

Taxing Body Efficiency Tax Force – Governing Body Questionnaire  
OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

1a. Operational expenses

- We carefully review our revenues and expenditures on an annual basis through the budget review process. For example, this year we sought out an alternative to renting parking spaces in the Avenue Garage for senior services staff and are now renting spaces from a local church in order to meet that need at a lower cost.
- Every job vacancy is reviewed before deciding to replace or restructure to find efficiencies. For example,
  - o With the retirement of our Finance Director, we have decided to outsource that function
  - o We are also restructuring our office management team with another impending departure
- We use in-house resources to develop our strategic plan and finance documents.
- We participate in the State of Illinois joint purchasing program for items where that results in savings.
- We purchase fuel for our vehicles through the State of Illinois WEX Fleet Card Program.
- We consistently maintain our property tax rate at or below the tax cap per the Illinois Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). Our three funds (Town, General Assistance, and Mental Health) have each been held flat when reserves in that fund have been adequate.
- We utilize a number of volunteer for many of our programs that serve Seniors and Youth.

1b. Retiree pensions and benefits:

- Township employees working over 1,000 hours per year are required to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Employees contribute 4.5% of their salary to their pension fund. The Township contributes an amount determined by an actuarial estimate. Currently that amount is 8.56% of an employee's salary. For calendar year 2019, our employer rate will be 6.52%. As of our audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, the Oak Park Township pension fund was 94% funded.
- Our life insurance and medical coverage are obtained through the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefits Cooperative (IPBC). As IPBC website <http://ipbchealth.org/About-IPBC.aspx> states:

The purpose of the IPBC is to provide economies of scale and risk pooling that will allow members more financial stability

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than offered by the commercial insurance market in a fully transparent environment. The members retain the right within the IPBC to create and change their plan design, which is often required due to the nature of bargained contracts. Members also operate as part of a larger Board of Directors to control the finances within the pool.

IPBC is composed of over 120 members throughout Illinois, participating as single entities, such as Evanston with 900 lives or in our case a member of a sub-pool. Overall, IPBC covers over 20,000 lives.

- 1c. Oak Park Township has not held a tax referendum.
- 1d. Oak Park Township carries no debt.
2. Coordinating, sharing, or consolidating
  - Oak Park Township serves all eleven taxing bodies in Oak Park and River Forest through the Youth Interventionist Program
  - We seek out grant opportunities and partnerships to leverage our resources. For example,
    - o The Strategic Prevention Framework grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services to prevent underage drinking
    - o Grants from the Illinois Department on Aging and federal money that comes through Age Options support the services provided by our Senior Services department.
  - The Community Mental Health Board convenes a number of coalitions consisting of other taxing bodies and private community partners (non-profit and for profit) to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and minority populations accessing behavioral health services.
  - We are utilizing vehicles owned by the Park District to supplement our own three vehicles to better meet the demand for transportation from our clients.
  - We are partnering with the Library and Housing Forward to prepare General Assistance clients seeking employment.
3. Past efforts
  - We formerly participated in the Village's employee health insurance program. Because of the lack of transparency around claims experience,

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rate setting, and the selection process for brokers led us to join the IPBC. Although it was initially expensive to leave the Village's program, we believe that we have recouped that cost through savings in the new program, and we now have opportunities around wellness, prescription management, and plan design flexibility that were not available before.

- We have requested the opportunity to purchase fuel for our vehicles from the Village at cost. We are awaiting an intergovernmental agreement to that effect.

4. Further opportunities: We would like the opportunity to assess the cost/benefit of purchasing fuel from the Village for our transportation and Home Delivered meals vehicles and compare that to our current participation in the State of Illinois WEX Fleet Card Program.

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