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PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HUNTINGTON BAY

March 30, 2026
7:00 p.m.

BUDGET 2026-2027

P R E S E N T

- MARK DARA, MAYOR
- BARBARA BEUERLEIN, TRUSTEE
- ELIZABETH RICHTER, TRUSTEE
- KENNETH ANNA, TRUSTEE
- DANIELLE CATANESE, DEPUTY VILLAGE
ADMINISTRATOR
- CHRIS JACK, CHIEF OF POLICE

REPORTED BY: CHRISTINE FREYEISEN,
Court Reporter Monday

1 THE MAYOR: I'm going to read my
2 presentation here for the two of you.

3 Thank you for attending our
4 budget presentation for the 2026/27
5 fiscal year.

6 This budget has been developed
7 with a strong commitment to transparency
8 and collaboration. It reflects the
9 input and expertise of our accountants,
10 Village staff, police chief and Board
11 members.

12 Understanding our financial
13 position.

14 From the outset, our primary goal
15 has been to restore the Village to a
16 sound financial footing, eliminating
17 the inherent deficit, strengthening our
18 fiscal standing with New York State and
19 ultimately removing the Village from
20 the susceptible to fiscal stress
21 clarification.

22 Last year's adjustment was a
23 necessary step in putting us back on
24 the right path. I'm pleased to report
25 that not only have we eliminated the

1 deficit but we now anticipate ending
2 this fiscal year with a positive fund
3 balance in excess of \$150,000. It's
4 actually \$149,853.

5 Over the past year, we restored
6 essential services that had previously
7 been reduced. While these restorations
8 come with associated costs, they're
9 critical to maintaining the quality of
10 life our residents expect.

11 We have returned our police
12 department to full coverage and
13 properly funded our maintenance and
14 infrastructure budgets, areas that have
15 been under underfunded in prior years.

16 These investments ensure we are
17 delivering the essential services our
18 residents both deserve and rightfully
19 expect in return for their tax dollars.
20 Our commitment to long-term financial
21 stability remains a top priority. We
22 established a three-to-four-year plan
23 to achieve this goal and I'm proud to
24 say we're ahead of schedule.

25 We anticipate meeting our State

1 required reserve levels by the end of
2 26/27 fiscal year, further
3 strengthening the Village's financial
4 position.

5 This year's budget reflects an
6 overall spending increase of 4.95
7 percent driven largely by costs beyond
8 our control, including insurance,
9 retirement contributions and
10 contractual salary increases.

11 Despite these pressures, we have
12 worked diligently to minimize the
13 impact on our residents. The budget
14 includes a modest contingency increase
15 of .05 percent, equating to
16 approximately \$14,000.

17 The resulting tax levy increase
18 for this year will be 3.3 percent.

19 While we aimed to remain under
20 the State tax cap of three percent, two
21 percent of the tax cap and one percent
22 we get from the State, three percent
23 doing so was not feasible while
24 maintaining a truly balanced and
25 transparent budget.

1 We believe careful attention to
2 detail and thoughtful planning
3 reflected in this budget resulted in a
4 fiscally responsible and transparent
5 plan, one that supports the needs of
6 our community while remaining mindful
7 of the financial challenges our
8 residents face.

9 The other thing I want to say
10 about that is that we had planned on
11 maybe four years getting this done and
12 it looks like we're going to get it
13 done in closer to three years.

14 And if you look at the --
15 everyone should have this sheet which
16 we just got from our accountant today,
17 we updated again today, it basically
18 shows our financial status.

19 There is a couple of things
20 you'll notice on this you see the
21 estimated April expenditures at 200,000
22 and estimated May expenditures 230,000.
23 Those are very generous estimates. I
24 believe we will be under all those
25 numbers. If you look at March we spent

1 about a \$157,000. We do have a double
2 payroll -- actually three pay periods
3 in May.

4 So at the end of the day we were
5 down two years ago minus \$26,000. We
6 expect to be this year about 150,000 at
7 the end of this season or better, which
8 means we picked up \$175,000 in two
9 years and the way we did that and the
10 way this budget was prepared, last
11 year's budget the only thing I had to
12 go on was the previous budget, which
13 was partially crayons and partially
14 Disneyland.

15 This year we were able to
16 actually track everything we spent all
17 year long, put real numbers against all
18 the line items and we came up with what
19 I consider to be a very comprehensive
20 and well done budget. All the numbers
21 seem to be correct to what we actually
22 spent and we did figure that some of
23 these things were going to go up and we
24 did increase those, insurance and a few
25 other things, so you'll find that in

1 the budget.

2 I think this budget is fine. We
3 talked it over at the last meeting.
4 There was a couple of comments from the
5 Trustees, which we have put into the
6 budget and made the necessary changes,
7 so this is the budget that I'm going to
8 present to the Board at the next
9 meeting for approval.

10 The residents have -- we posted
11 it on-line, we posted this, everything
12 we have we posted is on-line so
13 everybody can see everything, there's
14 no secrets, there's nothing hidden,
15 there's no grant money we think is
16 coming from someplace else.

17 I think at this point we are now
18 \$173,000 in grant money in the last two
19 years and the one biggie just came in
20 is Chris got a grant for a new car at
21 the end of this year. He got \$62,000
22 which, not only pays for the car, it
23 pays for outfitting the car with the
24 computers and all the police equipment
25 we need to put in it, so we'll retire

1 the Tahoe, we have until the end of '27
2 to use this so my guess is we'll order
3 a car on December 31st.

4 POLICE CHIEF JACK: I think
5 March 1st we can order it and the
6 contract won't expire until May 31st.

7 THE MAYOR: We're going to get
8 that at the last minute, get the most
9 we can out of the Tahoe until Danielle
10 takes it home with the rest of the
11 cars. I think she's opening up a
12 police department.

13 Anyway, that's the presentation.
14 The only thing the Trustees have not
15 seen was the financial report we got
16 today.

17 If you have any questions on the
18 financial report or Judy or Arizona --
19 Judy and I kind of went over this
20 today, the budget is I think is dead
21 on. I mean, some things you have to
22 kind of, you got to estimate what's
23 going to happen but if we had to
24 estimate an expenditure, we did it on
25 the high side. We had to estimate a

1 cost, we did it on the low side. So we
2 kind of did everything in favor one way
3 or the other to make sure we didn't
4 overstate this.

5 So that's my presentation.

6 Any questions?

7 I also will say that this budget
8 does include a three percent increase
9 for the employees, another three
10 percent, so you'll be up to \$30.33
11 where it's going. We put in a three
12 percent increase for all the employees
13 as standard rate, kind of like the cost
14 of living, so we put that in.

15 Any questions? Any comments?

16 TRUSTEE ANNA: Job well done.

17 THE MAYOR: Thank you.

18 I think overall this Village is
19 in much better shape now than it was
20 two years ago.

21 Anybody have anything?

22 TRUSTEE ANNA: I think it's under
23 the circumstances a lot to be proud of.
24 Good job. Thank you.

25 THE MAYOR: I'm going to say

1 this, everybody keeps talking about
2 what a good job I did, the comment it
3 takes a Village is true. We all worked
4 on this budget together, Danielle and
5 Chris sat down and argued for days over
6 donuts. That was another thing that
7 happened. We did put a lot of time
8 into this, we squeezed everything we
9 could but at the same time we didn't
10 take anything away that we put back in
11 again.

12 Like I said, the only variable in
13 this is I had to use an abstract number
14 for the police increase which is going
15 to be halfway into our fiscal year, so
16 the police will get until December 31st
17 so I have January to May 31st of next
18 year, I think we used four percent, is
19 that what we used?

20 POLICE CHIEF JACK: Yes.

21 THE MAYOR: We put four percent
22 in, I'm hoping it's going to be in and
23 around that.

24 Again, if it's one percent
25 difference, we're looking at 20

1 something thousand dollars for a one
2 percent difference, so we do have room
3 for error in the police negotiations
4 which KC will be doing with the police
5 department directly and I'll get
6 involved in it once they think they
7 have something settled. But I'm not
8 going to be involved in the
9 negotiations. That's not my -- I want
10 to assist in the checks and balances,
11 they can come up with their own plan
12 and then I can abuse them afterwards.

13 If nobody has any questions, this
14 is the budget I'm going to propose and
15 this is what I hope to get passed on
16 the two Mondays from now.

17 (No response.)

18 THE MAYOR: I will adjourn this
19 meeting.

20 * * *
21 The foregoing is hereby certified to be a
22 true and accurate transcript of the
23 proceedings as transcribed from the
24 stenographic notes.

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CHRISTINE FREY EISEN
Court Reporter