

Youngstown trustees approve \$1.525 million budget

Budget reflects spending cuts, new grant funding

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Village of Youngstown provided a detailed review of its \$1,525,479.02 budget draft for 2024-25 Monday before a small crowd in the Red Brick Village Center boardroom.

"I'd like to publicly acknowledge the time that was put into this," Mayor Rob Reisman said. "We went back and extrapolated everything, took things apart and put it back together again. I know there was a ton of hours put into it. Hopefully, we'll get through it."

Reisman went on to note the assistance from trustees, and particularly Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky and Clerk-Treasurer Amy Beaudreau, for their work in preparing the plan.

Beaudreau continued with a further review of each account, line by line. By the numbers, under general ex-

penses, are the following: contingency, \$114,330.06; general government support, \$316,510.18; public safety, \$214,549; public health, \$2,614.04; transportation, \$251,556; economic assistance and opportunity, \$0; culture and recreation, \$157,304.81; home and community services, \$183,050; and employee benefits, \$285,564.93.

Broken down further are the following: \$17,989 under board of trustees, which shows \$5,656 each in salary to the three members, plus \$1,000 in expenses; \$15,549 for the office of mayor, which includes \$7,498 for Reisman's salary; \$6,151 for Stortecky; plus \$1,900 in related contractual expenses for the two.

By department, audit, \$8,000; clerk-treasurer, \$79,090.96; budget, \$100; assessment, \$2,050; deputy clerk treasurer, \$17,550; law, \$14,000; engineer, \$6,000; village election, \$2,000; Vil-

lage Center, \$50,250; garage (DPW), \$56,631.22; public safety, \$214,549, which includes police, \$80,230, and fire protection, \$124,419; public health, \$2,614.04; transportation (DPW and related expenses), \$251,556; economic assistance and opportunity, \$0; culture and recreation (which includes parks and playgrounds, south dock special recreation facility; youth program/teen center; the library, village celebrations and aging), \$157,304.81; home and community services (including such accounts as village zoning and planning, storm sewers; garbage/refuse services; tree maintenance and natural resources, north dock), \$183,050; and employee benefits (including state retirement, Social Security, workmen's compensation, unemployment and disability expenses, hospitalization and other expenses), \$285,564.93.

In the board's review of the plan, Trustee Kristel Stevens questioned a more than \$95,000 expense increase from 2023-24 in the contingency budget. "How did that figure come about?"

In response, Beaudreau explained the budget reflected spending input by new DPW Superintendent Greg Quarantillo.

"The superintendent had not done a budget before, so the draft was kind of a guess, and the second, which was presented tonight, was him in discussions with Rick and myself to have a realistic number," she said. "In that, we discovered that the expenses from last year (are) as realistic as the expenses from this year would be. So, that brought a lot of (department spending items) down."

Quarantillo said, "When I submitted my expense budget for this year, there were a few things that were 'wish list' items. We

pulled a lot of that out for this year, put that on the back burner for down the road."

Beaudreau said last year's contingency figure of \$5,900 was "grossly under budget" compared to the current \$114,330.06. "Our revenues have gone up from last year and our expenses have gone down."

Stortecky said, "We slashed a lot of expenses. Some of it was payroll, some of it was equipment, some things ... we moved. So, it was a combination of all those factors."

Reisman said the village was able to include a number of grant monies that factored into the budgeting process.

"They've done a good job," village resident Henry Sloma said in the limited resident's comment section that followed.

The "\$0 balance" budget went on to be approved by village trustees.

IN THE NEWS

NYSEG and RG&E to provide bill credit for all customers

Part of New York state's ongoing efforts to address energy affordability

√ One-time credit applied automatically

Avangrid Press Release

New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) will use funding from New York state to apply one-time bill credits for all electric and natural gas customers as part of the state's ongoing efforts to address energy affordability.

"We know the pressure of inflation affects every one of the more than 2 million customers our companies serve," said Christine Alexander, vice president of customer service for NYSEG and RG&E. "Support like

this from New York state can really help families maintain financial stability."

The bill credits will be applied automatically to an upcoming bill and will appear under the miscellaneous charges section on their bill as "NYS Energy Bill Credit." NYSEG electric customers will receive \$9.52 while gas

customers will receive \$15.66. For RG&E, \$18.40 will be applied to electric customers' bills, while \$11.26 will be credited for gas customers.

In addition to this credit, the companies offer a variety of programs to assist customers with their bills. Any residential customers experiencing difficulty

paying their utility bill should call customer service to inquire about assistance and options.

NYSEG and RG&E have payment plans and assistance available for those who qualify. Go

to nyseg.com/HelpWithBill or Help With Bill - RGE for more information about budget billing and assistance programs, or call us at 888-315-1755 (NYSEG) or 877-266-3492 (RG&E) for help.

Shop, Dine & be Entertained
close to home first!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES

 Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel
WNY PAPERS.COM

\$50⁰⁰ OFF ANY BICYCLE IN STOCK
\$10⁰⁰ OFF ANY BICYCLE TUNE-UP



Bike Accessories
Expert Repairs • Jamis Bikes
Tune-Ups • Service • Sales

716-282-3220
BEETON'S CYCLERY

1219 Main St. • Niagara Falls
beetonsbikes.com

 **HANDYMAN SERVICES**
716-799-9858
"Trust Earned"

 **Sue's Framing of Mind**
900 Center St. • 716-246-2142
(behind Lewiston Vision Center)
Hours: Wed-Fri. 10:30-5:30 • Sat. 10:30-3:00
Closed - Sun Mon Tues

Porter Empty Return Center
Bring in Those Cans & Bottles & Receive an Extra **15%** *Bring In Your Wine Bottles too!*
(5¢ each up to 20 per visit!)
Now thru April 30
3628 Ransomville Road (Next to Rite Aid), Ransomville • 716-791-1113
HOURS: MONDAY & SATURDAY 9AM TO 3:30PM / TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY 10AM TO 6PM

GUTTER TO GROUND HOME PROTECTION YEAR ROUND GUARANTEED!

 **Bugg Control, Inc.**

- BEES
- ANTS
- SPIDERS
- STINKBUGS AND MORE!

Act Now!
\$50 OFF YOUR FIRST TREATMENT

Visit us online at buggcontrol.com
Call us at (716) 773-BUGG (2844)

 **Mark's ISLAND TREE SERVICE**
Professional Service With A Smile! LLC

Tree trimming, removal, stump grinding, and firewood delivery,
24 hour emergency service, over 20 years in business

716-536-0686

DEA NATIONAL Rx TAKEBACK

Saturday, April 27th, 10am to 2pm

Bring your unused and unwanted medications for safe disposal.

NO questions asked. Just drive up and drop!

Go to wnycdc.org for more locations and information.

DeGraff Memorial Hospital
445 Tremont St.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Kenmore Mercy Hospital
2950 Elmwood Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217

Lockport Memorial Hospital
6001 Shimer Drive
Lockport, NY 14094

Sponsored by Tonawanda and North Tonawanda Police and Niagara County Sheriff's Office