



Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2019

6:30 PM

Room 101

1. Call To Order

Trustee Taglia called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Members of the Finance Committee; Trustee Boutet, Trustee Moroney, and Trustee Taglia.

Absent: Village President Abu-Taleb

Also present: Trustee Andrews, Trustee Walker-Peddakottla, and Trustee Buchanan (left at 7:49 p.m.)

3. Public Comment

Kitty Conklin: Ms. Conklin called for a 3% levy for both the Village and Library and suggested this would require both entities to work together to attain that goal. In addition, Ms. Conklin pointed out the lack of online listings with photos on the Oak Park Regional Housing Center website and complimented Trustee Boutet and Trustee Andrews for providing board goals in a **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely** framework.

Louis Mezzatesta: Ms. Mezzatesta appreciates the historical value of the Housing Center. She also feels the Housing Center is capable of fundraising to support its mission without subsidies from the Village. Maintaining an affordable housing stock and managing high taxes is vital to attracting diversity.

Tom MacMillan: Residents entrust Village Trustees to make responsible decisions with tax dollars. Mr. MacMillan asks that the Village Board hold the Oak Park Regional Housing Center accountable and consider reducing their funding and seek identifying different projects to support.

Jack Powers: Mr. Powers asked for the Village Board to be fiscally responsible and recognize that needs have changed and question spending.

Monica Sheehan: Ms. Sheehan urged the Board to use data to make decision, focus attention on items that are the responsibility of a municipality, recognize that taxes are a significant concern, reject red light cameras as a revenue source, and call for greater expectations for civil discourse.

Maureen Kleinman: Ms. Kleinman expressed concern for negative attacks on residents that express different views.

Bruce Kleinman: Mr. Kleinman suggested that the housing center is obsolete and high spending should bring results.

Susan Kurtenbach: Ms. Kurtenbach spoke representing Bike Walk Oak Park, noting her disappointment that the collaboratively designed Greenway Plan is not supported in the staff recommended 2020 budget. Bike Walk Oak Park believes the Greenway plan is a good investment contributing to public safety concerns and would like to see funding returned.

Franny Richie: Ms. Richie also spoke representing Bike Walk Oak Park. She expressed her great concern that a collaboratively designed plan with the Village is not supported in the staff recommended 2020 Budget. Ms. Richie expressed the opinion that this plan is one that benefits the entire Village.

4. Approval of Minutes

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[MOT 19-116](#) Minutes from the October 14, 2019 Meeting of the Finance Committee.

It was moved by Trustee Moroney and seconded by Trustee Boutet to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2019 Finance Committee meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

5. New Business

none

6. Old Business

[ID 19-312](#) Finance Committee Review of the Draft Recommended FY20 Budget

Deputy Village Manager Lisa Shelley provided an overview on the budget review process with the Finance Committee and highlighted topics of discussion for this meeting from the Enterprise and Internal Service Funds. Ms. Shelley noted that the draft staff recommended 2020 budget is on the

Village's website, including a schedule of meetings for the finance committee, and a highlevel summary chart of the proposed budget and 3% levy.

Enterprise Fund

Water/Sewer Fund

Ms. Shelley introduced the Director of Public Works John Wielebnicki to present on the Water/Sewer fund rate study with consultants from Baxter & Woodman. The desire is to present options for a five-year water rate forecast to fund needed infrastructure improvements and services. It has been a goal to identify leaks and improve accounting practices with updated meters that would permit a fixed network. A fixed network would permit the Village and residents to receive real time water readings, helping to identify leaks and need for service sooner. Additionally, a new goal is to update EPA documents for emergency preparedness. Mr. Wielebnicki responded to questions of the Village Board on plans to replace older meters overtime.

Mr. Wielebnicki introduced consultants from Baxter & Woodman. The consultants presented a water rate study with three scenarios for projecting a 5-year rate plan. Consultants from Baxter & Woodman explained how they assessed and came up with suggested rate increases to meet the need for proposed future infrastructure budget expenses without pricing water/sewer fees higher than neighboring communities overall. The consultants evaluated three scenarios for achieving a sustainable fund balance and provided results of each: 1) baseline - no increases, 2) fixed and volumetric increases of 2% each year, 3) fixed and volumetric increases of 3% for the first two years, 2% the third year, and 1% for year four and five. The consultants responded to questions of the Village Board regarding fixed versus volumetric rates. "Fixed" references costs that a municipality consistently incurs to provide services. "Volumetric" allows a municipality to charge a higher rate for consumers that use greater amounts of water, such as a Hospital, to cover additional costs that can incur to maintain meters for these customers. Baxter & Woodman recommend utilizing scenario 2) or 3) and evaluating actuals every year to adjust as needed. Mr. Wielebnicki explained the advantage to providing a five year rate plan for budgeting of larger infrastructure projects. He does not anticipate changing the five-year Capital Improvement Plan at this time. The consultant shared that identifying and repairing water leaks may raise revenue for the water/sewer fund in future years due to loss that is currently unmonitored.

Trustee Moroney asked questions to suggest that the Village Board be cognizant that growing a water filter program translates to higher

coming from the General Fund then would normally be recommended. CFO Drazner responded to questions of the Village Board regarding this recommendation. Village Manager Pavlicek summarized how determining how much should be in the Self-Insured Retention Fund is figured. The Village Board may decide to have a more detailed discussion in the future on how that amount is assessed, what revenue sources should be contributing, and to what degree.

Village Manager Pavlicek noted that John Wielebnicki will be presenting the rate changes from the Environmental Services Fund for a first reading at the November 4, 2019 Village Board meeting.

Village Manager Pavlicek clarified that staff will be presenting a proposed 2-year Budget for the Board, as previously requested, now that some direction has been gathered in the first go around with the staff recommended 2020 Budget to the Board.

Trustee Boutet requested a document come to the Village Board that identifies funding for the Board goals.

7. Adjournment

It was moved by Trustee Moroney, seconded by Trustee Boutet to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the Motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m., Thursday, October 24, 2019.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Village Clerk Vicki Scaman**