

**THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON MONDAY MORNING MAY 8, 2006**

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone answered the Roll Call.

Mayor Calderone called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. and explained that the purpose of the meeting was for reviewing the proposed fiscal year 2007 budget.

Mike Sturino thanked Judy Kovacs, Commissioner Gillian and the Finance Committee for all their hard work and dedication. The questions and answers on the proposed budget were done in sections.

**REVENUE**

Commissioner Hosty asked whether the Triennial increase was accounted for in the revenue projections and Mike Sturino stated that the increase was included.

Commissioner Doolin asked what would be considered the ideal or adequate reserve fund. Mike Sturino stated that the ideal would be a 6 month reserve. Commissioner Doolin asked what the current reserve is and Mr. Sturino stated that we currently have about 2 months in reserve.

Commissioner Gillian asked whether the revenue projections are more conservative than normal. Mike Sturino stated that the projections are not more conservative than normal except for permit fees because they were higher than anticipated. Mr. Sturino added that sales tax is unknown and further stated that if revenues increase, than the reserve will increase.

Commissioner Steinbach stated that utility & franchise taxes are expected to increase to \$6,200 from \$895 and asked why the large increase. Judy Kovacs explained that the FY 06 figure is lower because the 2006 revenue was posted in FY 05 in error. Judy added that the same scenario exists with regard to taxicab licenses.

Commissioner Doolin asked why the permit fees fell short last year. Commissioner Hosty stated that the Roos Project was anticipated to go forward and did not.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Commissioner Steinbach stated that the projection for legal services is less than the actual for FY06. She asked whether the decrease is optimistic or realistic. Mayor Calderone stated both – the hearing with the Police & Fire Commission is expected to be completed soon.

Commissioner Doolin asked whether we can restructure legal fees. Currently we pay hourly and he felt it would be preferable to renegotiate for flat rates. Mayor Calderone stated that we can discuss that with the attorney.

Commissioner Steinbach stated that with regard to the lobbyist we already have WCMC and asked whether it is necessary to go over and above that. Mayor Calderone stated that the WCMC lobbyist

is used for global matters that affect all 35 municipalities in the conference. Communities have issues that only affect that municipality specifically for example the Military Base closure. Most villages have a lobbyist on retainer. The projection is not an automatic commitment to spend the funds, however we need some flexibility. Last year Mr. Kubic resigned and was not replaced. Those funds were used elsewhere.

## **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

No comments or questions

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Gillian stated that salaries and benefits are a majority of the department's costs and asked what was projected for pay increases. Mr. Sturino stated that the Village is still in the process of collective bargaining and added that an appropriate amount has been budgeted for retroactive pay and for this year's increase. Commissioner Gillian asked what the plan is for when the contract is settled. Judy Kovacs replied that we have accrued for the retro pay in 05 and 06.

Commissioner Steinbach expressed concern that the overtime budget is not large enough with a 10% decrease. Mr. Sturino stated that, in general, we try not to budget more than 10% in overtime. Chief Ryan stated that last year we had some special circumstances because we were short 2 officers in addition to raising our hiring standards. Commissioner Steinbach stated that overtime will still be incurred when the new hires are in the police academy. Chief Ryan confirmed that statement to be true unless we hire experienced officers. Mr. Sturino stated that he is confident that the Police will stay in line and keep track of the overtime. Commissioner Doolin asked for the details of the higher hiring standards. Chief Ryan stated that we are conducting more thorough interviews.

## **COMMUNITY CENTER**

Mike Sturino stated that Community Center Director, Beverly Thompson, had some fantastic ideas. Beverly stated that the following programs are budgeted for the next year:

- Groovin in the Grove – all 3 bands have been booked
- A summer outdoor movie will be held at the park at 16<sup>th</sup> and Circle in order to bring an event to the south side of town.
- A summer Rib Fest is in the planning stages
- A winter chili cook off is also in the planning stages
- A babysitting drop-off is planned for 2 Saturdays in December for parent shopping at a nominal fee. An idea is to give free babysitting if receipts from Forest Park stores are submitted.
- Easter Eggstravaganza
- Wednesday after school recreation center
- Bicycle Rodeo involving the Police Department
- Halloween Party with a spook house
- Ice Skating Party

Commissioner Steinbach asked whether the revenue offsets the expenses for daycare and senior services. Beverly stated that the daycare revenue exceeds expenses and the senior services are breakeven.

Commissioner Gillian asked whether the Village of Forest Park through the Community Center provides necessary transportation or are there shortfalls. Beverly stated that most transportation

needs are met. Maybe hours could be extended. Currently the hours are 7:30 to 3:30; however senior hours stop at 2:00-2:30 in the summer. The Community Center cars are used as a backup for the busses.

## **CLERK/FINANCE**

No comments or questions

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mike Sturino stated that we are anticipating a fire truck purchase through installments for delivery in the next fiscal year

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Mike Sturino stated that revenue is expected to be down 8.1% from FY 06 to FY 07; however a major development could bring that up.

Commissioner Steinbach stated that some fees are billed back to the developer and wondered if that is in the revenue side. Judy Kovacs stated that the cost line item shows the net cost for our own fees that are not billable to outside parties.

Commissioner Doolin asked whether the Building Department is moving to 501 DesPlaines. Commissioner Hosty stated that is the plan.

Commissioner Doolin asked whether it would make more sense to hire a planning person rather than using a consultant. Commissioner Hosty stated that is a long term goal for the department. Mike Boyle added that he is trying to transition some of the routine plan review to our staff.

## **PUBLIC WORKS - STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS**

No comments or questions

## **PUBLIC WORKS – PUBLIC PROPERTY**

Commissioner Hosty asked whether the electricity deregulation of January 1, 2007 has been considered in the budget figures. Mike Sturino explained that we are anticipating an increase and that our utility consultants, who work for a portion of the savings realized, stated that they cannot give us an estimate for the increase.

Commissioner Doolin asked whether the gasoline pass card system provided any positive information. Mike Sturino stated that the key system has had a positive effect.

## **WATER**

Mr. Sturino stated that the new water rates will have a positive effect on the water fund. The Brookfield North Riverside Water Commission has come back with a proposal to continue purchasing water from the Village of Forest Park. There are no major changes anticipated. Mr. Sturino further stated that there is a concern with the viability of the computer for the SKADA system. The \$200,000 budgeted is for a complete replacement. Other options may be to replace certain components or to finance the project. The budgeted amount is a worst case scenario.

## **PARKING**

Commissioner Steinbach asked why the tickets and fines are reduced so much. Judy Kovacs replied that it is a functional accounting change. In the past, we transferred 25% of the ticket revenue to the parking fund. This year we are putting approximately 10% and adding parking permit revenue.

## **VEHICLES**

Mike Sturino explained that this year we have instituted a new vehicle replacement program/system. The replacements will come through policy initiative versus requests for vehicles. Commissioner Doolin asked whether 1 new squad car is enough for the police department. Mr. Sturino stated that they will actually receive three new squads because two will be replaced due to major accidents.

Commissioner Hosty asked whether the F-150 pickup is smaller than the vehicle used now. Chief Ryan stated that the F-150 was recommended by fleet mechanic, George Prescott, and that it should be smaller. Commissioner Hosty asked whether it will be used for hauling. Mike Sturino stated that the department wants to beef up booting vehicles. This request can be reviewed. Mayor Calderone stated that Lagrange is using 3-wheel Cushman vehicles. Oak Park uses Trackers and 4-door for escorts for parking enforcement.

Commissioner Steinbach asked whether hybrid vehicles have been considered. Commissioner Hosty suggested looking at a global picture including size, gasoline use, etc. Mike Sturino stated that he would respond with a memo. Commissioner Gillian suggested leaving the dollar amount in the budget and reconsidering the type of vehicle.

**SALARIES** - To be discussed in closed session tonight.

## **CONCLUSION**

Mike Sturino thanked the Council and the Department Heads for their efforts and asked the Council whether we need to schedule more meetings or whether the budget can be brought before them for approval. Commissioner Hosty stated that he was satisfied. Mayor Calderone suggested that staff work to do a presentation at the next meeting. Any questions can be addressed going forward. Mayor Calderone further complimented the entire team and added that the process continues to get better every year. This is one of the best as far as information is concerned.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Gillian motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hosty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Calderone declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Moritz  
**Village Clerk**