

“How Does the Village Determine its Yearly Water Budget”

The Village operates its Fiscal Year (FY) from 1 April of the current year to 31 March of the following year. Currently the Village is in FY22/23 or 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. On 1 April, 2023, we will be in FY23/24.

The Village yearly budget process starts in early January and ends at the conclusion of the second meeting in March. During this time, each Village Department is responsible to plan its activities and expenditures, if any, for the coming year. The Village Departments are organized as follows:

- General Fund (contains a number of administrative budget categories such as Clerk, Treasurer, DPW, Village Attorney, etc.)
- Water Department
- Sewer Department
- Street Department
- Police Department
- Parks Department (is found under the General Fund)

Department heads and Trustee - Commissioners generally put their draft budgets together in January and early February. In mid-February, the Village will begin conducting Budget Meetings to go over the details of a specific department's revenue and spending plans. The Budget Meetings are open to the public. Because the Budget Meeting schedule is variable and subject to change, its best to call the Village Office and ask for specific times and/or when departments budgets will be discussed.

The general categories discussed in the water budget are:

- Department Administration - such as transportation and incidental purchases. It includes a share of costs for the Village Department of Public Works (DPW) - health insurance, training, etc.
- System Upgrade, Repair, and Maintenance (of existing equipment)
- Capital Improvements- new construction, new equipment, etc.

Water Department revenues and savings accounts are also reviewed along with the status of any outstanding bond (such as the Drinking Water Revolving Fund – DWRF) accounts.

Finally, the Village budget is presented and approved by Council at the 2nd Meeting (and last) in March. This is done at the regular Council Meeting and there is a public hearing conducted to get community input before the budget is passed.

It's important to note that Water and Sewer Rates for the upcoming fiscal year are also established at this meeting. A Public Hearing is held before these rates are approved as well so residents/businesses can make their feelings about rate increases or decreases known to Council.

The bottom line is the Village budget process is open, transparent, and plays out over three months. It provides an opportunity for interested Village residents to observe the process, ask questions about use of funds, and to indicate their feelings about potential increases in rates.

For Further Information, Contact: Ross Boelke, Water Commissioner, 586-784-9151