

VILLAGE OF BARTONVILLE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 23, 2020 5:45 p.m.

Mayor Ricca called the November 23, 2020 Public Hearing to order at 5:45 p.m. with roll call.

Present: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless

Absent:

Also present: Mayor Ricca, Village Administrator Joy Morris, and Clerk Michelle Carr-Bruce

Discussion and call for consensus to approve 7.75% increase to the tax levy with review of **Ordinance # 1841** - An Ordinance for the Levy and the Assessment of Taxes for the fiscal year of May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021 for the Village of Bartonville.

The total property taxes extended or abated for 2019 were \$1,216,930.37.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$1,311,234.32.

This represented a 7.749% increase.

Trustee Donley had no comments.

Trustee Leibach acknowledged that the costs of services was a factor in the request for increase but pointed out that there was a 10.7% increase on last year's levy and would not be supporting this year's 7.75% increase.

Trustee Carroll stated that with the pandemic, the budget is clearly in crisis. Trustee Carroll stated that with the loss of revenues due to the pandemic, if we all wish to keep and provide services, the 7.75% levy increase is necessary.

Trustee Zachman supported the levy increase and that residents expect core public services. He stated that without funds, the Village wouldn't be able to provide those services.

Trustee Hoopingarner had no comment.

Trustee Lawless stated that he was in support of the levy rate.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$1,311,234.32.

This represents a 7.749% increase over the previous year.

Public Comment

Brad Carr- 4622 S. Baker Lane. Brad stated that he works at the Public Works department and at the Village Hall and that he had moved to Bartonville in October of 2007. He stated that 13 years ago, the tax rate for the Village was .77172 and that after a 10.4% increase in 2019 it was 1.20922 which represented a 56.7% increase. Brad noted that the total inflation (CPI) rate from 2007 to 2020 hadn't increased to such a rate and that the 2021 rate was 24.6%. Brad expressed

that the Village seems to be putting the burden on homeowners every year when they could be raising items like sales tax, gas tax, and liquor permit fees.

Clerk Carr-Bruce noted that the current tax levy being discussed accounted for 23.22% of the \$5,646,313.00 in appropriations and that the remaining 76% came from sales, gaming, income, gas taxes and permit revenues. Michelle pointed out that the Police Pension actuaries unfortunately hadn't followed the same rate of inflation as Brad had provided and that property taxes for the Village portion were actually higher in 2014 and 2015 than what we, as residents all paid last year.

Trustee Carroll noted that on the November 3, 2020 ballot, a duty crew was supported and that people that benefited from the services also have to pay. Brad stated that the referendum didn't speak of costs and thought that this was a back door way of doing it. Mayor Ricca stated that no figures were put out and that the Village would have public hearings to discuss costs and resident's willingness to have someone on standby at the Fire Department.

Trustee Lawless thanked Brad and said that he was not questioning his figures but he had run numbers on 7 years and the costs had decreased for his property by \$67.00. Trustee Lawless said the Village should concentrate on smaller bites versus bigger bites.

Tim Daugherty, 1029 W. Tall Oaks Ct. Tim stated that it seems that the Village is shifting costs to resident and that we have no choice but to pay what is asked. Tim expressed displeasure with the plans of a dog park, stated that the Police were not attentive and that the value of homes are going down.

It was stated that this would be hard on seniors with fixed incomes and that most cannot afford to move away. Trustee Carroll suggested the senior freeze exemption. It was stated that if a homeowner was over the age of 65, they could call the Limestone Township office and request this.

It was the consensus of the Board of Trustees to move forward with voting on Ordinance #1841 at the following Board of Trustees meeting.

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Michelle Carr-Bruce, Village Clerk