

FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET HEARING
(5/1/2016 to 4/30/2017)
VILLAGE OF NILES
April 26, 2016
6:30 p.m.

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Village of Niles website www.vniles.com.

Pursuant to proper legal notice, the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Niles was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois.

President Andrew Przybylo called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were Trustees George D. Alpogianis, John C. Jekot, Joe LoVerde, Danette O'Donovan Matyas, Denise McCreery and Dean Strzelecki. Also present were Finance Director Scot Neukirch, Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio, Assistant Village Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos, Village Department Heads, and Village Clerk Marlene J. Victorine.

President Przybylo opened the meeting stating that this public hearing is statutorily required in order to receive formal public comments from the residents of Niles concerning the Fiscal Year 2017 proposed budget. Residents were also given the opportunity to make comments at each Finance Committee meeting where the budget was discussed and the Village Board's two budget workshops on March 14 and March 16, in an effort to make the process as open and as transparent as possible. As required by State statutes, the notice for this meeting was published in the April 14, 2016, edition of the Niles Bugle and the proposed budget document has been made available for inspection on the Village's website, at the front counter at Village Hall, and at the Niles Public Library.

President Przybylo asked for public comments from the floor.

Louella Preston, Niles

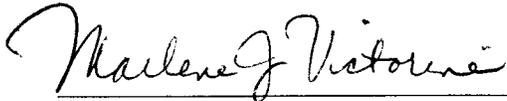
Ms. Preston commented on her concern that the budget, as proposed, is \$2.8 million short and that money will be taken from the reserves. She is also concerned about the new Gross Point Touhy TIF and President Przybylo's comments that residential property taxes will not be used to fund changes to the Niles Leaning Tower. She questioned expenses for the Leaning Tower and whether changes go under repairs. She stated that on page 240 of the budget document, there is a transfer from the Milwaukee Touhy TIF in 2016; and in the 2017 budget, over \$600,000 is budgeted for engineering, ornamental and structural repairs for the Leaning Tower. She disputes the idea that residential property taxes will not be used to fund the Niles Leaning Tower.

Rosemary Palicki, Niles

Ms. Palicki commented that the Board indicated at the March 16 Budget Workshop that they needed more time to consider an increase to the water rate. Since there was no third Budget Workshop she questioned how the water rate was decided in an open and transparent way.

Ms. Palicki is concerned about depleting the general fund year after year. She commented that if there are cuts being made in the budget, it is important to have them publicly discussed by the Board members so the public can understand the rationale and reasoning for approving the proposed budget. Before this proposed budget is brought to a vote, she would like it publicly explained how the proposed water rate was decided.

There being no further public comments, Trustee Jekot made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Matyas. On roll call, all concurred and the public hearing adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Village Clerk



Village President