

# Town of Porter to review \$5.684 million 2023 budget

## STAFF REPORTS

The Town of Porter announced will hold a public hearing on its \$5,684,540 tentative budget for 2023 at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, at Town Hall. By the numbers, the plan reflects a modest drop in overall spending from the town's adopted 2022 budget of \$5,770,583.42, according to town bookkeeper Kim Boyer.

Broken down, overall, the budget finds \$3,511,102 in spending in the under less estimated revenues line; \$414,395 in less unexpended balance, and \$1,759,043 to be raised by tax.

Categories include general fund A, which total \$1,381,959 in

spending. The numbers reflect \$467,176 under less estimated revenues; \$79,288 under less unexpended balance and \$835,495 to be raised by tax. The line shows a tax rate of \$2.0587 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

In the town's general fund B account, the budget shows \$1,026,061 in spending; \$1,014,450 under less estimated revenues, with \$11,611 under less unexpended balance, and \$0 to be raised by tax.

Highway Department numbers under the highway DA-townwide account show \$1,717 in appropriations; \$0 estimated revenues; \$1,717 in less unexpended bal-

ance, and \$0 to be raised by tax. On the highway DB-outside village line, the budget lists \$1,332,461 in appropriations; \$1,330,676 in less estimated revenues, and \$1,785 under less unexpended balance, for \$0 to be raised by tax.

Water Department spending finds \$502,054 in appropriations; \$402,800 in less estimated revenues; and \$99,254 in less expended balance, for \$0 to be raised by tax. Sewer Department numbers show \$512,960 in appropriations; \$296,000 in less estimated revenues; and \$216,960 in less unexpended balance, for \$0 to be raised by tax.

Other spending numbers of

note find \$9,000 under appropriations in the Ransomville light account, with \$9,000 to be raised by tax, and a tax rate of \$0.27253; \$400,000 on the appropriations line for the town's garbage refuse account with Modern Disposal, with \$400,000 to be raised by tax, and a tax rate of \$202.33 per unit for town property owners.

For fire services, the town lists \$261,000 in appropriations for Ransomville Volunteer Fire Co., with \$261,000 to be raised by tax or a tax rate of \$2.00223; \$192,778 for the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co., with \$3,780 under less expended balance spending, and \$188,998 to be raised by tax or a

tax rate of \$1.04414.

Remaining number lines include the Lakeshore Sewer Improvement, Area Phases I, II and III account, with \$52,425 under appropriations; \$52,425 to be raised by tax and a tax rate of \$250/50/5 per unit; and \$12,125 under appropriations, \$12,125 to be raised by tax and a tax rate of \$575/50 per unit.

The Town Board's regular monthly meeting will follow the budget session on Monday. Both sessions are open to the public. For more information, visit townofporter.net.

## North Tonawanda recognized by DEC as a Climate Smart Community

Mayor Austin Tylec announced North Tonawanda received a bronze certification as a Climate Smart Community through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

A press release noted, "Thanks to North Tonawanda's Climate Smart Task Force, initiated by Tylec in 2021, the commission supports efforts to meet the economic, social and environmental challenges posed by climate change."

Tylec said, "This is part of the city's commitment to take steps in our city that will help mitigate against the worst impacts of global climate change on a local level, while finding new ways for long-term energy savings."

The press release added, "To achieve Climate Smart Community certification, cities accumulate points for planning and actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve community re-

silience to the worsening impacts of climate change. These actions support the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and its goal of a zero-emission electricity sector by 2040, including 70% renewable energy generation by 2030.

"North Tonawanda's application was approved for 19 actions in eight categories for a total of 132 points. These actions include energy audits, adopting a 'Complete Streets' policy, green infrastructure initiatives, and shoreline restoration at the NT Botanical Gardens."

Tylec noted past initiatives are good for the environment and can reduce the city's expenses. For example, an energy audit of municipal buildings resulted in a competitive energy-efficiency agreement that has saved more than \$250,000 in electricity costs over the past 30 months.

Tylec's team said, "The North

Tonawanda's Climate Smart Communities Task Force empowers the city to address impacts of climate change through education, community building, and measurable actions. The task force creates subcommittees to research opportunities and collaborates with other groups. The CSC task force plays a leadership role in advocating for these types of projects and identifying funding sources, as well as partnering with experts to assist with implementation.

"Bronze certification opens additional funding for the city. One source is DEC's Climate Smart Communities Grant program, which supports municipalities by providing grant funding to help complete certification actions and implement projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to extreme weather."

Task force member Deborah

Gondek said, "We're not stopping at bronze. North Tonawanda's Climate Smart Communities Task Force is proactively working on new projects that will elevate our city to silver certification status. We're focused on water source protection, expanding renewable energy options for residents, and completing a climate vulnerability assessment as input for our city's comprehensive plan."

To further the city's efforts, North Tonawanda has partnered with the University at Buffalo to complete the assessment. Student's enrolled in the fall semester of UB School of Architecture and Planning's environmental design workshop will be exploring climate adaptation planning, community engagement techniques, and climate-based design solutions specific to the City of North Tonawanda.

Tylec said, "This partnership is a fantastic opportunity for both

the students and our city as we will be moving forward with updating our citywide comprehensive plan (last done in 2008), as well as our Local Waterfront Revitalization Program – two critical documents to guide and develop our city and waterfront for years to come."

To learn more about North Tonawanda's climate smart task force and actions, visit [www.northtonawanda.org/climate-smart-task-force](http://www.northtonawanda.org/climate-smart-task-force).

The first step to becoming a Climate Smart Community is to register by pledging to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, which North Tonawanda did in 2021. To date, 364 local governments representing more than 9.4 million New Yorkers adopted the Climate Smart Communities pledge.

## Kevin Bittner elected Niagara County Farm Bureau president

Niagara County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting at the Farm and Home Center, focusing on "the grassroots foundation of the organization." In reviewing the past year, President Jeannette Miller recapped events chronologically. She talked about the lobbying efforts, the corn booth at the county fair, Ag Literacy month, and other efforts to influence

the political issues.

District 2 State Board Director Pat McCormick spoke about the state efforts.

A press release said, "Although the Wage Board recommendations did not go the way the members hoped, he encouraged those present to keep up the efforts to explain the issue to Gov. Hochul. He focused on the success of the Taste NY event in

Queens. Many political and business leaders attended this educational event. There is another event planned and he encouraged county leaders to participate in the next event. In addition, there are new programs to encourage membership in the state organization."

The evening concluded with officer elections. Those elected are President Kevin Bittner,

Vice President Mark Russell, and board members Cassidy Voelpel, Jeannette Miller, Kelly Raby, Trevor Ganshaw and Max Russell.

When asked about his plans for the coming year, Bittner stated, "My goal is that Farm Bureau will represent all farms – large and small. Anyone who wishes to become a member, please contact any current mem-

ber for an application. Any member who wishes to get involved in our policy development or events, please contact me or any board member."

For more information about Niagara County Farm Bureau, its projects or events, email [info@niagaracountyfarmbureau.com](mailto:info@niagaracountyfarmbureau.com) or call 716-735-7791.

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**HIGHLIGHTS:** 2-Excavators: 2009 Cat 345DL, Komatsu PC55MR-3, 3-Crawler Tractors: 2008 Cat D6TLGP, 2007 Cat D6N, Dresser TD8H, 4-Backhoes: (2)2011 NH B95B(4x4), NH 555E(4x4), NH LB75.B(4x4), Tracked Skid Steer: 2019 Kubota SVL65, Skid Steer: 2014 NH L223, Mini Track Loader: 2016 Toro TX1000N, Rough Terrain Forklift: Sellick SD-60, Tele. Forklift: 2014 JCB 507-42(4x4), 2-Boom Lifts: JLG 800AJ, Terex TB44, Scissor Lift: Genie GS-1930, Generator: Cat XQ-60, 2-Arrow/Message Brds.: 2011-2010 Wanco, Portable Traffic Signal: 2012 IntelliStrobe W1-AG, Sewer Rodder: GTI(trailer mounted), 3-Wood Chippers: 2011 Bandit 200XP, Bandit 250XP, Salsco 813, Stump Grinder: 2016 Vermeer SG30TX, Comm. Mower: Jacobsen LF-2500, 3-Tractor Loaders: NH TC55DA(4x4), Case JX60(4x4), Ford 345C, 4-Utility Tractors: 2013 Kubota M108S(4x4), NH TB100, NH 6635, Ford 2N, Cultivator: Krause 4200HR, Disc Harrow: Unverferth Rolling(1/4), Grain Drill: IH 10ft. Pull Type, Square Baler: IH 47, Sweeper: Tennant, 2-Truck Tractors: 2013 Kenworth T660(1/4), 2009 Volvo VNL, 5-Tagalongs: (5)New 2022 Delta 20ft.(tilt), Reeler Trailer: 2008 Great Dane, 2-Van Trailers: 1989 Freuhauf(1/4), 1988 Great Dane(1/4), 5-Service Bodies: (3)New Duramag 11ft., (2)New Duramag 8ft., 2-Multi-Use Containers: (2)New 40ft. High Cube, 3-Containers: New 12ft., 9ft. & 8ft.(w/1 door & 1 window), 14-New Storage Bldgs.: (2)Golden Mount 40ft.x80ft.x20ft., (2)Golden Mount 30ft.x85ft.x15ft., Golden Mount 30ft.x65ft.x15ft., (3)Golden Mount 20ft.x30ft.x12ft., (2)Golden Mount 40ft.x40ft., (2)Golden Mount 40ft.x20ft., (2)Golden Mount 20ft.x20ft., 3-Portable Bathrooms: (2)New Bastone 110v Portable Toilets w/Shower, New Bastone 110v Portable Toilet w/Double Stall, 14-Snow Equip.: New 168in. HD Snow Pusher, New 144in. HD Snow Pusher, (10)New 8ft. Snow Pusher, (2)New 6ft. Snow Pusher, 4-Scrap Hoppers: (4)New Greatbear 1-yd. Self Dumping, 4-Pressure Washers: (4) Easy Klean, Heating Equip.: Mac 800K BTU, 15-Pallets of Stone, 57-Attachments: (55)Skid Steer, 101-New Support.

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