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, OCTOBER 30, 2021

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 Kathryn M. Brady called the roll and the following Board members were present:

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

Department Heads, and Deputy Finance Director Brian Smith were also present.

4. Citizen Concerns and Comments - None

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

A. DISCUSSION RE: FY 2022 Proposed Budget

Trustee Krueger left the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Manager Sfondilis stated that 2021 has been challenging with expectations for service up, and resources have been down; however, we have not only maintained, but have thrived over the last 18 months. Manager Sfondilis said Wheeling began 2021 with a significant budgeted deficit and stated that he is "beyond proud" to say that we are ending 2021 with a surplus.

Some reasons for this success are having and maintaining solid financial plans that we are committed to and being adaptable to changes not only for the Village but also for the residents and businesses of our community. Manager Sfondilis thanked the Board for recognizing the needs of the community, and thanked staff for being prudent with public dollars. Despite slow growth, staff is able to present a balanced budget for 2022 with a surplus, and staff further remains hopeful that significant opportunities such as the Level the Playing Field Act and the opening of cannabis dispensaries may also increase Village revenues. Manager Sfondilis outlined the order of the meeting and asked if there were any questions from the Board on the General Operating Budget, there were no questions from the Board.

Director Kaplan stated that our budget situation is better than expected, reviewed topics that will be discussed, highlighted portions of the FY 2022 budget, and answered questions from the Board related to tax levies in other taxing districts and the state's pension law deadline for funding.

BREAK

President Horcher asked for a Motion to recess for a break. Motion by Joe Vito, second by Mary Papantos.
Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting recessed at 9:28 a.m.

[RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION]

President Horcher asked for a Motion to reconvene into open session. Motion by Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto.
Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting reconvened at 9:42 a.m.

Trustee Krueger was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Deputy Director Smith continued reviewing the proposed budget.

Deputy Director Smith noted that our Bond Rating remains at AA+ (Fitch) and AA (S&P), that we have not had any new tax levy related debt since 2009, and we've been pay-as-you-go for capital equipment replacement (since 1990), and capital improvement projects. COVID-19 related funds were reviewed.

Director Kaplan closed with a review of the 2021 Pension Fund, and answered questions from the Board regarding sales tax numbers after implementation of the Level the Playing Field Act.

Manager Sfondilis presented an overview of the American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act and stated that Wheeling's share is $5,253,700 of which we have received 50%; the remaining 50% should arrive in the next twelve (12) months. Manager Sfondilis stated that we have until 2024 to spend the money on eligible uses. The ARP is a Federal Program, therefore there are Federal requirements on how the money can be spent, as such, monies cannot be deposited into a pension fund, may not be used to offset, either directly or indirectly, a tax cut or refund, monies cannot be spent on legal settlements or judgments, cannot go to funding debt service, and cannot be deposited into a "rainy day" fund or creating special financial reserves. The point is to invest in our community. Manager Sfondilis went on to review the planned spending of State money including $725,000 on Wheeling Road storm sewer, culverts, reconstruction and repair, and $1.7 million on Northgate Parkway mill and overlay. Federal money will go to relocating Station 42 with the remaining amount going towards to be determined water infrastructure project. These funds are fluid as request for bids have not yet gone out for the construction of Station 42.

Manager Sfondilis and Director Kaplan answered questions related to a possible increase of building material prices, and TIF expirations.

Manager Sfondilis stated that there has been a request from the Park District to share some ARP funds with them and noted that staffs suggestion (should the Board consider the request) is to offer $100,000. Board discussion followed. Trustee Lang stated that he would like to see funds used to benefit both the Park District and the Municipal Campus.

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus to share ARP funds with the Park District to be capped at $100,000, and attached to a specific eligible project.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved
Yes: Pat Horcher, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel
No:
Absent: Mary Krueger

EXPANDED LEVEL SHEETS - Approved by Village Manager

Digital Plan Review Table (CD)

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request. Director Klicker stated that this would help with efficiencies, reduce environmental impact, and answered questions from the Board.

President Horcher asked if there were any objections on approving this request, there were none.

WatchGuard Battery Backup for Squad Cars (PD)

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request; there were no objections from the Board to approve this request.

Performance Management Tracking Software (PD)

Manager Sfondilis outlined the request and answered a question from the Board. Deputy Police Chief Conway was present and answered a question from the Board regarding privacy of information.

There were no objections to approve this request.

SCBA Air Compressor/Fill Station 23 (FD)

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request and noted that there is already a room available at Station 23 for this purpose. There were no objections from the Board to approve this request.

Six (6) New Firefighter Positions (FD)

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request and noted that this has been fifteen (15) years in the making, and that this will actually save approximately $10,000 due to the elimination of three and a half (3.5) positions in other departments. Discussion followed. Unanimous Board Consensus approved for this request.

Asset Management Software (PW)

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request noting that this is specifically for Public Works for asset management software, and iPads for field employees. Manager Sfondilis clarified that the iPads will not be a new purchase. Public Works Director Dan Kaup answered questions from the Board. Unanimous Board Consensus approved for this request.

CAD Interface with Red Center (PD/FD) - 911 Fund

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request. 911 Manager Rocella Rodgers gave an overview of the current process noting that this software will connect the Wheeling 911 Center with RED Center, which will decrease call processing time allowing for a quicker response. There were no questions from the Board. Unanimous Board Consensus approved for this request.

<u>2022 Property Tax Levy</u>

Manager Sfondilis reviewed the request. President Horcher stated that he is in favor of steady, predictable, incremental increases, which helps businesses budget. Board discussion followed. President Horcher, Trustees Lang and Papantos would like a 3.5% increase. Trustees Vito and Ruffatto would like no increase. Trustee Vogel proposed a 2% increase. Following further discussion, it was decided that the Video Gaming Push Tax subject would be discussed before a consensus vote.

<u>Video Gaming Push Tax</u>

Manager Sfondilis stated this tax allows Home Rule communities to add an additional .1¢ (one penny) tax. If they so choose, Home Rule communities must pass the "push tax" by November 1, 2021. Attorney Ferolo stated that the push tax is a sub-category of the Amusement tax, and that a draft ordinance is ready for approval at the Special Meeting of October 31, 2021. Board discussion followed.

<u>Tax Levy Consensus</u>

President Horcher asked for Board Consensus on approving a 2% increase.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved
Yes: Pat Horcher, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Dave Vogel
No: Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito
Absent: Mary Krueger

Trustee Vogel moved, second by Trustee Lang, to direct staff to prepare the documentation for final consideration of an increase of 2%.

Final Resolution: Direction Approved
Yes: Pat Horcher, Ray Lang, Mary Papantos, Dave Vogel
No: Jim Ruffatto, Joe Vito
Absent: Mary Krueger

Trustee Lang asked for a workshop meeting to be scheduled to discuss gaming cafés. Manager Sfondilis said it would be added as a Discussion Item on a future agenda.

6. Official Communications

Trustee Lang stated that he is hearing more compliments than complaints about how Wheeling is doing, and thanked staff for making this community better.

Trustee Papantos thanked staff for giving up their Saturday morning, and the Finance Department for putting together a budget document that is easy to understand.

7. Executive Session - None

18. Adjournment

President Horcher asked for a Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Joe Vito, second by Mary Papantos.

Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

____

Kathryn M. Brady, Village Clerk
Approved this 6th day of December 2021, by the President and Board of Trustees