

From: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Date: March 21, 2020 at 6:40:07 PM EDT
To: Nicholas Thompson <nthompson272@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Emergency budget meeting

Dear Nicholas,

Thank you for your email.

The Village is engaged in an ongoing assessment of the current and coming fiscal year budgets. The Board meeting on Tuesday will include the calling of a public hearing on the fiscal 2020-21 budget at the next meeting of the Board on April 14th.

In the meantime, the Village Manager and I have directed the Village Treasurer to review the current and coming fiscal year budgets. The preliminary review of the current fiscal year indicates that we do not expect a fiscal deficit in the current fiscal year. We had been running at a surplus through the first nine months of the fiscal year as a result of the new County sales tax that is applicable to the Village and the relatively snowless winter. The projected budget surplus is now expected to be reduced materially, but, importantly, we do not expect a deficit at this time.

With respect to the coming fiscal year, the Treasurer has reallocated certain items to create a COVID-19 reserve fund. The Village Board plans to discuss incorporating these relatively minor initial changes into the 20-21 budget. The Village Board expects to have work sessions on the 20-21 budget over the coming weeks and months to adjust the budget as more information becomes available as to the medium and longer-term budget impacts of COVID-19. In the meantime, the Village Manager immediately instructed Department Heads to cut unnecessary spending to adjust to the clear shorter-term impacts of COVID-19.

The Village Board is committed to actively managing the Village budget through these rapidly changing times. The Village is also working closely with merchants and landlords in the Village Center and, in fact, there is a virtual meeting scheduled for Wednesday morning with Village Center tenants, the primary landlord and the Village to address how we can all work together to protect our Village Center.

With respect to tax payments, there are New York State regulations that dictate when the Village must collect real estate taxes and the attendant penalties that accrue to those who do not make such payments. Only an act of the Governor or the State legislature can change the regulations that the Village follows.

The Village and Village Board are always focused on the Village budget and it has never been more important to be vigilant as it is today. The public is always welcome to provide its comments at budget hearings and that will be the case for the April 14th public budget hearing. If the public hearing will be held remotely (which is likely), there will be a way for the public to participate and that method of participation will be publicly announced in advance of the public hearing.

Thank you for your email, Nicholas, and please know that the Village Board is fully engaged in maintaining a responsible budget during this turbulent time.

Best regards,

Marc

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 21, 2020, at 5:57 PM, Nicholas Thompson <nthompson272@gmail.com> wrote:

CAUTION: External sender.

Dear Mayor Samwick,

There needs to be a budget meeting where people can ask questions and get updates on how our local economy is fairing in these awful economic times. The fact that it is not even an idea on the table is absolutely insane.

There also needs to be a long term strategy drawn up since this downturn might last a while.

Also what can the village do to help businesses and residents right now?

Suspend Parking fees?

Be lenient on village taxes/payments?

Sincerely,

Nicholas K. Thompson