



Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Monday, October 12, 2020

6:30 PM

Village Hall

I. Call to Order

Village President Abu-Taleb called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. A statement was read clarifying that the meeting is being held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions 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 outbreak.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

Absent: 0

III. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Village Trustee Taglia, seconded by Village Trustee Moroney, that this agenda be approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

IV. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla read the following land acknowledgement in acknowledgement of Indigenous People's Day,

"Oak Park is located on the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. The region has long been a center for Indigenous people to gather, trade, and maintain kinship ties. Chicago is still home to one of the largest urban Native communities in the United States. Members of this community continue to contribute to the life of this city and to celebrate their heritage, practice traditions, and care for the land and waterways.

On this Indigenous People's Day, by making a land acknowledgement, we remember our nation's history and commit to educating ourselves and our

community about the history of genocide and forced removal of Indigenous People's in America. We also recognize that Indigenous people are the traditional stewards of the land that we now occupy, living here long before Oak Park was a village. As we work to push for diversity, equity, and inclusion in Oak Park, we must support Indigenous people's movements for self-determination and sovereignty."

V. Regular Agenda

A. [ID 20-276](#)

A Presentation of the Recommended Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2021-2025:

1. Main Capital Fund: *pages 6 - 56*
2. Madison TIF (Expired 12/31/2019): *pages 57 - 60*
3. CDBG Fund (Capital Items Only): *pages 60 - 65*
4. Sustainability Fund (Capital Items Only): *pages 66 - 72*
5. Building Improvement Fund: *pages 73 - 143*
6. Madison TIF Building Improvements (Expired 12/31/2019): *pages 144 - 147*
7. Fleet Fund: *pages 148 - 154*
8. Equipment Replacement Fund: *pages 155 - 170*
9. Parking Fund (Capital Items Only): *pages 171 - 185*
10. Water and Sewer Fund (Capital Items Only): *pages 186 - 221*

Village Manager Cara Pavlicek provided an overview and explained how staff have rated each project from essential and immediate need to optional but beneficial. It is requested that the Village Board approve a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) no later than the adoption of the FY21 Budget in December.

CFO Steve Drazner provided a high level summary of the recommended CIP and revenue sources with identified expenditures, including grant and enterprise funds as well as sustainability and TIF funds. Staff worked hard to identify projects that could be delayed resulting in a recommended fund balance amount of an additional \$94,699. Mr. Drazner explained that a building improvement fund bond anticipation note is a short term loan anticipated to be paid back by a future bond, in response to questions from Village Trustee Boutet. CFO Drazner explained funding sources from various taxes and possible grants.

Chief Financial Officer Steven Drazner noted that our sales tax did take a hit due to the pandemic, but not as bad as predicted. He believes the projected revenue amounts to be reasonable.

Village Engineer Bill McKenna walked the Village Board through the CIP as presented. He focused on projects with expenditures for FY2021. Director of Public Works Wielebnicki shared that the CIP lays out the hopeful plan for five years but it is understood that FY2022 may require additional cuts depending on the fiscal situation. Various projects such as alley work will be limited to areas

of the Village that are eligible for CDBG funds. CDBG funds come from Federal HUD money designated for improvement in low to moderate income areas of the Village. Village Trustee Boutet expressed concern for pushing repair of alleys to far into the future. Staff explained how they rate alleys and work to maintain the overall alley report card for the village to remain above 68%. Other projects still recommended involve projects tied to grant funds that may be lost if the project were to be delayed such as Oak Park Ave. streetscaping, or projects that are 100% grant funded such as the Cap the Ike feasibility study. Village Trustee Boutet questioned whether the Cap the Ike feasibility study was a good use of staff time with uncertainty related to the State budget. Staff explained that the Cap the Ike study is 100% Federally funded and important for being prepared for changing transportation needs. Village Engineer McKenna continued to highlight work included in the CIP with expenditures in 2021 and respond to questions.

Village Trustee Moroney brought attention to that fact that the Oak Park Ave Streetscape project is a big portion of our Capital Improvement Project for 2021. Village Engineer McKenna confirmed the Village would lose the grant money if the Village deferred the project.

The Village will be undertaking a program to replace lead pipes for residents that qualify for CDBG funds in the Village. Public Works Director Wielebnicki said there are five candidates who are scheduled to receive the Lead service line replacement at no cost to resident. \$50,000 are allocated to fund eight to nine homes. Right now, there is less demand than there are funds available. Village Boutet requested a program document for the Board to review for this program. After Mr. Wielebnicki highlighted the budget recommendation for the replace of parkway tree program Village Trustee Boutet suggested they add \$50,000 to the budget from the sustainability fund. Members of the Village Board agreed. Staff will make the adjustment.

Village Trustee Boutet asked for more information regarding efforts to become a SMART City. The Village Manager shared that the Fiber project in partnership with D97 is for this purpose and is scheduled for completion this year. Village Trustee Taglia asked if the taller LED streetlights are included in the improvement plans. Director Wielebnicki confirmed we do not have a definitive plan for the entire Village yet.

Staff continued with the Building Improvement Fund including renovations to the Fire stations. Police Station project put on hold. Schematic and development phase would be funded by grants. Village President Abu-Taleb mentioned the workspace is unfit for employees. The Village should start the project to provide a safe environment for our employees and first responders. Village Trustee Boutet asked about repairs to the fire range. Village Manager Pavlicek confirmed that portion of the building is currently being addressed. She mentioned the three scenarios which were previously presented the Board earlier this year. The decision is not to build another range. Village Trustee Moroney supports the decision to update the firing range.

Village Trustee Buchanan supports staff having a safe and healthy workplace, but does not support the construction of a new facility during a time when we continue to see civil unrest. Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla wants to ensure we consider systemic issues with police alongside the addition of a new building. Village Trustee Boutet does not agree with the discussion of a building as part of a political discussion related to police reform. She is concerned with whether or not we can afford a new police building. Village President Abu-Taleb agrees the discussions are separate and there is time to sort through financial restraints. A new facility would not be moving forward until FY2022. He believes it important to prioritize a safe environment for employees. Village Trustee Boutet is not sure she believes the situation to be unsafe. Village Trustee Andrews urged colleagues to tour the police department, he considers it to be a sub par working environment. Village Trustee Taglia agrees that all should tour. He would hold this discussion until November when the Village Board receives a presentation on options.

Village Manager Pavlicek introduced the parking fund and confirmed this is an enterprise fund. Director Tammie Grossman presented information on budget items in response to needed repairs at the Oak Park River Forest High School parking garage to build a structure over the elevator to prevent seepage that has caused the elevator to malfunction. Additionally \$125,000 is budgeted for resurfacing of Lot 10 in downtown Oak Park, and \$200,000 reserved for on-street sign upgrades and additional signs that may be needed after the completion of the parking pilot. The Transportation Commission is meeting to discuss overnight parking restrictions and signage may be required. \$10,000 has been budgeted for emergency generators at garages to keep elevators functioning during an outage and ensure the camera and computer systems (controls arms of garages) remain in working order. Also, to evaluate an electrical source and can explore solar and green options.

Village Manager Pavlicek introduced the Water & Sewer fund. Director of Public Works John Wielebnicki discussed a pump replacement efficiency program budget item and flood mitigation to provide relieve for northeast Oak Park. Would install a new sewer on LeMoyne that captures storm water on those blocks.

Mr. Wielebnicki explained a program that exists when a homeowner replaces their lead lines to their home they can call the village to replace the villages end of lead lines. This will be contracted out this year to free up staff.

Rain ready Program: In 2020 there were 21 home assessments. There is a demand for this program to continue.

VI. Adjourn

It was moved by Village Trustee Andrews, seconded by Village Trustee Boutet, to adjourn at 8:32 P.M. Monday, October 12, 2020.

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Deputy Village Clerk Christina Waters