



Village of Oak Park

123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
www.oak-park.us

Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee

Monday, October 25, 2021

6:30 PM

Remote

1. Call To Order

Village President Scaman called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. She authorized a statement be read providing that the meeting is being held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines and that it is not prudent to have people present at the Village Board's regular meeting location due to public health concerns related to that pandemic.

2. Roll Call

Present: Village Trustees Enyia , Parakkat, and Taglia; Village President Scaman

Absent: 0

3. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

This Item was tabled.

5. New Business

- A. [ID 21-331](#) Finance Committee Review of the Draft Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Interim Village Manager Lisa Shelley introduced the Item.

Chief Financial Officer Steve Drazner and Interim Fire Chief Ron Kobyleski then gave an overview of the Fire Department's budget requests and key issues.

Village Trustee Taglia asked if there were any concerns about the separation of service from Westcom Dispatch should the police decide to go with another service.

Interim Chief Kobyleski responded it would be detrimental to use two different dispatch centers. It would also reduce the ability for fire and police to work together on calls which may effect response times.

President Scaman requested clarification on if it is decided, after the

community safety review, to change services that the village would have to give a year's notice - we could do that at any time since there is no contract?

Interim Village Manager Shelley responded affirmative.

Interim Village Manager Shelley commented overtime expenses have been trending up possibly due to COVID. During COVID, a third ambulance was put in place to ensure there would always be two ambulances available for calls while the third would be decontaminated after a call. The increased staff needed for the third ambulance, as well as to cover staff leaves due to Covid, contributed to the increase in overtime.

Interim Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Fadden then gave an overview of the cost analysis.

Village Trustee Parakkat requested clarification on what is attributing to the increase in call numbers.

Interim Deputy Fire Chief Fadden responded it is population, the population age, and the overall day to day volume of people in Oak Park which increases with the new developments.

Village Trustee Taglia requested insight into how we compare with other communities as far as staffing.

Interim Deputy Fire Chief Fadden indicated it isn't really comparable as the communities differ on many levels.

CFO Drazner added adding the extra ambulance would reduce workplace injuries overall.

Deputy Fire Chief Fadden agreed.

Public Works Director John Wielebnicki then gave an overview of Public Works' general budget requests and key issues.

Village Trustee Buchanan requested clarification on if the village or Metra is responsible for the conditions of the train station.

Director Wielebnicki responded typically the municipality maintains the facilities.

Dr. Theresa Chapple-McGruder, the Public Health Director, then gave an overview of the Health Department's budget requests and key issues. Interim Village Manager Shelley added that the Health Department does get funding through grants. Also, the Health budget focus is on the pandemic being in place and some of the Covid-related expenses are covered by FEMA and ARPA funds.

Village Trustee Taglia requested clarification if something is not covered 100% by FEMA, is it then submitted under ARPA.

CFO Drazner responded that is the plan. Currently FEMA will be reevaluating the expenses that were initially denied so the village cannot bring those expenses forward for other grants until there is a resolution from FEMA.

Dr. Theresa Chapple-McGruder then gave a status update on the IPlan.

Village Trustee Parakkat requested clarification on the status of the Health Inspector Positions.

Dr. Theresa Chapple-McGruder responded they will be working with the contractors through the end of the year and hope to fill the positions with in-house staff by the end of the fiscal year.

Alvin Nepomuceno, Director of Information Services, then gave an overview of the Information Technology Department's budget requests and key issues.

Village Trustee Taglia requested clarification on the security assessment. Tomas Kilikevicius, IT Operations Manager, responded security is constantly evolving. They are looking for an independent outside firm to perform the security assessment to provide a baseline moving forward to see what gaps need to be address.

Village Trustee Enyia requested clarification on how old the current system is and what impacts would fiber have on the system.

Tomas Kilikevicius responded implementing a fiber wan system would allow the village to have their own private network and not rely on 3rd party suppliers like Comcast or AT&T. It would increase speed and allow the village to maintain their own security. It opens the gates into the future to see how to consolidate services and use higher speeds to increase productivity and security.

Village Trustee Taglia commented he would like to ensure the Information Technology Department has all the tools needed to help improve security and prevent any possible breaches moving forward.

Cedric Melton, Director of Community Relations, then gave an overview of the Community Relations Department's budget requests and key issues.

Village Trustee Buchanan requested clarification on training that is happening regarding diversity and fair housing education.

Director Melton's connection to the meeting dropped; President Scaman requested staff provide a memo to the Board regarding any training that is

happening through the Community Relations Department.

Robert Anderson, Director of Adjudication, the gave an overview of the Adjudication Department's budget requests and key issues.

Village Trustee Walker-Peddakolta requested clarification regarding the 2021 accomplishment of implementation of a restorative justice program. Director Anderson responded the program essentially grew out of an existing program. The department works with the township to provide assessment and evaluation of youth that come before adjudication to make a determination as to which restorative justice services the youth is able to attend (a program, education, or counseling).

Village Trustee Enyia requested clarification on the increase in postage. Director Anderson responded one change was moving from doing mailing in-house to using the Passport vendor which increased the cost, as well as an increase in postage itself. As a whole, this relieves staff's time of managing the mailings and allows staff to work more efficiently doing other services for the village.

Village Trustee Taglia requested clarification if the adjudication will keep the hearings remote going forward. Director Anderson responded the intention is to keep the remote process going forward along side in-person hearings.

Village Attorney Paul Stephanides then gave an overview of the Law Department's budget request and key issues. There were no questions on this budget.

CFO Drazner then gave an overview of the Finance Department's budget requests and key issues. There were no questions on this budget.

Interim Village Manager Shelley then gave an overview of the Village Manager's budget requests and key issues.

Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla requested clarification regarding what the External Support line item of \$600,000 encapsulates. They also requested clarification why the police consultant contract is coming out of the village manager's budget and not the police budget.

Interim Village Manager Shelley responded the police consultant is under the village manager budget with the intent that it has some neutrality and not be managed by the police department. CFO Drazner responded the \$600,000 external support encapsulates

\$355,000 for the Early Childhood Collaboration, \$160,000 for the Community Safety Consultants, a Community Survey at \$25,000, a National Citizens Survey at \$25,000, and some smaller expenses related to collective bargaining and recruitment expenses.

Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla questioned the timing of more surveys going out to the community as there are already many going out currently, and suggested holding off until we get all the results back from everything going out this year before moving forward with additional surveys. Interim Village Manager Shelley will review the survey questions and see if there is anything timing critical.

Mindy Agnew, Sustainability Coordinator, then gave an overview of the Sustainability Department's budget requests and key issues. There were no questions on this budget.

Village Clerk Christina Waters then gave an overview of the Clerk's Office budget requests and key issues. There were no questions on this budget.

Interim Village Manager Shelley then gave an overview of the Village Board's budget requests and key issues.

Interim Village Manager Shelley then reviewed the timeline for next steps in the budget process.

6. Adjournment

It was moved by Village Trustee Taglia, seconded by Village Trustee Parakkat, to adjourn. The Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M., Monday, October 25, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deputy Clerk DeViller

AYES: 4 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, and Village Trustee Taglia

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0