

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WHEELING
BOARD ROOM - 2 COMMUNITY BOULEVARD
COOK and LAKE COUNTIES, WHEELING, IL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019

1. Call to Order

President Horcher called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Horcher

3. Roll Call

Village Clerk Elaine E. Simpson called the roll and the following Board members were present:

Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

4. Citizen Concerns and Comments

Rich Rosen commented on property taxes, and invited everyone to a fund-raiser in honor of former Village President Judy Abruscato, on November 5 at Chevy Chase Country Club.

Deborah Wilson spoke about items in the proposed budget, suppliers that the Village uses for purchasing, and the location of the July 15, 2019, meeting.

5. New Business - All Listed Items for Discussion and Possible Action

A. DISCUSSION RE: FY 2020 Proposed Budget

Village Manager Jon Sfondilis acknowledged and thanked the staff that prepared the budget, Department heads, and all Village employees. Manager Sfondilis thanked the Board for their continued leadership and consistency, and noted that this is the fifth consecutive year that we are presenting a balanced budget to the Board.

Manager Sfondilis noted that in the last year some restaurants have closed, and some have opened, and stated that we're staying afloat, but are not really seeing growth in sales tax revenue which is a challenge. Manager Sfondilis said that 2020 looks to be an exciting year and that there will be a number of opportunities that can positively impact our bottom line such as the Leveling the Playing Field Act (which forces tax to be collected on internet sales), revenue from cannabis (should a dispensary open in Wheeling), and the consolidation of public safety pensions.

Manager Sfondilis noted that this is the seventh year utilizing the liaison program and it is working well. The program partners elected officials with department heads to review line items in their budget.

Manager Sfondilis summarized the order of business for the meeting noting that expanded level sheets (aka pink sheets) will be discussed at the end and will include two additional sheets. There is a 2020 meeting schedule for Board discussion and review, and finally there will be a discussion about Fire Department personnel staffing.

Manager Sfondilis asked if there were any questions from the Board about the Operating Budget; there were no questions from the Board.

Director Mondschain expressed his appreciation to all the departments present, recognized his staff for their hard work in putting the budget together, and thanked the Board for their dedication to the Village.

Director Mondschain highlighted portions of the FY 2020 budget, and answered questions from the Board related to increasing of the tax levy, property taxes, sales taxes, and TIF districts.

BREAK

President Horcher asked for a Motion to recess for a break.

Motion by Mary Krueger, second by Jim Ruffatto.

Motion carried by Voice Vote, the meeting recessed at 10:05 a.m.

[RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION]

President Horcher asked for a Motion to reconvene into open session.

Motion by Mary Krueger, second by Mary Papantos.

Motion carried by Voice Vote, the meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

Director Mondschain stated that the General Fund Forecast numbers for the next five (5) years are conservative, and are dependent on how much revenue the Village will get from the Town Center businesses, the Level the Playing Field Act, and cannabis revenue, which are all difficult to predict at this point. Property tax increases will be necessary to avoid deficits in the future.

Trustee Krueger asked how sales tax from the Level the Playing Field Act will be collected for the 42 Wheeling residents with an Arlington Heights zip code. Director Mondschain stated that he will look into it.

Director Mondschain reviewed the Pension Funding Status slide in detail, stated that Wheeling is at the average, and answered questions from the Board.

EXPANDED LEVEL SHEETS

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the budget sheets - white pages have his signature and are his recommendation only, they do not become part of the budget until the Board agrees. Pink sheets do not have his signature, which does not mean they are necessarily bad ideas, but a few that are simply a policy decision that should receive Board direction.

VILLAGE MARKETING - XFINITY TV ADVERTISING

Manager Sfondilis introduced the item. Economic Development Director John Melaniphy answered questions from the Board; discussion continued on this subject. Trustee Krueger asked Director Melaniphy to look into developing a program at Wheeling High School for this project.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on leaving this item in the budget.

Final Resolution: Consensus FAILED

Yes:

No: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

VILLAGE MARKETING - COMMUNITY INTRO VIDEO

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on leaving this item in the budget.

Final Resolution: Consensus FAILED

Yes:

No: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

BUILDING INSPECTOR STAFF - FULL-TIME INSPECTOR

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the details of this budget item and answered questions from the Board. Community Development Director Andrew Jennings answered questions from the Board.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on leaving this item in the budget.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

No:

4 SOLAR POWERED ELECTRONIC SPEED DISPLAYS

Manager Sfondilis introduced the item and stated that the Village can obtain four (4) speed displays for \$15,000. Chief Dunne added that these displays remind drivers what speed they are traveling, and answered questions from the Board. Discussion ensued related to locations, battery life, and how the displays will be attached.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

No:

ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTS INSTALLATION/REMOVAL (PD/FD#42)

Manager Sfondilis outlined the budget item and answered questions from the Board. Director Jennings and Public Works Director Mark Janeck answered questions from the Board.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on approving this budget item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Jim Ruffatto, Dave Vogel

No: Mary Papantos, Joe Vito

ADDITIONAL SHEETS

WEEKLY ADVERTISING - JOURNAL & TOPICS

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the narrative for this item. Manager Sfondilis and Director Melaniphy answered questions from the Board.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on asking for more research on this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

Yes: Pat Horcher, Mary Krueger, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

No: Ray Lang

SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS FOR BOARD ROOM

Manager Sfondilis described the request, noted that some security measures have already been put in place in some Village buildings, and answered questions from the Board. Board discussion followed related to metal detectors, and additional security measures in all Village public buildings. Trustee Lang stated that he would be in favor of additional door security. Manager Sfondilis stated that this subject has come up because this is now touching municipalities; however, there is no imminent threat.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on approving safety enhancements (installation of ballistic materials) for the Board Room.

Final Resolution: Consensus FAILED

Yes: Pat Horcher

No: Mary Krueger, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel

MEETINGS

Manager Sfondilis spoke about the 2020 Board meeting calendar and eliminating the make-up meetings after a holiday. Clarification was made that Special meetings can be held.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on modifying the Board meeting calendar as outlined by Manager Sfondilis. Seeing that there were no objections from the Board, Consensus was Approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

Manager Sfondilis outlined the request, noted that we are looking at adding six (6) staff members, and that this request has nothing to do with the new fire stations (staff is simply being redistributed).

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac addressed the Board and presented information on current services, staffing, overtime, funding options for additional staff, and tax levy impact. Board discussion ensued. Manager Sfondilis, Director Mondschain, and Chief MacIsaac answered questions from the Board. Manager Sfondilis stated that a request to hire will come before the Board in 2021.

Manager Sfondilis stated that we will proceed with the formal adoption of the fiscal year 2020 budget (with a change to holiday lighting) at a December meeting, as well as the tax levy as presented today.

6. Official Communications

Trustee Lang stated that this process renews his faith in [Wheeling] and thanked staff and Manager Sfondilis on assembling excellent staff.

Trustee Papantos thanked the Finance department for the budget presentation.

7. Executive Session - None

8. Adjournment

President Horcher asked for a Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, second by Ray Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Elaine E. Simpson, Village Clerk

Approved this 2nd day of December 2019, by the President and Board of Trustees