

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 5, 2022

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 2023 Proposed Annual Budget

President Horcher read the title into the record.

Manager Sfondilis thanked everyone who worked to get us to the financial position we are in, which is a good one, and stated that credit goes to all employees and department heads for their work. Manager Sfondilis outlined the order of the meeting, and stated that we are in a very good place financially and that we are probably in the best place we've been in twenty years or so. The surplus budget (without a levy increase) presented is in part due to tax increases. Manager Sfondilis said that there are developers waiting in the wings for upcoming opportunities in Wheeling.

Deputy Finance Director Brian Smith summarized the current state of the economy, FY 2022 projected results, the property tax levy, financial successes; pension funding and benchmarking, and revenue expenditure benchmarking. Finance Director Michael Kaplan provided further information on taxes, the Village's share of the Tax Bill, property tax levy details, general liability insurance fund, and the water and sewer fund. Director Kaplan stated that our bond rating is AA (S&P), and that we will be debt free by 2030. Director Kaplan answered questions from the Board related to same.

Manager Sfondilis pointed out that our water rate is one of the lowest in all of the Northwest Municipal Conference service areas.

Board discussion followed. Director Kaplan reviewed property tax levies by community, total general fund revenue, and full-time sworn Police and Fire, and PW employees.

BREAK

President Horcher asked for a Motion to recess for a break. Motion by Jim Ruffatto, second by Mary Krueger.

Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting recessed at 9:50 a.m.

[RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION]

President Horcher asked for a Motion to reconvene into open session. Motion by Mary Kreuger, second by Jim Ruffatto.

Motion carried by Voice Vote, all ayes, the meeting reconvened at 10:06 a.m.

EXPANDED LEVEL SHEETS - Approved by Village Manager

Human Resources - Professional Development

Manager Sfondilis described the request which will cost \$20,000. Human Resources Director Michael Crotty stated that while succession planning is an important part of this, he feels it is important that all leaders get the kind of training that's necessary to be effective in their current roles as well. Brief discussion followed. Trustee Vito expressed disagreement with aspects of this kind of training. Manager Sfondilis and Mr. Crotty answered questions related to this item.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

No: Joe Vito

Community Development - Skunk Abatement Program

Manager Sfondilis introduced the item and noted that research showed that while this is not a common program, there is one community (Vernon Hills) that does provide some percentage of reimbursement. The question before the Board is if they want a program and at what financial cost to the Village. Manager Sfondilis and Director Klicker answered questions from the Board. Board discussion followed. The proposed cost for this program is \$2,500. Trustee Vogel suggested that an educational pamphlet on how to deal with skunks may be helpful to the public.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

No: Pat Horcher, Mary Papantos

Police Department - Flock License Plate Reader

Manager Sfondilis introduced the request and explained that this is a machine that rapidly reads license plates in a given area. Deputy Police Chief Al Steffen provided further details on how this can help officers, and noted that this is a lease program. The initial purchase price is \$25,000, with an annual recurring cost of \$20,000, for a total of \$45,000. DC Steffen answered questions from the Board related to how the cameras can assist the Police Department, where the cameras can be placed, camera maintenance, signage requirement, and noted that the plate reader cannot record facial recognition.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

Police Department - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle/Drone

Manager Sfondilis introduced the request. DC Steffen addressed the Board noting specifics on how Police, Fire and other Village departments may benefit from a drone; DC Steffen answered questions from the Board related to how often a drone would be deployed, training, licensing fee, and how the drone would be shared between departments. Manager Sfondilis noted that the drone will reside with public safety.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

Public Works - GPS Telematics Technology

Manager Sfondilis introduced the request and noted that this is for GPS units for each of our trucks. Public Works Director Dan Kaup described various uses that GPS information will provide. There were no questions from the Board.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

Public Works - Village Hall Permanent Safety Barriers

Manager Sfondilis introduced the request and noted that he wants the Board to make this policy decision. Board discussion followed. The cost for the barriers will be \$30,000.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

Manager Sfondilis had additional questions for the Board to consider as follows:

Gift Certificates for Commissioners (excluding CEA Board) - Manager Sfondilis asked if the Board is in favor of gift certificates at the cost of \$100 per person.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

Sponsoring Community Events - Manager Sfondilis described the request and asked the Board if they want staff to write a policy supporting development programs and events with a proposed budget amount of \$10,000. Board discussion followed. Manager Sfondilis stated that he recommends the money come from TIF funds.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

Village Entrance Sign

Manager Sfondilis stated that there is an extra entrance sign and asked the Board if they are in favor of installing the sign in front of Village Hall. Brief discussion followed.

President Horcher asked for Consensus on approving this item.

Final Resolution: Consensus Approved

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

6. Official Communications

Trustee Papantos asked about considering using solar panels for the new Fire station 42. Manager Sfondilis replied that they will look into it.

Manager Sfondilis noted that there will be no increase in the tax levy.

Trustee Papantos thanked the Finance Department and staff for putting the budget together.

Trustee Krueger asked for an update on how many strategic plan goals have been met. Manager Sfondilis stated that he will cover that at the end of the year.

7. Executive Session - None

8. Action on Executive Session Items - N/A

9. Adjournment

President Horcher asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Mary Papantos, second by Mary Krueger.

Motion carried by Voice Vote, all Ayes, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Kathryn M. Brady, Village Clerk

Approved this 21st day of November 2022, by the President and Board of Trustees