



Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes – Finance Committee

Tuesday, September 09, 2025, 6:00 pm

Village Hall Council Chambers (Room 201), 123 Madison Street, Oak Park

- 1) **Call to Order:** Village President Scaman called the Meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.
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- 2) **Roll Call Attendance:** Village Clerk Waters took the roll call as follows:

Finance Committee Members Present: Village Trustees: Straw, Taglia, and Eder;
and Village President Scaman.

Finance Citizen Advisory Committee Members Present: John Hedges and Greg Kolar.

Absent: None except Citizen Advisory Member Bridgett Allen Hedgeman.

There was a quorum.

Other Attendees: Village Clerk Waters.
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- 3) **Public Comment.**

There was one public comment as follows:

Curtiss Todd stated that he opposes the proposed water and sewer rate increase recommended by the Village staff and consulting firm for reasons he set forth, and he would like the Board to maintain the current water and sewer rates.

There were no other public comments, whether agenda related or non-agenda.

- 4) **Approval of Minutes.** None.
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5) **New Business.**

- A. **MOT 25-231.** Motion to Concur with the Initial Recommendations of the 2025 Water & Sewer Rate Study and Direct Staff to Prepare a Water Rate Ordinance for 2026 for Consideration by the Board of Trustees.

Erin Duffy, Deputy Public Works Director, provided background on the process for examining water and sewer rates, and stated that the Village has authorized water and sewer rate studies approximately every five years, with the last two studies in 2014 and 2019.

Duffy provided additional information regarding the process of selecting a firm to handle the study which gives recommendations regarding water and sewer rates through the year 2030, and, Duffy introduced Eric Callocchia, a partner with NewGen Strategies and Solutions, the firm selected to conduct said study.

Callocchia then gave a presentation on NewGen's study, including their recommendation that the Village increase water and sewer rates in 2026 to move towards achieving three financial goals:

- 1) maintaining a water and sewer fund balance consistent with industry best practices,
- 2) stabilizing cash flow within the water and sewer fund, and
- 3) increasing fixed revenue recovery.

Callocchia explained his presentation which included the following categories and topics:

- Water and sewer utilities background, and "water supply 100% comprised of wholesale water purchases from Chicago,"
- Study scope of work,
- Operating costs (FY 2025 budget for water and sewer total operating costs: \$12,211,079 and FY 2026 budget for water and sewer total operating costs: \$12,705,397),
- Existing debt service,
- Capital Improvement plan (total capital water and sewer FY 2025 budget \$7,617,000 and FY 2026 budget \$10,199,500 without lead service line replacement program),
- Total revenue requirement (net revenue requirement FY 2025: \$20,222,912 and net revenue requirement FY 2026: \$22,729,872),
- Customers, usage and rates,
- Recommended minimum fund balance,
- FY 2026 at FY 2025 rates,

- Cash flow neutral rate increase,
- Fixed revenue recovery,
- FY 2026 recommendation,
- Customer impacts (residential and commercial),
- Competitive position (with surrounding communities),
- Rate structure alternatives (currently, a “uniform” structure),
- Sample usage profile analysis, and
- Next steps (develop rate model alternatives and propose water and sewer rates for 5 years commencing with 2026, and prepare final report).

Callocchia completed his presentation and asked whether there were questions.

The finance committee members then discussed the presentation with Callocchia and with Public Works Director Rob Sproule who was also present.

President Scaman then explained for all present the advisory capacity of the finance committee and how their decisions are recommendations to the Board of Trustees, and asked whether the committee wanted to address the Motion on the Agenda and read aloud the said Motion as follows:

MOT 25-231. A Motion to Concur with the Initial Recommendations of the 2025 Water & Sewer Rate Study and Direct Staff to Prepare a Water Rate Ordinance for 2026 for Consideration by the Board of Trustees.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Eder, to Concur with the Initial Recommendations of the 2025 Water & Sewer Rate Study and Direct Staff to Prepare a Water Rate Ordinance for 2026 for Consideration by the Board of Trustees.

- There were no further questions, comments or discussion from or by the committee members.
- President Scaman then called for a voice vote regarding the Motion. All voted in favor and none were opposed.
- Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

There was no further discussion or action with regard to this agenda item and the committee then unanimously agreed to move on to the next agenda item.

B. **ID 25-501** Updated Finance Committee Calendar.

There was no discussion regarding this agenda topic other than President Scaman asking whether anyone had questions about the meeting calendar; there were no questions or further discussion.

No action was taken by the finance committee with respect to this agenda item.

6) **Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the Finance Committee, a **Motion** was made by Trustee Straw, Seconded by Trustee Eder, to adjourn this meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Interim Deputy Clerk Marjorie A. Manchen