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, 2024

1. Call to Order

President Horcher called the meeting to order at 8:31 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, Mary Papantos, Joe Vito, Dave Vogel; Ray Lang joined the meeting at 8:41 AM.
Absent: Jim Ruffatto

Trustee Ruffatto was absent with prior notice.

Department Heads and Financial Services Coordinator Kelly 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 2025 Proposed Annual Budget

Village Manager Jon Sfondilis began by thanking all Village staff for their hard work, not only in the budget preparation but also the work that happens all year long. Manager Sfondilis thanked all Village staff for their exemplary service, and the Board for their leadership and their consistency through the good years and the bad. Manager Sfondilis spoke about the order of the meeting and noted that today's conversation is about the big picture. He further stated that this is not the beginning of the process and that all details have been discussed. The budget details have been reviewed by members of the Board through the liaison program. Manager Sfondilis laid out the schedule for the meeting beginning with the budget presentation from Finance Director Brian Smith.

Manager Sfondilis stated that this has been a good year and that this is the 8th out of 9 years with a surplus budget. We continue to allocate money toward our balloon payments and we are on schedule to be debt-free by 2030. We will not be presenting a tax levy increase that will affect residents or businesses. Our reserves are healthy at over 41% and we continue to fully fund our CERF (Capital Equipment Replacement Fund) which is a major accomplishment. The Village continues to provide superior core services without new personnel or added programs, and over 21 million dollars in capital improvements for the year.

Director Smith reviewed portions of the budget including unemployment numbers (low numbers lead to more income tax for the Village), and the consumer spending index noting that consumers remained confident in the last year, and stated that we're ending the year with a budgeted surplus of $1,524,007. Director Smith reviewed General Fund revenue highlights, capturing of the South Milwaukee TIF funds, reviewed the three main sources of revenue which are sales, income, and property taxes (aka the three-legged stool), ten (10) year property tax history, General Fund forecast, rising Capital Improvement costs, and reviewed the local grocery tax situation. A brief discussion followed on this subject.

[BREAK]

President Horcher asked for a motion to recess for a break. Motion by Mary Papantos, second by Mary Krueger.
Motion carried by voice vote, six ayes, one absent, the meeting recessed at 9:21 AM.

[RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION]

President Horcher asked for a motion to reconvene the open session. Motion by Mary Krueger, second by Mary Papantos.
Motion carried by voice vote; six ayes, one absent. The meeting reconvened at 9:34 AM.

Director Smith continued the budget overview including water and sewer rate comparisons, and noted that we continue to receive an AA bond rating, have not issued any tax-related debt since 2009, and will be debt-free by 2030, and we have overcontributed to the pension funds for the last ten (10) years. Director Smith spoke about a partial Special Census to capture new growth, and the eventual move to Northwest Central Dispatch which will save the Village 1.7 million dollars by 2026. Director Smith spoke about pension funding and noted that they need to be 90% funded by 2040, and reviewed FY 2025 actuarily required payments. Manager Sfondilis stated that we are moving forward with a partial Special Census and will provide more details once received, clarified the impact of the grocery tax change, and informed the Board of the current status of the fountain which needs a significant rebuild. Looking forward, the estimate is $3 million to rebuild or $5 million to raze and rebuild the fountain. Public Works Director Dan Kaup spoke about the current plan to shore up the water leak, and the deteriorating condition of the fountain. Funds for this project would be part of the 2026-2030 CIP. Board discussion followed. Manager Sfondilis stated that we want to get a better handle on what the project involves, and that information will come before the Board next year.

Manager Sfondilis announced that the Village now has a program for household hazardous waste called Clear Harbor, which replaces the former At Your Door program. This program will provide at-home pick-up which will begin in December. At this time, the cost is $175 per pick-up, of which the resident will pay $75, and SWANCC will pay the remainder which the Village will pay in return to SWANCC as a true-up at year-end; however, a second option as requested by Trustee Vogel, is for the Village to offset the $75 portion that the resident would have to pay. Manager Sfondilis stated that this would be paid using stormwater utility revenue. Board discussion followed. There was a unanimous Board consensus (6 ayes, 1 absent) to pay the $175 outright with a provision that a resident who fails to set out an item(s) scheduled for pick-up would be charged a $75.00 fee.

Manager Sfondilis presented the expanded level sheets aka "pink sheets". There was a unanimous Board consensus, six ayes, one absent, to approve all of the following:

- Police Fitness Room Upgrade ($10,000)
- Annual donation to Northwest Compass Housing Advocacy ($5,000). Chief Dunne stated that this is a new program serving the homeless population.
- Lucas Compression CPR Device ($15,000)
- Zoll Monitor ($50,000)
- Fire Inspection Software ($10,000 year one, $7,500 annually after 2025)
- Invasive Plant Control Program ($100,000), specifically buckthorn. Trustee Lang requested that an image of buckthorn be placed on our website so residents can recognize it on their property. Director Kaup stated that this is a two-year program.
- APWA Accreditation ($13,450). Manager Sfondilis reviewed the program; Director Kaup stated that it will be a two-year process for accreditation.

Manager Sfondilis thanked Director Smith and complimented him on a job well done. Director Smith introduced Kelly Smith, Financial Services Coordinator.

6. Official Communications

Trustee Papantos thanked all Village staff for working to stay within their budgets.

Trustee Krueger reminded everyone to turn their clocks back 1 hour and to vote in the upcoming election.

Trustee Lang spoke about a safety concern at the London School exit which should have a stop sign. Chief Dunne stated that they will contact the school, but that it is a State road so they control the signage.

7. Executive Session - None

8. Action on Executive Session Items - N/A

9. Adjournment

President Horcher asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Joe Vito, second by Mary Krueger.

Motion carried by voice vote; six ayes, one absent. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

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Kathryn M. Brady, Village Clerk
Approved this 2nd day of December 2024, by the President and Board of Trustees