

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 14, 2020

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:

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

Present via Electronic Means: Mary Krueger

Police Chief James Dunne, Director of Economic Development Patrick Ainsworth, Village Attorney Mallory Milluzzi, Director of Finance Michael Mondschain, and Deputy Finance Director Brian Smith were also present.

4. Citizen Concerns and Comments

Deborah Wilson commented on portions of the proposed 2021 budget.

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

A. DISCUSSION RE: FY 2021 Proposed Budget

Manager Sfondilis began by describing what the Village has done in response to the pandemic and that we've had to change the way we do business. We will continue throughout the year to make changes to the code and have already amended parking and tent standards that will help our restaurants, and refunded business and liquor license fees. Manager Sfondilis stated that a conversation will happen later in the meeting about potentially refunding health inspection fees. For FY 2020, we expect to be \$1,000,000 under budget, and we continue to take a hard line on any expense that isn't essential.

Manager Sfondilis further stated that staff has been reduced by 39 positions across all departments, that we currently have a hiring freeze, and that we have a healthy reserve due to wise spending for ten years.

We've gone from an anticipated 2020 surplus of \$700,000 to an expected deficit of \$1,600,000.

The liaison program will continue and will rotate year-after-year to ensure all line items are reviewed.

Manager Sfondilis asked if there were any questions about the operating budget; there were no questions from the Board.

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the order of business for the meeting, thanked the Board for their ongoing participation in this process, and thanked staff for the hard work on expenses and responsible budgeting.

Director Mondschain expressed his appreciation to the Board for reviewing the budget and thanked and recognized his staff for their hard work on putting it together. Director Mondschain explained where to find the budget on our website.

Director Mondschain and Deputy Director Smith highlighted portions of the FY 2021 budget, and answered questions from the Board.

Director Mondschain stated that we will end the year with an expected deficit of \$357,000, and reviewed the reasons why. Director Mondschain noted that the Village will receive \$736,000 from the CARES Act Fund.

Trustee Lang encouraged everyone to patronize Wheeling businesses, especially restaurants, during the pandemic.

BREAK

President Horcher asked for a Motion to recess for a break. Motion by Mary Papantos, second by Jim Ruffatto. Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m.

[RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION]

President Horcher asked for a Motion to reconvene into open session. Motion by Joe Vito, second by Ray Lang. Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting reconvened at 10:33 a.m.

Director Mondschain continued highlighting portions of the budget including property tax levy, taxes, stormwater, 2021 Pension Fund, and answered questions from the Board.

Director Mondschain noted that our Bond Rating remains at AA+ (Fitch) and AA (S&P), that we have not had any new tax levy related debt for 11 consecutive years, and we've been pay-as-you-go for capital equipment replacement (since 1990), and capital improvement projects. Director Mondschain reviewed successes in various Village departments.

EXPANDED LEVEL SHEETS

Body-Worn Cameras - Police Department

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request; Manager Sfondilis and Chief Dunne answered questions from the Board. Discussion continued on this subject relative to FOIA technology for redaction, data storage capability, and costs/fees. Chief Dunne stated that they do have union support for this item.

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:

Restaurant & Retail Build-Out Incentives - TIF Funds

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request; Director Ainsworth answered a question 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:

Economic Development Intern - TIF Funds

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request; Director Ainsworth answered a question related to recruitment for this position.

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:

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Water Rate Increase

Brief discussion was held on this subject.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus to increase the water rate by 3.5%.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

Stormwater

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus for a .25¢ increase.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

No:

Tax Levy Increase

President Horcher opened discussion on this item. Board discussion continued related to staffing, water, Village support for businesses and residents, ways to balance the budget, the current economic situation, and the impact of a tax increase on residents and business owners. Trustee Vogel suggested a 0% levy. Trustee Krueger stated that she supports incremental tax increases vs. a 0% levy.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on a 0% percent increase or a 2.75% increase.

Majority of the Board reached Consensus for a 0% increase as follows:

0%: Trustees Lang, Ruffatto, Vito, and Vogel.

2.75%: Trustees Krueger and Papantos.

2.40%: President Horcher

Health Inspection Fee Refund - 2021

Manager Sfondilis described the request and reviewed refunds previously disbursed. Should the Board agree, the refund amount in total is \$86,445.25¢.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on refunding the fee.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

No:

6. Official Communications

Trustee Papantos asked why we are continuing support for the Chamber Guide. Manager Sfondilis clarified that the Guide costs approximately a few thousand dollars, and the amount of \$75,000 is for that line item in total.

President Horcher asked about funding CERF from the General Fund. Director Mondschain stated that he would rather see us leave money in the CERF fund and draw down on the General Fund as that what the reserves are there for (recessions, emergencies).

7. Executive Session - None

8. Adjournment

President Horcher asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, second by Mary Krueger.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved,

Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting recessed at 12:54 p.m.

Elaine E. Simpson, Village Clerk

Approved this 7th day of December 2020, by the President and Board of Trustees