

April 12, 2017

A Public Hearing for the Board of Trustees regarding Proposed Local Law No. 03 of 2017 was held on the above date at 7:45 pm.

Present: Mayor Dominick A. Longobardi, Trustees Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Lynn Pombonyo, Archie T. Cheng and Frank J. Chiara, Village Administrator Gerard M. Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan E. Walsh, Deputy Village Treasurer Kathleen M. Mack, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane, Police Commissioner Stephen G. McAllister, Clerk to the Village Justice Donald E. Phillips, Superintendent of Recreation Kurt Meyfohrt and Pool Director Thomas Dillon

Superintendent of Building Department and Superintendent of Public Works Stephen L. Siwinski was excused from attending the public hearing.

Prior to the start of the public hearing, Mayor Longobardi asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Fire Chief Hugo Berta who recently passed away. Hugo was an active member of the Fire Department who, if you had the misfortune of needing an ambulance, he was most likely your driver as he responded to almost all of the emergency calls. Hugo will be greatly missed by his family, friends, members of the Fire Department and all the residents he so generously served.

Purpose: To consider the enactment of a local law known as Local Law No. 03 of 2017, entitled: "A local law to override the Tax Cap imposed by the State of New York."

The following comments were made by Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick:

"This is the Village's sixth proposed budget under the New York State Tax Cap that went into effect starting with the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year. By now, most are familiar with what is generally referred to as the '2% Tax Cap', so I will not go into any great detail or background, but rather I'll just summarize it very briefly.

First, The Tax Cap is not 2%. It is either 2% on the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. For instance, last year the tax cap was 0.12%. This year, the Tax Cap is 1.15%.

Second, the Tax Cap is a cap on the tax levy, which is the amount the Village needs to raise by taxes on residents and businesses in the Village after taking into consideration all other sources of revenue.

An increase of 1.15% over last year's tax levy equals \$410,988. So the tax levy could grow by \$410,988 and be within the 1.15% tax cap.

However, the proposed budget provides for a tax levy increase of \$681,676. Consequently, the tentative budget exceeds the New York State Tax Cap. As will be discussed in more detail during the budget hearing which follows this hearing on the Local Law, there are a few identifiable and specific reasons the proposed budget exceeds the 1.15% tax cap. The largest and most obvious is the increase in health insurance costs to the Village which have gone up dramatically; the increase in health insurance costs alone represent a 2.12% increase on last year's tax levy amount.

Consequently, it is necessary to introduce a local law to authorize the override of the tax cap and avoid the penalties imposed by the State if the tax cap was pierced without the required override authorization. The tax cap law has changed a few times since its inception. The last two budget cycles the State imposed a penalty on homeowners if the tax cap was pierced in that they would not get the State's refund for property tax increases that were within the cap. This year that is no longer applicable. So piercing the cap will not result in our homeowners being denied any refund they otherwise would be entitled to.'

Mayor Longobardi commented that a motion will be made to reserve decision on the local law. If the Board should decide later on to pass this local law, it will be to allow the Board some flexibility in the proposed 2017/2018 budget. It will also give residents the opportunity to comment on the local law. The Board will then deliberate and decide if the tax cap should be overridden.

Trustee Fitzgerald offered Resolution No. 2017-99 reserving decision on Local Law No. 03 of 2017 and to close the public hearing.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Pombonyo and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Fitzgerald	- Aye
Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Cheng	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Mayor Longobardi	- Aye

The hearing was closed at 7:55 pm.

A copy of the transcript and a copy of the legal notice of public hearing is attached and made a part of these minutes.