

**THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, JULY 10, 2023, 5:00 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Maxham, Nero, Melin-Rogovin, Voogd and Mayor Hoskins answered the Roll Call at 5:05 p.m. Mayor Hoskins announced that regular rules of order are suspended. Also in attendance were Village Administrator, Moses Amidei, Finance Director, Tish Olmsted, Police Chief, Ken Gross, Public Works Director, Sal Stella, Health and Safety Director, Steve Glinke, Community Center Director, Karen Dylewski, Fire Chief, Phil Chiappetta and Village Clerk, Vanessa Moritz.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The group discussed the following:

- FY23 showed an overall gain of \$5,070,000. The general fund showed a gain of \$167,530, resulting from operating transfers from the Water, VIP and Motor Fuel Tax funds.
- 2024 revenue is proposed with a 21% increase, an additional \$4,213,600, primarily from grant opportunities.
- New sources of revenue discussed were places of eating tax, video gaming, and cannabis dispensary tax. Discussion was held on creating a Special Service Area (SSA) as a means to impose a real estate transfer tax, and the possibilities of Home Rule. Staff was directed to research pros and cons of adopting Home Rule and the idea of using a consultant. Staff is also to review current rates as many have not been restructured for several years. Many revenue categories are declining such as cable franchise tax, excise tax, and fines.
- There was discussion on public safety pension funding, the lack of General fund reserves, and reviewing current practices to reduce expenses. The Village-owned lot at the CTA was discussed as a possible asset for potential uses as neither ridership nor revenue has returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- For 2024, Departments are budgeted with full staffing and retirement potential. The expired union contract is budgeted at a 3.25% wage increase, similar to Police and Fire.
  
- 2024 budget draft is proposed with a primary government deficit of \$11,052,395. The General fund is proposed with a loss of \$2,944,022.

#### Public Affairs:

- It was discussed that elected officials would like a report from the lobbyist before a new contract is considered.

#### Police Department:

- There were no comments or changes regarding Police Departments

#### Community Center:

- There were no comments or changes regarding Community Center.

#### Clerk's Office:

- There was discussion about whether the village could realize premium savings on the health plans if a wellness program was adopted. Staff will research.

#### Fire Department:

- There was discussion about adding a fourth Lieutenant or additional Deputy Chief who would serve as EMS Coordinator and follow up on ambulance transports that are unbillable. In addition, this DC or Lt. would be able to complete more required building inspections that are currently not being performed. The person filling the proposed role would be required to hold a paramedic license and the department would also have to be at full staffing in order to fill this position.
- The department Air Packs have a life expectancy of 10-15 years. The equipment is currently at 10 years and there is money budgeted for parts this year. Grant opportunities are being researched as the previous application for \$270,000 was denied.

#### Department of Public Health and Safety:

- There was discussion about the need for a new software system for building permits and the possibility of updating the village's Comprehensive Plan.

#### Streets Department:

- There was discussion about the possibility of phasing out leaf pickup from the streets by village staff as this is already contracted through the waste hauler in the alley. This could potentially save \$60-65,000.00.

#### Public Property:

- There was discussion that the fleet fund cannot purchase all vehicles requested, so the purchases may be supplemented by MFT funds.
- The building evaluation is in progress and should be distributed by August. Draft ARPA expenses were emailed to the elected officials and there is money allocated for some of the needed expenses.
- The village's AEDs are expired and have been ordered. These are included in the ARPA expenses as well.

#### Water Fund:

- There are several infrastructure projects projected to be paid through the water fund.
- Staff is working with a consultant on water meter replacements. The water meters are over 20 years old. There was discussion about a replacement program as the older meters are inaccurate and we are not recovering all of the consumption going through the old meters.

TIF Districts:

- It was discussed that the Brown Street TIF is expiring and the village is working on creating a new district where the leftover funds will be transferred and used.

VIP Fund:

- There were not comments or changes to this fund.

Police Vehicle Replacement Fund:

- It was discussed that the revenue source for this fund is from court fees, a portion of police towing fees and sales of police vehicles.
- Two of the requested Chevy Tahoe vehicles are planned to be paid for through this fund.

Fleet Fund:

- It was discussed that the revenue source for this fund is from the \$0.02 per gallon tax.
- There were no comments or changes to this fund.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Nero moved and Commissioner Maxham seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hoskins declared the meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Moritz  
Village Clerk