

1 PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
3 OF THE VILLAGE OF HUNTINGTON BAY

4 March 31, 2025  
5 7:00 p.m.

6 BUDGET 2025-2026

7  
8 P R E S E N T

9  
10 MARK DARA, MAYOR

11 BARBARA BEUERLEIN, TRUSTEE

12 ELIZABETH RICHTER, TRUSTEE

13 LUAN DOAN, TRUSTEE

14 KENNETH ANNA, TRUSTEE

15  
16 DANIELLE CATANESE, DEPUTY VILLAGE  
17 ADMINISTRATOR

18 JENNIFER DITTA, CULLEN & DANOWSKI

19  
20  
21 REPORTED BY: CHRISTINE FREYEISEN,  
22 Court Reporter

23  
24  
25

1           THE MAYOR:   First, thanks for all  
2           of you who came here tonight for the  
3           support and the presentation.   We've  
4           actually been working on this probably  
5           since January and I started initially  
6           working on it in July when I got  
7           elected because there was a lot to take  
8           apart but I'd like to make a statement,  
9           and I'll take any questions afterwards  
10          but we'll start with this.

11                 We all spent a considerable  
12          amount of time preparing what we feel  
13          is an honest and completely transparent  
14          budget, along with our accountant, the  
15          staff, police chief, building inspector  
16          and myself.   We looked at every aspect  
17          of the Village's finances.   I think the  
18          most important thing to understand is  
19          how we found ourselves in the financial  
20          position we're in.

21                 When I was elected mayor this  
22          year my first priority was to bring in  
23          an independent accounting firm to bring  
24          a financial evaluation of the Village's  
25          finances.   I had done my own evaluation

1 and I stated to the accountant that I  
2 thought we were \$25,000 in the red. So  
3 the accountant did the calculations and  
4 told me I was wrong, I was incorrect,  
5 we're actually \$26,000 in the red,  
6 which made me feel very good.

7 To make it easy to understand  
8 it's important I give a brief history  
9 how we found ourselves in this  
10 situation.

11 I've been a member of this Board  
12 for 13 years. In the latter part of my  
13 tenure I've had an extremely  
14 contentious relationship with the mayor  
15 and some of the trustees and rightfully  
16 so.

17 In the last five years I have  
18 either objected or outright rejected  
19 the budget -- proposed budgets. They  
20 were prepared with no input from the  
21 Board and presented at the last minute  
22 and did not allow residents an  
23 opportunity to review or comment before  
24 approval.

25 Most of these budgets were

1 approved by a three-to-two vote.

2 I could never understand how  
3 during a 12-year period we had a total  
4 of a 3.9 percent tax increase. In my  
5 research I found all of our surrounding  
6 towns and villages had increases of 33  
7 percent to 38 percent in the same time  
8 period.

9 No matter what objections or  
10 concerns were expressed by the few  
11 board members the previous  
12 administration dismissed our  
13 suggestions and would arbitrarily pass  
14 the financially flawed budgets.

15 So how did our Village survive  
16 with no increases?

17 In an effort to present a  
18 balanced budget, the previous  
19 administration methodically reduced the  
20 most important services he was elected  
21 to provide. We, as a Board, are  
22 responsible to be staunch fiduciaries  
23 and make sure that we also provide, my  
24 opinion, three major services; police,  
25 infrastructure and maintenance.

1           These are three areas that the  
2           previous administration cut in the most  
3           recent budgets.

4           Our police department was forced  
5           to reduce the budge by more than  
6           \$125,000. Therefore reducing the  
7           amount of police coverage  
8           substantially.

9           Our drain cleaning budget was  
10          reduced from \$30,000 to 5,000. That  
11          was required to maintain proper  
12          drainage and our street cleaning budget  
13          was reduced to 1,000 from the \$3,000  
14          that was always in place.

15          With no additional tax revenue  
16          our COVID funding of \$275,000 and our  
17          reserves as of the 2021 statement of  
18          approximately \$400,000 was completely  
19          depleted.

20          At the last -- at last year's  
21          eleventh hour budget hearing there was  
22          unsubstantiated income numbers  
23          presented and when the residents and  
24          some Board members questioned this,  
25          they were immediately dismissed, as was

1 the normal response.

2 Once again, with no hearing from  
3 the residents and one -- once again,  
4 with no hearing to the residents and a  
5 five day comment period as required by  
6 our Village Code, the failing budget  
7 was once again passed by a three-to-two  
8 margin with two Trustees opposed.

9 Probably the most alarming part  
10 of this is one of the trustees was a  
11 CPA and our accountant at the time had  
12 addressed the Board and the residents  
13 at that meeting and stated that we need  
14 a minimum of 22 percent tax increase to  
15 be somewhat balanced. Again, this was  
16 dismissed.

17 This is why I ran for mayor  
18 because in good conscience and with a  
19 moral and community obligation I felt  
20 this could not continue.

21 We're all aware that the Village  
22 had been deemed as in financial stress,  
23 all of this within a two to three-year  
24 timeframe.

25 When I was elected mayor I knew

1           there was immediate problems that  
2           needed to be addressed. It's the  
3           problems I didn't know about that were  
4           the most concerning.

5                     First thing I did was look for  
6           ways to reduce costs and eliminate  
7           unnecessary expenditures. The  
8           immediate cuts saved the Village  
9           approximately \$78,000.

10                    In our proposed budget we put  
11           back the real numbers the Village needs  
12           to provide the services our residents  
13           require and deserves.

14                    This is big part of the 7.64  
15           percent increase in our budget. This  
16           is a one time increase made by the cuts  
17           made by the previous administration.  
18           The numbers don't lie and it falls on  
19           my shoulders to present a truly honest  
20           and transparent budget of a proposed  
21           tax increase of 15.75 percent and does  
22           not reflect any contingency of our  
23           budget which should be 10 percent and a  
24           minimum of five percent. Five percent  
25           would be an additional \$130,000 and I

1 don't see that as a viable option.

2 In real numbers, this represents  
3 approximately \$350 annually to each  
4 resident.

5 If you keep in mind that the  
6 previous administration -- if you keep  
7 in mind that if the previous  
8 administration had been financially  
9 responsible and heeded the advice of  
10 the accounting professionals over the  
11 last 10 years this would represent a 10  
12 cents a day increase rather than less  
13 than a dollar a day, which we find  
14 necessary.

15 We have made some changes to the  
16 Village that will realize additional  
17 income for the Village.

18 Our bond of the Village Hall has  
19 two years remaining. Those payments  
20 are \$55,000 annually. I feel it will  
21 take two to three years before the  
22 Village has funds to get us out of  
23 financial stress. We do have a solid  
24 plan and every year reevaluate our  
25 financial status. We worked very



1           diligently on this budget and truly  
2           believe this is the only option to put  
3           the Village in a positive financial  
4           position.

5           I did put on the Village website  
6           a copy of the Village budget for  
7           everybody, as our code requires, which  
8           is supposed to present this budget the  
9           beginning of April, we pushed it up a  
10          day because it worked out and the  
11          residents are supposed to have five  
12          days to be able to review the budget  
13          and ask any concerns or questions and  
14          bring them to Village Hall. We did get  
15          this out on time, we did get a budget  
16          out on our website. There was no  
17          secrets here. We put everything  
18          together.

19          So that's where we are right now.  
20          I don't see any other way out of this.  
21          When we look at the increases and the  
22          things we did now we put back what the  
23          Village is supposed to have here. And  
24          that's what this budget is about. We  
25          also need to get this budget balanced

1 and get out of our financial stress and  
2 if we take this tax increase next year  
3 we're looking at our tax increase will  
4 maybe be whatever our moving targets  
5 are, insurance, retirement, whatever  
6 cost of living might be and that will  
7 be a minimal increase but we have to  
8 get somewhat back on our feet.

9 At this point now I think we're  
10 about \$45,000 or 46,000 in the black.  
11 So we picked up -- 42,000, so from the  
12 26 plus the 42 we picked up that amount  
13 of money, we put the services back in  
14 and we have a real working budget that  
15 covers all the costs of the Village.

16 That's my presentation.

17 I'm open to any questions anyone  
18 might have.

19 MR. PALMER: Jason Palmer, 41  
20 Shore Drive.

21 I just want to confirm, this is a  
22 one time larger than normal increase  
23 and that you are trying to adjust the  
24 future increases to be more reasonable  
25 to cost of inflation or cost of living

1 minimal?

2 THE MAYOR: It would be whatever  
3 the costs of our running the Village  
4 would be, which I said are the moving  
5 targets and probably cost of living  
6 increase. So we'd be in minimal one or  
7 two or three percents.

8 MR. PALMER: Do you feel by  
9 maintaining that minimal tax increase,  
10 which I agree with, that you'll be able  
11 to reveal the reserve funds accordingly  
12 or is that less concern?

13 THE MAYOR: Yes. Like I said, we  
14 also did institute some other means of  
15 income for the Village. And we've had  
16 to see how those things play out but we  
17 did make sure that all the landscapers  
18 are registered so we know the  
19 landscapers come in and are insured and  
20 they have licenses and they're actually  
21 allowed to do work.

22 We did a minimal fee of \$250. I  
23 didn't realize how much -- how many  
24 landscapers we had but that's got us  
25 over \$9,000 already this year.

1           We put some changes in the  
2 building department, that's given us a  
3 considerable amount of income as well.

4           But just so you understand, when  
5 we first came in there was specific  
6 spending cuts we went after right away.

7           We took the Village prosecutor  
8 who was coming twelve months a year to  
9 our court, which was completely  
10 unnecessary, she comes quarterly now.  
11 That was a \$9,000 expenditure to the  
12 Village, it's now \$2,000. We saved  
13 7,000 on that.

14           We moved our dental plan around  
15 for our employees and our police. That  
16 saved us another \$7,000.

17           We got rid of the assistant  
18 Village administrator, we brought  
19 somebody in part time, that saved us  
20 \$42,000.

21           We changed our accounting firm,  
22 that saved us about another \$4,800 a  
23 year.

24           We saved over \$3,000 in office  
25 supplies, \$9,000 in landscaping and one

1 of the employees who worked for us has  
2 been let go and that saved us another  
3 \$5,000.

4 So we looked at, you know, it  
5 might be just pennies and dimes and  
6 nickels but every one of those things  
7 counts.

8 We also got rid of all the  
9 Village credit cards. The only one  
10 that has one is Danielle. We got a  
11 credit card, gives us two percent cash  
12 back, it's also tied into an Amazon  
13 account. We were buying our office  
14 supplies in the past from WB Mason,  
15 which is the Tiffany's of office  
16 supplies.

17 At one point the ladies had to  
18 buy something, it was \$153 at WB Mason.  
19 We went on to Amazon and bought the  
20 supplies for \$68.

21 So every single penny we spend  
22 and everything we do, we have to look  
23 at that. It might seem like a lot, a  
24 thousand dollars here and \$50 here, all  
25 of those things at the end of the day

1 add up.

2 I am pretty positive some of the  
3 things we implemented are going to give  
4 us some more income to the Village.  
5 With the tax increase, keeping an eye  
6 on every single thing we do, all of our  
7 bills are checked by Liz, they need  
8 three signatures to be approved.

9 So checks and balances are all in  
10 place. So no money can go anyplace  
11 that it's not necessary.

12 So yes, I think that 15 percent  
13 -- 15 percent almost balances us.

14 As I said, a Village this size  
15 should have a contingent budget which  
16 should be about 10 percent, that would  
17 be about \$260,000 but I couldn't add  
18 that or even five percent, 130,000, I  
19 couldn't add that into this budget as a  
20 tax increase until I see what the new  
21 sources of income do for us over the  
22 next year.

23 MR. PALMER: Follow-up.

24 What is the current reserve and  
25 what do you expect it to be at the end

1 of the budget or at the end of this  
2 budget?

3 THE MAYOR: Current reserve right  
4 now is \$42,000? What do we expect it  
5 to be?

6 Jenn, you can answer it.

7 MS. DITTA: We're hoping we break  
8 even but it could dip a little further  
9 because of the increases with the  
10 health insurance, which is not in the  
11 control of the Board here, the Village,  
12 that's the State.

13 MR. PALMER: So you're expecting  
14 to build it up over time, over the cost  
15 savings?

16 THE MAYOR: Two-to-three-year  
17 time period to get us hopefully out of  
18 fiscal stress.

19 At that point by three years from  
20 now I expect to have -- we hope to have  
21 \$250,000 in our reserves. That's the  
22 plans.

23 MS. ANTONUCCI: Mark, I think in  
24 two years I think the debt on the  
25 renovation to the Village, so that adds

1 another \$50,000 into the budget.

2 Will that go into the reserves?

3 THE MAYOR: Yes, total 110,000,  
4 it's 55,000 a year, two more years of  
5 that, every year we have an extra  
6 surplus. Extra 55,000 a year.

7 Again, when we did this budget we  
8 started in January we looked at  
9 everything, looked at everything. More  
10 of a three-year plan, not really two,  
11 and three could be three or two. We  
12 can't come in and put a 55 percent tax  
13 increase in. It can't be done. That  
14 would be perfect. We would be out of  
15 fiscal stress and that would be great  
16 but we can't do it to the residents.  
17 We're very reluctant to put a 15.75  
18 percent. The increase is actually  
19 15.16 percent if we go off the numbers  
20 we put together but we have no  
21 contingency end so an extra .40 percent  
22 is our contingency.

23 MS. ANTONUCCI: I'm not an  
24 accountant but I was of the opinion --  
25 and I thank you so much for taking this



1           time and all of you for balancing this  
2           budget -- there was nothing left for  
3           the Board, for the mayor to pull from,  
4           the reserves were liquidated, so I  
5           think if this had taken place we would  
6           have been bankrupt at this point.

7           THE MAYOR: Anything could have  
8           happened.

9           If you go through \$675,000 over a  
10          three-year period, that should give you  
11          a hint something is wrong.

12          MS. ANTONUCCI: We would not have  
13          had the funds to pay the bills, that's  
14          my belief.

15          Thank you very much.

16          MR. PALMER: So as I recall one  
17          of the problems in the Village had been  
18          never ending legal litigation from  
19          various residents.

20          Have those matters have been  
21          resolved? Anything unforeseen or  
22          already factored into the budget?

23          THE MAYOR: What we did not put  
24          in the budget is a number is  
25          litigation. Litigation expense.

1           Because we're not going to have any  
2           litigation.  There's no reason.

3                   Listen, those -- all of those  
4           lawsuits were contentious lawsuits and  
5           personal, it had nothing to do with the  
6           Village, the Village had nothing to  
7           gain.  That was tit-for-tat and that  
8           cost the Village over \$160,000 to do  
9           that.

10                   If anybody has a problem now, as  
11           most of you know I am in Village Hall  
12           every single day and we're out there  
13           every day, if there's any problems we  
14           take care of it.

15                   We have to keep in mind there's  
16           opportunities out there, you're federal  
17           and state tax dollars all go to all  
18           these different programs and if you  
19           take the time and the energy to go  
20           through them you can find some of these  
21           programs.

22                   I'll give you a for instance.  We  
23           had two kind of major environmental  
24           problems within the Village.  One was  
25           the Fleetwood Association on Huntington

1 Bay Road and the other is in Bay Hills.  
2 The one in Bay Hills is the pipe from  
3 the 1800s that constantly fills up, the  
4 tidewater comes in, it fills the street  
5 for a 12-hour period and all of that  
6 waste and everything from the street  
7 goes back into the bay again.

8 In Fleetwood Association, in the  
9 early days when they built a house they  
10 would just put drains in and put a pipe  
11 and let it go out to a field someplace.  
12 And we still have that situation, it  
13 was flooding three homes down on Locust  
14 Lane and thrown all of that pollution  
15 back into the bay again.

16 With the help of Stephanie  
17 Bontempi, I was -- and Ed Romaine, I  
18 was able to secure a grant for the  
19 Village to pay for those two problems.  
20 It was a 50/50 grant. Both the  
21 associations said they couldn't afford  
22 the whole thing but they could do part  
23 of it so we were able to secure that  
24 funding from Suffolk County. It was a  
25 lot of work to go after but we did go

1 after it.

2 There is another one called the  
3 Long Island resiliency plan. So we're  
4 going after about another 12 to 16  
5 additional drains throughout the  
6 Village and different areas that go  
7 into the bay. What I was told, the  
8 best way to get one of those grants is  
9 to hire a professional grant writer and  
10 the Village didn't have \$10,000 but I  
11 made a lot of friends since I came in,  
12 I made a lot of contacts and one of the  
13 people I made contacts with from the  
14 State said, look, you can go after a  
15 grant to hire a grant writer to help  
16 you get your grant so we went after  
17 that grant and it was \$10,000 and we  
18 got that grant too.

19 So there are -- there is funding  
20 out there that could take away some of  
21 the day-to-day expense from the Village  
22 and push it back. You know, it's our  
23 tax dollars that are paying for it at  
24 the end of the day and get that back to  
25 the Village. But you have to put the

1 time in to get that done.

2 I don't think that was done  
3 really in the past at all.

4 Like I said, I'm there every day.  
5 Danielle takes care of all the Village,  
6 my assistant Michelle who we hired as  
7 the Assistant Village Administrator,  
8 she is really my assistant, she works  
9 together with me, she is the executive  
10 assistant to the mayor, sounds great on  
11 a business card but Michelle and I, we  
12 plowed through these two grants and got  
13 them. No one was more surprised than  
14 we were.

15 But we did get the grants and  
16 there is more opportunity out there.  
17 The more federal and state money I can  
18 get to offset our expenses is going to  
19 be another plus to the budget. We saw  
20 in the first eight months we were able  
21 to secure two grants.

22 Going forward I hope next year --  
23 I'm hoping this year we can get this  
24 Long Island Resiliency grant, hundreds  
25 of thousands of dollars to put

1 additional drainage, big help to our  
2 Village and our drainage system.

3 The other thing, because the  
4 money was taken out of our maintenance  
5 budget and we didn't have money to  
6 clean the drains properly, that most of  
7 our drainage in the Village was working  
8 at 50 percent and some not working at  
9 all.

10 Over the last three weeks we've  
11 been cleaning all the drains and came  
12 with the clamshell taking all the solid  
13 materials out.

14 For instance, the end of Vineyard  
15 Road, which is the bottom of  
16 everything, Bay Crest comes in there,  
17 Vineyard Road, everything falls in  
18 there, seven drains down there, all  
19 goes to a leaching field. Next door to  
20 them the leaching field was completely  
21 clogged and made them inoperable.

22 We have cleaned every drain,  
23 every leaching field, everything we  
24 could possibly get done. With that  
25 being said, we only had \$10,000 in the

1 budget.

2           During the last big storms we had  
3 this year, we had some tremendous  
4 rainstorms and Chris and I worked on  
5 some people, FEMA reimbursement. One  
6 of the FEMA reimbursements is to clean  
7 up the storm drains. We probably spent  
8 well over \$30,000 cleaning the drains  
9 this year and we only had 10,000 in our  
10 budget but through Chris's hard work  
11 and he has to take all the calls from  
12 FEMA, we're probably going to be  
13 reimbursed 75 percent of that.

14           So now these drains will be  
15 cleaned and next year it's not going to  
16 cost us 30,000 because everything is  
17 clean so now it's regular maintenance  
18 we need to do.

19           I'm also working with the Town to  
20 try to get their street sweepers and  
21 sweep our streets as part of the Town's  
22 shared services budget and that will  
23 save us a few thousand dollars as well.

24           MR. PALMER: My question was, to  
25 the best of your knowledge, all the

1 litigation that had been lingering is  
2 settled?

3 THE MAYOR: All done.

4 MR. PALMER: As a follow, you  
5 mentioned one of your key initiatives  
6 was to have shared services from the  
7 Town of Huntington.

8 From what you can estimate, how  
9 much do you feel it's going to save us  
10 or already saving us money now?

11 THE MAYOR: Right away on the  
12 drain cleaning.

13 When we clean the drains we have  
14 to dispose of that refuse  
15 environmentally correctly. So you can  
16 go out and get a dumpster and cost \$600  
17 but to dispose of it correctly, because  
18 of the waste it's closer to a thousand  
19 dollars.

20 The Town of Huntington allowed us  
21 take all our waste and put it in their  
22 registered dumping ground. That saved  
23 us \$6,000 this year.

24 Like I said, we're chipping away  
25 at it. I can't find anyplace to pick



1 up a hundred or \$200,000 but if I could  
2 pick up 10,000 here and 5,000 here,  
3 little by little we'll catch up.

4 MR. PALMER: Sort of related, I  
5 believe you mentioned that the Town  
6 would offer the Village services at  
7 their cost.

8 Have you found the Village to be  
9 more competitive than the private  
10 contractor or has that worked out as  
11 expected?

12 THE MAYOR: Have I found the  
13 Village or the Town?

14 MR. PALMER: The Town.

15 I believe you said the Town would  
16 offer us services at their costs  
17 competitive to what we might have been  
18 paying private.

19 THE MAYOR: Here is our proposal  
20 to the Town. Yes, they did come in and  
21 said, yes, we can come in and sweep the  
22 street. We pay FEMA rate, union rates  
23 and benefits and we have this, and it  
24 came out to \$278 an hour to have a guy  
25 sweeping our streets. So in about a

1           few months in, would that be money  
2           saving? No.

3           I went back to Ed Smyth and I  
4           said, you know, overall my residents  
5           pay you about \$760,000 a year in income  
6           from your three percent tax revenue.

7           So if it's going to cost me  
8           \$7,000 to clean my streets, how about  
9           you give me back one percent of the  
10          shared services and you come and clean  
11          my streets. And it was kind of an  
12          offer he couldn't refuse, so we did get  
13          that.

14          Is the Town going to give us  
15          back, you know, if it's up to me I  
16          would say make it one percent and I'll  
17          take the \$500,000, but that's never  
18          going to happen.

19          We have animal patrol, we have  
20          public safety, we have street sweeping,  
21          dumping.

22          Little by little we're getting  
23          services from the Town. We have a good  
24          relationship, which we haven't had in  
25          years, and it's financially working out

1 to our benefit.

2 MR. PALMER: Thank you.

3 THE MAYOR: Anybody else have any  
4 questions or comments?

5 (No response.)

6 THE MAYOR: Every one is okay  
7 with a dollar a day on your tax  
8 increase? I'm coming to collect at  
9 everybody's house.

10 MR. PALMER: I'm sorry, one more  
11 question.

12 Regarding building permits and  
13 fees, are they increasing or have they  
14 been increasing every year or being  
15 held stable?

16 THE MAYOR: We've increased them  
17 slightly, nothing substantial, but one  
18 of the things we did put in, which was  
19 always a problem to me, in the past any  
20 time anybody did any construction on a  
21 Village road it was determined by the  
22 previous administration that we would  
23 not take a bond on that, we didn't have  
24 to protect the Village roads because  
25 they were Village roads.

1           However, five years ago or six  
2           years ago, the previous administration  
3           decided we need to take \$100,000 bond  
4           to repair our Village roads, so  
5           something about that didn't make sense  
6           to me.

7           So one of the things we did put  
8           into the building permit is a road  
9           usage fee. If you're going to take a,  
10          completely knock a house down and  
11          there's going to be construction  
12          equipment back and forth, that's a  
13          \$5,000 nonrefundable fee, you pay the  
14          Village \$5,000 to use our roads to  
15          build a house. That's a sliding fee.

16          So it starts at 500 square feet  
17          and it goes up accordingly to the  
18          highest amount, which is \$5,000.

19          We've collected in the last four  
20          months \$18,000 in fees from that part  
21          of it.

22          So that's when I say there's  
23          things we implemented, I don't know how  
24          many houses are going to get knocked  
25          down and built but we constantly have

1 construction in the Village. We always  
2 take bonds from the private association  
3 to protect their roads. If  
4 construction comes in and destroys the  
5 roads, Bay Hills or Bay Crest,  
6 whatever, we do have a bond to repair  
7 the roads.

8 We have also worked out  
9 agreements with the utility companies.  
10 For instance, this year National Grid  
11 is coming into Bay Hills, all the down  
12 Bay Drive East to Shore Road, going all  
13 the way down Hillside Court and also  
14 doing a very small part of valley  
15 they're putting all new mains in.

16 Those roads are going to be  
17 repaved edge to edge, they're going to  
18 be brand new roads. \$127,000 worth of  
19 road repair. Bay Hills carries \$20,000  
20 in their budget. This is five years of  
21 road repair they have don't have to pay  
22 for and any time someone from Suffolk  
23 County comes in, that takes away the  
24 expense of the Village to repair the  
25 roads.

1           With that being said, the last  
2           six years we have not used any single  
3           penny of taxpayer money to repair the  
4           roads. All road repairs come out of  
5           State funds. We have CHIPS account, we  
6           have the pothole account, Emergency  
7           Winter Recovery. We've managed to make  
8           all our repairs and get reimbursed for  
9           those projects. That's another number  
10          I think I carry a minimum number of  
11          \$10,000 or something for road repair  
12          but we haven't touched that in years.

13                 MR. PALMER: Last question.

14                 THE MAYOR: You sure?

15                 MR. PALMER: I promise.

16                 Any significant changes in the  
17          police contracts or retirement funds or  
18          staffing for the last year or two or  
19          three?

20                 THE MAYOR: Yes.

21                 MR. PALMER: Yes, we do love you,  
22          Chris.

23                 THE MAYOR: As I did mention over  
24          the last few years the police budget  
25          has been reduced by in excess of

1           \$125,000 and what did that take away,  
2           that took away coverage of our  
3           policemen. Those who lived here a long  
4           time know that in the summertime,  
5           Memorial Day to Labor Day, two officers  
6           are on duty at night. That was reduced  
7           to one.

8           I sat with Chris, I said, Chris,  
9           I can't give you \$126,000 but what do  
10          we have to do to make the minimum  
11          coverage of what we need? This is all  
12          his call, he makes the calls on the  
13          busy weekends when he knows the people  
14          have to be in there. We put in over a  
15          little over \$60,000 in but we will have  
16          two police officers on during the  
17          summer, eight hour shift every day,  
18          from Memorial Day to Labor Day and any  
19          other weekends we think might be  
20          questionable, he has the funding to put  
21          extra officers on.

22          Like I said, we can't take away  
23          from our police department, it's been  
24          depleted as far as it possibly can go.

25          What we need to do going forward

1 is get the police department back to  
2 where it should be to the residents and  
3 the same thing with our maintenance.

4 Those are three things I'm not  
5 going to skimp on, or take money away  
6 from, but we need revenue to fund those  
7 and we came up with a solution that  
8 seemed to work out and part of this  
9 increase is just to put these officers  
10 back on.

11 MR. PALMER: The follow-up.

12 When is the next contract  
13 negotiation?

14 THE MAYOR: Two years.

15 Any other questions? Comments?

16 (No response.)

17 THE MAYOR: Thank you all for  
18 coming, I appreciate your time. And  
19 we're going to be voting on this budget  
20 at the April 14th meeting.

21 The Trustees have all gotten it,  
22 the Trustees have been involved in  
23 this, we're sure this budget is going  
24 to get passed and hopefully this is the  
25 last hit we have to take going forward



1 and run this a little more efficiently  
2 and not look at these silly increases  
3 again.

4 MR. PALMER: Non-budget question.

5 I noticed there was some tree  
6 ordinance pending.

7 THE MAYOR: That will be at the  
8 public meeting at the April meeting,  
9 tree ordinance.

10 That will be on our Village  
11 website prior to the meeting and have a  
12 public hearing on that at the  
13 April 14th meeting.

14 TRUSTEE ANNA: Being new to this  
15 Board and working alongside Mark as our  
16 mayor, I want to commend you for your  
17 leadership and what you're doing here.  
18 What we see every day from you does not  
19 go unnoticed.

20 THE MAYOR: I appreciate it.

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.

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRISTINE FREYEISEN  
Court Reporter