

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst
PUBLIC HEARING
June 23, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The public hearing concerning the 2026 Tax Budget was formally called to order by Mayor Jones at 6:45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Scott Jones, Councilmember Michele Jeffers, Councilmember Robb Koscho, Councilmember Jeanne Maschari, Councilmember Becky Siesky, Councilmember Sangiacomo, Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke, Records Clerk Laurie Beran, Resident Jerry Smith.

PURPOSE

The Fiscal Officer provided a brief overview of the 2026 Tax Budget, which was developed following the budget meeting held in May. Key highlights include:

- **Police Department:**
 - \$4,000 allocated for body cameras, with an anticipated 5–10% local match.
 - \$40,000 budgeted toward the purchase of a new police cruiser to replace the 2011 Crown Victoria vehicles. While this amount will not cover the full cost, the remaining balance may be financed through a lease.
 - Final payment on the 2023 Ford Explorer is scheduled for completion this year.
- **Fire Department:**
 - Funding included for LED lighting upgrades on the tanker and the purchase of four new sets of turnout gear.
 - A Reserve Study was proposed to support long-term financial planning for the department. This study would help ensure adequate funding for future maintenance and replacement of critical assets.
- **Mayor's Budget (Line Item 1000-700):**
 - Allocations for newsletter distribution and codification of ordinances.
- **Infrastructure and Planning:**
 - A boundary survey for the Village is estimated at \$50,000, with an additional \$20,000 projected for engineering services.
 - \$2,500 allocated for drain cleaning at Evergreen Cemetery.
 - Funds have been reserved for a future waterline project.
- **Public Works:**
 - The Village Administrator requested \$10,000 for tree removal throughout the Village, excluding Main Street.
 - A new truck was requested due to the age and condition of the current pickup. The proposed vehicle would be used 25% by the Street Department and 75% by the Water Department. Budget allocations include \$10,000 for Street and \$30,000 for Water.

A question was raised regarding the impact of the proposed property tax bill, set to take effect in January, on the 2026 Budget. The Fiscal Officer responded that the budget will need to be revisited if the bill passes. While commissioners have always had the authority to withhold funds, the new legislation would mandate a maximum 30% carryover, reinforcing the need for stricter fiscal planning.

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Councilmember Maschari informed council that she received a call from Fire Chief Grimm who received a second estimate on the Fire Department floor. This company would be able to grind down the surface, then resurface for a cost approximately of \$12,000.00 versus the \$40,000.00 that was the original quote. If the project would be done this calendar year the funds would need to be reappropriated.

ADJOURNMENT 6:59 p.m.