

Village of Nelsonville

Budget Hearing

April 15, 2026

Budget Hearing

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Winward; Trustees Anderson, Moroney, Potts, and Zhynovitch; Clerk Harris

Mayor Winward opened the hearing with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Winward provided an overview of the proposed 2026/2027 budget, and highlighted the following:

Total proposed expenditures are \$392,500, representing a balanced and responsible budget. The proposed tax levy reflects the maximum increase below the tax cap of 3.14%, equating to approximately \$10,000 over the current year. The most significant structural change on the revenue side is the addition of a guaranteed \$50,000 annual county sales tax share, which is earmarked exclusively for infrastructure and capital-related projects. Mayor Winward noted that while this amount is included in the total revenue figure, the budget has been balanced without reliance on those earmarked funds.

Mayor Winward also announced that the Village received a fiscal stress score of zero from the New York State Comptroller's Office for fiscal year 2024/2025, the lowest and best possible score. The designation reflects the Village's stable financial condition, healthy reserves, balanced operations, and absence of fiscal instability indicators.

2026/2027 Budget Highlights

Changes from the tentative budget affect six lines. Key items of note include:

Elected Official Salaries: For the first time in nine years, Mayor Winward is recommending a 10% salary increase for the four trustees, the village justice, and the mayor, totaling \$1,860 across all six positions. She also recognized Deputy Mayor Moroney for his extraordinary service, noting that most municipalities provide an additional stipend for the deputy position. The proposed salaries are:

- Mayor \$4,950
- Trustees (4) \$2,915

- Village Justice \$3,850

Legal Fees: The legal line and contingency are combined for a total of \$25,000, reflecting continued utilization of the Village's attorneys.

Supplies: The supplies budget has been increased slightly to ensure adequate funding given rising costs.

Insurance: Pegged at \$30,000 based on the broker's projection of up to a 13% increase, driven by the Village's claims lookback period.

Fire Protection: The Cold Spring Fire Department contract increases 5%, from \$40,000 to \$42,000. Hydrant charges have also increased significantly as part of dam improvement cost-sharing.

Street Maintenance and Snow Removal: With a full year of data from the transition to the Town of Philipstown and Flagler Landscaping, the Village is budgeting \$17,000 for snow removal based on this year's elevated experience, and has reduced the street maintenance contractual line accordingly. Street lighting reflects savings from the LED conversion, averaging approximately \$1,100/month versus \$1,400/month previously.

Refuse Removal: The contract with Royal enters its third and final year at \$78,000, after which it will go back out to bid.

Trees: Reduced from \$5,000 to \$4,000, reflecting improved conditions after two unusually heavy years.

Total proposed appropriations are \$392,497, a 3.41% increase. Total projected revenues, excluding the earmarked \$50,000 county sales tax share, are \$392,606.

Open to the Floor

Mayor Winward opened the floor to public comment. A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the cable franchise fee and whether the Village is part of the ongoing renewal process with Optimum/Philipstown. Mayor Winward indicated the Village has not been engaged in that process and committed to following up. No further public comments were offered.

A motion to close the budget hearing was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Moroney, carried all in favor, and the hearing was closed.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Harris
Village Clerk