

**THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 28, 2008**

Mayor Calderone called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Hoskins, Curry, Hosty, Tellalian and Mayor Calderone answered the Roll Call. Also in attendance were Village Administrator, Michael J. Sturino, Village Clerk, Vanessa Moritz, Finance Director, Judy Kovacs, Police Chief, James Ryan, Fire Chief, Steve Glinke, Health and Safety Director, Michael Boyle, Public Works Director, Bob Kutak, Community Center Director, Beverly Thompson, and IT consultant, Brad Gordon.

Mayor Calderone stated that the purpose of the meeting was for holding a budget workshop. Mr. Sturino gave an overview power point presentation and stated that the strategy was to hold the line on expenses and to use conservative revenue projections to present a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2008/2009. It was discussed that the auditor recommended 3 months expenses (\$6 million) be in reserve accounts and the Village currently has 1.5 months expenses in reserve (\$3 million). Staff was requested to obtain data on other villages' reserve situations.

Public Affairs/Administrator:

It was discussed that significant upgrades to the Springbrook finance software and extensive training are included in the IT budget. Mayor Calderone requested copies of the maintenance contracts that make up the \$21,000.00 in computer maintenance contracts.

Police Department:

Mayor Calderone asked the other elected officials to consider adding one more full-time officer to be used as a Crime-Free Multi-Housing and Crime Prevention officer to address quality of life issues in the Village. This officer would educate landlords on how to screen tenants as well as how to evict tenants for crime related activities in their buildings.

The \$31,600 reduction in requested part-time police officer wages was questioned. Chief Ryan will perform an analysis of staffing scenarios. It was discussed that the Village should receive free towing for seized vehicles and squad cars. The \$26,000 purchase of motorcycles was challenged and the possibility of leasing/financing versus purchasing was discussed.

Community Center:

It was discussed that rather than replacing both station wagons and purchasing a van, one wagon will be replaced and a van purchased. Staff will research the cost of leasing or financing rather than purchasing these vehicles. Staff will also report back to the elected officials on the insurance costs of each of the village-owned vehicles in our current fleet.

Accounts and Finance:

Request for liability insurance was decreased by \$100,000 attributable to deductible costs of current lawsuits. It was discussed that health insurance increased by only 4.3%. The police pension fund amount has increased due to the duty disability pensions of 2 relatively young officers recently.

Fire Department:

No adjustments were made from the original budget requests made by the department. The net revenue from the Hines contract should be approximately \$324,000.00. It was discussed that the retirement payouts included in the budget are contractual.

Health and Safety:

Request for printing was reduced by \$1,000. The department is requesting at least \$500 more for public education brochure printing. The zoning consultant request has gone down \$20,000.00 and it was discussed that we would like to see a further reduction in those costs with more of the work done in-house.

Streets:

It was discussed that the salt budget is based upon 1,500 tons of salt at \$40.37 per ton. Replacement of the 8 ton 1997 Ford truck is included at \$95,000.00.

Public Property:

It was noted that the maintenance budget has been itemized this year. Last year we had a large unbudgeted expense for routing lines to the new generator at Village Hall. It was discussed that the \$100,000.00 requested for 1000 Beloit and 501 Desplaines was eliminated because there has been no direction from the Village Council. The costs for the men's basketball league were eliminated because many of the participants are non-residents. A coordinated effort will be made between the Community Education Board, the School District, the Park District and the Village in September. The gas request will be adjusted to reflect the current price per gallon. It was decided to eliminate the window replacements in the Police Department at \$15,000.00 as well as the remodeling of the Health and Safety Department at \$35,000.00. It was further discussed that a greater amount of salaries will be allocated from the general fund to the enterprise funds as warranted.

Conclusion:

The following adjustments will be made and another workshop will be scheduled to discuss the outcome of these adjustments and others.

Added expenses:

\$ 76,570	Full-time police officer
31,600	Part-time police officer wages
500	Printing for Health & Safety Department

Removed expenses:

\$ 26,140	Motorcycle purchase for Police
20,000	Finance Community Center Van vs. purchase
35,000	Health & Safety Department remodeling
15,000	Police Department window replacement
1,000	Telephone for Village Hall elevator

Net Change is \$1,530.00.

It was discussed that the Village Council may consider allowing the appropriation ordinance to be more than the budget; however the budget would be the working document that the staff would use for guidance.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Calderone declared the meeting adjourned at 10:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Moritz
Village Clerk