VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
PUBLIC HEARING
AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 25, 2025
MINUTES

Present:	Mayor Marc D. Citrin Deputy Mayor Michele Lindsay Trustee Paul Brooke Trustee Joshua Scherer Trustee Jedediah Turner
Clerk:	Elizabeth A. Doherty
Attendees:	One person attended via Zoom and there were two members of the public in attendance at Village Hall.

Mayor Citrin called the Public Hearing to order at 5:10 p.m. with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open the Public Hearing
Resolution 0425-01

Mayor Citrin made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 budget; the motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Lindsay.

Vote of the Board:

Mayor Citrin - Aye
Deputy Mayor Michele Lindsay - Aye
Trustee Paul Brooke - Aye
Trustee Joshua Scherer - Aye
Trustee Jedediah Turner – Aye

Deputy Mayor Lindsay discussed the proposed budget. She said it calls for a tax levy increase of 1.0175%. She noted that the assessed valuation has gone down because of tax certiorari cases that were successful, resulting in a slightly higher tax rate of 1.83%.

The budget includes increases for salaries and employee benefits. There is a small increase in capital note interest because we will be issuing bans this year, and this year's payments only will be interest payments. Deputy Mayor Lindsay also noted that the Mayor's salary has been reduced to zero. Mayor Citrin noted for the record that he has never collected a salary during

time in office, but State law requires that there be a budget line for the salary until a new term begins.

Deputy Mayor Lindsay said there is an increase in the budget line Treasurer-Contractual (1325.4) for our auditor Andrew Arias from Cooper Arias to provide monthly consulting services.

We will be appropriating surplus from the General Fund in the amount of $189,300. Cash balances in our investment accounts with NYCLASS total about $2.8 million.

Mayor Citrin compared our proposed tax increase of 1.83% to the proposed tax increase in the school budget of 4.18% and the Town's budgeted tax increase of 7.5%.

Trustee Scherer asked if the Mayor's salary is permanently gone? Mayor Citrin responded that the law specified that the Mayor's salary cannot be reduced during the term of office. By law we were not permitted to zero out that line. Because the Mayor's term is ending this June, we are allowed to change the salary. The Mayor chose to reduce his salary line to zero because he hasn't been collecting a salary and everyone on the Board of Trustees is a volunteer. If a new Mayor is elected that person may approach the Board about changing the salary line.

Trustee Scherer responded that the original thought behind putting the salary in place was that the Mayor's job requires a lot of time and attention. (Trustee Scherer made a point of acknowledging the Deputy Mayor's extensive time commitment in preparing the budget.) The reason a salary was added was to help attract more talented and dedicated individuals to this job. Trustee Scherer thanked the Mayor for waiving the salary, but he suggested that the consequence of it may be that the mayoral candidate pool is adversely affected in the future.

Mayor Citrin responded that, historically, no mayor has ever collected a salary until Mayor McFadden did, and any mayor may request a salary after being elected to office. Trustee Scherer responded that it should be kept as a budget line and the Mayor can choose to waive it. Deputy Mayor Lindsay said that we can leave it in with a budgeted amount and if it's not used it will be added to the surplus at the end the year. Trustee Brooke responded that the logic was that there is a governance function that all the Trustees and the Mayor have, and that government function is pro bono. But the executive function requires time in the office and extra work outside the area of governance, and the Board of Trustees decided that compensation would be appropriate. Trustee Brooke concluded that it's not a big number but it should be held there because in principal there should be an executive compensation number.

Mayor Citrin abstained from further comment.

Trustee Brooke asked about the $136,648 interfund transfer of revenues into the Sewer Fund in the current year's budget. Deputy Mayor Lindsay responded that the Sewer Fund was not adequately funded when it was set up. This year's sewer rates are probably going to change, but if a transfer during the year is needed it can be done.

Mayor Citrin opened the floor up to the public. Todd Yannuzzi of 77 West Lake Road, addressed the Board. Mr. Yannuzzi is the Treasurer of the Tuxedo Volunteer Ambulance Corps. (TVAC). Mr. Yannuzzi discussed the important work done by the TVAC and the need they have for financial support from the communities they support, including the Village of Tuxedo Park. Mr. Yannuzzi also discussed life-saving training that they can provide to residents and employees of the Village of Tuxedo Park. Trustee Brooke said that we should look at how this can be funded, looking at donations and looking at this as a service provided to the Village. We should have an item in the budget for services provided to the Village. Mayor Citrin suggested this discussion be continued at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Jim Hays of Cliff Road addressed the Board. Dr. Hays said that the Village had approved a contract with the Village engineers in the amount of about $20,000 for the coming year, which he thought would have been posted to the General Fund, 5020.4 - Storm Water/GIS Engineering, but he doesn't see it. Deputy Mayor Lindsay said that the money will be posted to that budget line.

Dr. Hays had some questions about projects concerning the lakes. First, he asked about the proposal that was recently received from the Village engineer for about $20,000+. Where is that money budgeted? Deputy Mayor Lindsay said that we received an updated contract after the preliminary budget was done. This will be included in the updated budget, going to line 5020.4 - Storm Water GIS Engineering.

Dr. Hays then asked about budget line 1989.4 - Lake Management and Watershed Study in the Water Fund. He asked if this includes the proposal from AJ Reyes (GEI Consultants), the lake manager? Mayor Citrin said that a proposal for about $40,000 had been received just after the April Board meeting. It will be added to the budget and voted upon at the May meeting.

Dr. Hays' last question was about the oxidation of the lakes. Will it be done this year? Trustee Scherer answered that it will be but we don't we don't have a final number it yet. The number that was proposed was more than $500,000. We are hoping to offset this with grants that will cover most of the cost.

With no further comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Lindsay said that there will be one additional change, $22,000 will be added to budget line 8310.4 - Water Management Contractual, to cover the cost of a consulting fee to help in the re-evaluation of water and sewer rates.

In summary, the following changes will be made to the budget:

<u>General Fund</u>
1210.1 Mayor Personnel Services – Add $35,700
5020.4 Storm Water GIS Eng - Add $22,000

The offset to these will be appropriated surplus.

Water Fund
1989.4 Lake Management and Watershed Study – Add $40,000
8310.4 Water Management Contractual – Add $22,000

Close the Public Hearing
Resolution 0425-02

Mayor Citrin made a motion to continue/close the Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 budget; the motion was seconded by Trustee Brooke.

Vote of the Board:

Mayor Citrin - Aye
Deputy Mayor Michele Lindsay - Aye
Trustee Paul Brooke - Aye
Trustee Joshua Scherer - Aye
Trustee Jedediah Turner – Aye

2025-2026 Budget
Resolution 0425-03

On a made by Mayor Citrin and seconded by Trustee Turner, it was: Resolved to adopt the 2025-2026 budget as set forth at the Public Hearing with the changes and amendments as set forth in the Public Hearing.

Vote of the Board:

Mayor Citrin - Aye
Deputy Mayor Michele Lindsay - Aye
Trustee Paul Brooke - Aye
Trustee Joshua Scherer - Aye
Trustee Jedediah Turner – Aye

Renew Employee Health Insurance Plan
Resolution 0425-04

On a motion by Mayor Citrin, seconded by Trustee Turner it was: Resolved to approve the renewal of MVP health insurance for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Vote of the Board:

Mayor Citrin - Aye
Deputy Mayor Michele Lindsay - Aye
Trustee Paul Brooke - Aye
Trustee Joshua Scherer - Aye
Trustee Jedediah Turner – Aye

Adjournment
Resolution 0425-05

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Motion made by Mayor Citrin, seconded by Trustee Brooke.

Vote of the Board:

Mayor Citrin - Aye
Deputy Mayor Michele Lindsay - Aye
Trustee Paul Brooke - Aye
Trustee Joshua Scherer - Aye
Trustee Jedediah Turner – Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Doherty

Elizabeth A. Doherty
Village Clerk-Treasurer