

Questions and Comments from the Public Hearing on the Mayor's Tentative Budget  
April 5, 2018

Revenues:

Police Fees – What are they?

Incidental fees for accident reports

Why the increase in Police Services?

Increased coverage for the County Fair and Town Court. Revenues are coming from the Agricultural Society and the Town of Chatham

Fire Protection Services – Should be increased based on new budget allocations from contributing towns

Will be updated with budget revisions made in the workshop process.

Why no Actual from previous year or Current Year to Date in Sales of Scrap Metal?

The sale of scrap metal for the previous fiscal year had been reported with the Sale of Equipment. The total was \$1,305.71. I will break that out on future budget documents. There has been no income to date for sale of scrap metal.

What Contributions go into Gifts and Donations?

Donations to Chatham Cares for You, donation from Fire Department toward truck purchase, revenue from the Tracy Foundation that is shifted from the fund balance to operating funds, donation from Jack Shear for parking lot repair shifted from the fund balance to operating, in the past donations to music at the gazebo

What revenues go into Miscellaneous Revenues?

This includes any revenue that does not have a defined category. It includes fines for not clearing sidewalks, fees for street fairs and street closures, sale of recycling bins and outdoor water meters.

Expenses:

CHIPS – clarify the discrepancy between revenues and expenditures

We anticipate additional revenue to come in before the end of this year. CHIPS is a reimbursement program, so money must be spent first then receipts submitted. Additional CHIPS money was made available after the budget was adopted, which sometimes occurs – especially for winter and other extreme weather.

Police – Why the addition of line for Sergeant and Corporal when the village has had those positions?

Sergeant and Corporal positions have been routinely scheduled for supervision of patrol officers. Wanted to be clear in the budget to show supervisory vs patrol hours budgeted.

Insurance breakdown between General, Water and Sewer funds. Clarify why no year to date in water. Is it included in 8310.411?

Yes, this will be broken out before final budget is approved.

What are the anticipated water and sewer deficits?

This is not yet clear. The Village voted to hire a new accountant last month, and he is working on this currently. Final figures will be available before the budget is approved.

Is the General Fund fund balance expected to grow? Are there plans for the use of the fund balance? Can it be used to offset deficits in the Water and Sewer lines?

Since the fund balance includes money from the Tracy Foundation (which was a one-shot revenue) and a small bit from Jack Shear for parking lot improvement, both of which are being spent down, I don't anticipate that it will grow. We will know for sure in the next two weeks as the accountant looks at current statements and balances.

Why are adopted budget figures for the pumper truck for 2017/2018 less than actual figures?

The budgeted figures for last year were estimates. We now have actual figures going forward.

Individual year to date and last year actual individual salaries should be included.

I will work on this and include with revisions made to the budget through the workshop process.

Question whether apportionment of equipment, salaries, etc to water and sewer has caused the deficit in water and sewer lines.

Previous general fund budgets included all expenses for treasurer, clerk, office equipment, postage, copies. etc. and did not account for 4 mailings per year for bills, time spent in processing invoices and receipts, responding to phone calls, paying bills, processing payroll and other administrative and clerical tasks related to the water/sewer system. An estimate of 1/3 of these costs was allocated to each of these funds.

The same was true for equipment and vehicle purchases, whereby the full cost was allocated to one fund when in reality a truck might leave the garage to investigate a water main issue, then check a sewer pump station, and spend a few hours on a streets repair project. Again, an estimate was made to allocate such costs across all funds.

Over the past two years, we have been trying to determine real numbers, although it is often difficult with a small employee base covering different tasks and equipment being used in all areas. For some lines it may be more accurate to allocate one half to the general fund with one quarter each to water and sewer, but we are also finding that in other areas higher allocations should be made to water and or sewer. These will be discussed further during budget workshops.