

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on March 25, 2025, at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830. The Audit Committee met at 7:00 P.M. and the Regular Board meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

**Present were:** Deputy Mayor Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Mary Branham, DPW Superintendent Bill Kelsey, WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

**Absent:** Mayor Terry Stark, OIC Adam Francis, Fire Chief Ron Martin, EMS Captain Mark Forrest, Zoning Officer/Dog Warden Roger Barrows

The Village Trustees (Audit Committee) reviewed each of the invoices in the abstract for March 2025.

Deputy Mayor Leach called the Regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Branham seconded a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at 7:30 pm. All voted Aye and motion was carried. The public notice of the budget hearing had been published in the Village’s official paper (Norwich Evening Sun) on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

There being no public comments, Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Hendricks seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:31 pm. All voted Aye and motion was carried. Following the FY 2025-2026 Budget Public Hearing, Deputy Mayor Leach recommended the following proposed General, Water and Sewer fund Budgets and Water/Sewer rates be adopted.

**General Fund - \$1,350,000 (A decrease of \$68,000)**

Revenue - \$569,500  
Tax Levy - \$780,500  
Tax Rate - \$27.81 (An increase of 1.6% or \$.43)  
Appropriations - \$1,350,000

**Water Fund - \$291,000 (An increase of \$11,000)**

Revenue \$291,000  
Appropriations \$291,000

Effective April 1, 2025, water rates will be as follows:

Quarterly	Base Water Rate	\$72.00 Within the Village
Quarterly	Excess Rate	\$7.00 Within Village
Quarterly	Additional Unit charge	\$36.00
Quarterly	Base Water Rate	\$74.00 Outside of Village
Quarterly	Excess Rate	\$7.20 Outside Village
Quarterly	Additional Unit charge	\$37.00 Outside Village

FY 2026, the residential quarterly base water rate will increase to 72.00. Base Water rate outside the village will increase to \$74.00.

The excess rate will increase to \$7.00 inside the Village. The Town Water District rate will increase to \$7.20 per 1,000 gallons outside the Village. Additional base unit charges will remain at 50% of the quarterly base rate.

**Sewer Fund - \$332,000 (No increase from prior year)**

Revenue \$332,000  
Appropriations \$332,000

FY 2026 residential quarterly base sewer rate will increase \$2.00 from \$65.00 to \$67.00. The excess usage rate will increase \$.25 from \$11.25 to \$11.50 per 1,000 gallons. Vets Home surcharge remains at 15% and Vet’s Home capital charge remains at \$1,500 per month.

The mayor indicated that the Budgets include the salary for elected officials as follows:  
The annual salary for the mayor will increase from \$6,600 to \$7,000.

The annual salary for each of the four Trustees will increase from \$3,300 to \$3,500.  
The annual salary for Village Justice will increase from \$10,000 to \$10,400.

Following discussion Trustee Branham moved and Trustee Hendricks seconded the proposed General, Water and Sewer fund Budgets and Water/Sewer rates be adopted for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget:

The motion was adopted, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Dale Leach	AYE
Dustin Hendricks	AYE
Richard Marks	AYE
Mary Branham	AYE

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

None

**ABSTRACT:**

Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Branham seconded a motion to approve Abstract #010 as presented. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

General Fund	\$ 87,752.57
Water Fund	\$ 2,613.89
Sewer Fund	\$ 8,902.42
Water Project	<u>\$ 765.00</u>
	\$100,033.88

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to approve the February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

The February Treasurer’s Report is still being worked on.

**JUSTICE REPORT:**

Trustee Branham moved and Trustee Hendricks seconded the motion to approve the February Justice Report from Judge Ross. All approved.

**OFD REPORT:**

Chief Martin was not present.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

OIC Francis was not present. He sent his monthly report to the Board via E-Mail.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Roger Barrows was not present.

**Department of Public Works:**

SPW Kelsey reported to the board. The DPW has come across several basement leaks during the past few weeks while reading water meters. They are hesitant to switch over to non-snow equipment right now. They will be taking the sanders off next week and crossing their fingers.

The summer equipment (Mowers, tractors, etc.) has been brought up from cold storage and are getting serviced. The sweeper was out last week. There was a lot of dirt and they will continue to do that. Street patching has been done and will continue to be done. The State will drag pave around the park this year. The patch the village puts down does not stay because there is not enough of the road to attach it to. There is a process to put down a pretreat before a storm. There is a lot of work and expense to it (drag pave is done but there is no control over how the paving gets put down). Josh Brigham runs the NYS DOT in Oxford. DPW will mill and cold pave South Washington Avenue.

They have been picking up garbage around the village and taking down some small ash trees. All the trees were dead by the Episcopal Church and a couple on Main Street. They have started picking up the parks.

The street sweeper needs to be replaced. It is starting to need ether just to get it to start up. It will get to the point where it will not start soon. They have looked but have not had much success. Brent has been looking at Auctions International to see if he can locate one. Deputy Mayor Leach suggested to SPW Kelsey that he talk to Mayor Stark about this when he gets back in a month. \$250,000 - \$350,000 is the approximate price. Bill may contact Johnson Equipment and ask them to keep an eye out for one in the future.

SPW Kelsey has been contacted by the post office. The big trucks are running down the curbs when they cannot make the corner. GPS is taking them down South Washington Avenue instead of straight down Route 12. They want the DPW to lay down some stone between the curb and where they are rolling over the curb so they do not drive into the mud/lawn.

Deputy Mayor Leach asked if the DPW and WWTP can get their notes to the board by the Friday before the Monthly Board Meetings.

**WWTP:**

WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout reported to the board. He said he got outside in the nice weather and was able to clean things up and he cleaned out the press building. One of the electronics inside the panel went bad. He was able to contact BDP and they sent the part so Brent could fix it. BDP did have to come out and program it. We were lucky because the part was obsolete but they had a used one sitting on the shelf so we lucked out and they only charged us about \$500.

He will take sludge to the landfill next month to get rid of the winter stockpile.

He fired the generator with the power outage and it started right up. It was around 12:00 a.m. and the power came back on.

It had some electrical issues (small things) and needed an electrician. They called Nate Evans and he came and checked things out. He thinks he has figured it out but had to order a couple of parts and is waiting for them to be delivered so hopefully he can get those things taken care of.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Deputy Mayor Leach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks  
Clerk-Treasurer