Nino Polidori, Larry Schoff, Patsy Schoff, John Lull, Janice Zoller, Michael, Mancini, Martha Mancini, Dennis Clark, Margaret DiGiacomo, Eleanor Weaver, Carol Pedro, Barb Stagliano, Thomas Elwood, Clark Maclauchlin, Nelson Darrach III, Mary Rackmyer, Charles Straney, Art Dockerty, Donna Springer

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Mayor Elwood, the pledge was said and a moment of silence observed for first responders and military.

Discussion-Water and sewer rate changes- Mayor Elwood asked if there were any questions or concerns from the Board first. Trustee Steele had some questions regarding Draft #3. Treasurer Young responded with an explanation up to and including increasing commercial rates and changing some other properties to commercial. There were no further questions from the Board.

Public Comment-

Nino Polidori regarding garbage rates, Mayor Elwood explained it is not on the agenda, if he would like to address at the end with public comment, Mr. Polidori accepted.

Dennis Clarke-wanted to know if anyone on the Board knew the difference between commercial and residential in regards to water. Mr. Clarke referred to potable and non-potable water and their water lines. He also asked why there are three different options for the rate changes. Treasurer Joanne Young reviewed Draft #1 and Draft #2 comparisons.

John Lull spoke. Charlie Straney and Dennis Clarke asked about minimums, Treasurer Young responded with an explanation, also gave the minimum amounts as requested using the numbers from Draft #1 and Draft #2. Trustee Phillips asked some further questions and received further explanation from Treasurer Young. Trustee Steele asked if the rates are for the next fiscal rates, or until the rates should be changed. The first bill is higher because of the increase for the next bill. Treasurer Young responded. Margaret DiGiacomo feels she shouldn't have to pay for the minimum usage when she doesn't use the total minimum. Mr. Straney asked further about the minimum rates and usage. Mayor Elwood and Treasurer Young responded. Mary Rackmyer asked about the sewer rates and the lack of increase. Treasurer Young responded to her question. The rate was \$168.75 2x per year, now it will be 3x per year. There was again further discussion about usage and rates with various public members and Board members.

6:17pm Mayor Elwood transition to the Public Hearing for the 2026-2027 Tentative budget

Treasurer Young gave a lot of explanation regarding the budget and hoping to be able to create reserve funds going further.

Charlie Straney asked Treasurer Young if the Band for \$236,000 that is actually \$246,000 that is due 5/29/26 is going to be paid in full or just pay the interest? Treasurer Young responded that we (the Village) is hoping to pay all of it. Mr. Straney said it's due May 29th, which is this fiscal year. He asked if it was going to be paid out of the General Fund. Treasurer Young responded yes, that is the intention. Margaret DiGiacomo interjected with questions on the minimum payment of what the first water/sewer payment would be projected.

Treasurer Young responded with what the minimums would be (for example) if the Board were to choose Draft #2.

Mayor Elwood interjected and asked the Board if they would like to discuss the tentative budget. Trustee Steele had a question regarding the Fire Department's truck purchase that was made last year, that was not in the budget for \$460,000. Mayor Elwood explained that the purchase came out of the Danube Truck Fund. Trustee Steele inquired that Danube paid for everything minus the \$176,000 donation we had toward the truck. Treasurer Young responded there was a fund for that purchase but at some point it (the money) was taken from there (Danube Truck Fund) and added to the General (Fund). It was paid for out of the General Fund. Trustee Steele asked what did we (the Village) pay if Danube paid for some as well? Mayor Elwood responded that we didn't pay for that truck. The FD paid for more than half of it (\$167,000 they gave) we (the Village) had to pay the rest (out of the General Fund). Mayor Elwood said it was technically supposed to be an "untouchable" fire truck fund by Danube. Trustee Steele was satisfied with the response given.

Trustee Phillips had some further questions to clarify the fire truck purchase, we have the money to pay the Band, but we (the Village) is still in debt? Where did we get the money from? Mayor Elwood responded, the money was being used as the general fund money, it never should have been touched. Trustee Steele stated there was a truck fund before, it was incorrectly or against what should have happened, and put into the General Fund, then taken back out to use for the truck anyway. Treasurer Young responded that it was put into the General Fund and then used for other expenses. There were no further questions from the Board regarding the budget.

Public Comment-

Margaret DiGiacomo inquired about contractual expenses. She asked what the money is used for? Treasurer Young responded that it should be used for things such as, training, office supplies, programs. She asked that it should be used for things that the Board is aware of, response from Treasurer Young was yes. She asked about "special items" on the budget and what that will be used for? Treasurer Young responded that the contingency account that was put in for the Police was for the potential of the Chief retiring next year, if he closes out his contract he would be owed his time. He would be paid for unused vacation and sick time around the amount in the budget of \$22,500. There were some questions from other citizens about the amount the PD gets paid for our area. Ms. DiGiacomo asked how many officers the Village has. Treasurer Young responded. Mayor Elwood answered some questions regarding the staffing of the PD.

There was comment from Charlie Straney about unpaid taxes. Margaret DiGiacomo asked about a freeze on wages. Mayor Elwood responded there are only a couple being considered, for example the Clerk who is currently being paid less than the Deputy Clerk. Mayor Elwood would like to get some loans paid off and possibly lower taxes at some point. He also mentioned the feasibility study regarding fire service. The Village is even looking into creating a fire district. Mr. Straney asked some questions about the retirement figures on the budget and fuel sales at the marina. Dennis Clarke inquired about the repayment of a grant that will affect the budget for the next 40 years to Delaware Engineering.

6:50pm moved into the Special Meeting regarding Resolution No. 8 of 2026

Mayor Elwood stated it was up to the Board to make a decision we will get the figures for the minimum usage added to the resolution. He feels (resolution) # 2 is the closest to keep us on budget. Trustee Phillips quoted the minimum amounts for the public on each resolution draft.

Discussion turned towards garbage fees.

Motion for Draft #2 (with the minimum usage of 1,667 cubic feet to be added) with also (with the minimum dollar amount for annual fee) made by Mayor Elwood, seconded by Trustee Thomas. All ayes, motion carried. Questions were asked about the Housing Authority and nursing home being re-evaluated, Mayor Elwood said they were.

Motion to accept the Budget as Presented for 2026-2027 Fiscal Year made by Trustee Steele, seconded by Trustee Baker-Battisti, all ayes motion carried.

Motion to appoint Chris Weaver as Chief of the fire department, Fred Doxtater as 1st Assistant Chief and Stephen Backus as 2nd Assistant Chief made by Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Steele, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion to appoint the Fire Police, Art Dockerty, Wayne Horender, Shane Kilinski, Stephen Backus, Robert Dennis, Michael O'Dockerty, Shane Shaut and Anna Backus made by Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Melissa Baker-Battisti, all ayes, motion passed.

Next meeting is 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30pm, May 18, 2026.

Mayor Elwood stated to the Board they need to meet within the next month before the next meeting to figure out how they are going to bill the garbage rates. Treasurer Young mentioned they will need to get the ideas together to have the Resolution written up before the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:25pm made by Trustee Baker-Battisti, seconded by Trustee Phillips. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk