

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> , 2009 AT 8:00 P.M.  
IN ROOM 101 OF OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL

**OFFICIAL RECORD:**

PRESENT: Trustees Brewer, Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Lueck and Pate; President Pope  
ABSENT: None  
QUORUM: President Pope called the meeting to order at 8:34 P.M. and declared that a quorum was present.

**AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded to remove Item 2, Review Visitors Bureau Status, from the Agenda and add as item 1 Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of 1030 S. Taylor Street . A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. President Pope then asked that the amended Agenda dated September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, be approved. It was moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. A voice vote was taken and the Agenda as amended was approved.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

1. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 2009-0-069 entitled **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 1030 S. TAYLOR AVENUE** be adopted, true and correct copies of said Ordinance herewith being ordered filed in the Office of the Village Clerk.

The roll call on the Ordinance was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Brewer, Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Lueck and Pate; President Pope

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Ordinance as was adopted.

2. **PRESENTATION OF VILLAGE MANAGER'S 2010 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION**

Village Manager Tom Barwin presented an overview of the proposed balanced budget for 2010. He noted that the full impact of the recession is now hitting the Village government, leading to further expense reductions to achieve a balanced budget.

Chief Financial Officer Craig Lesner presented the Recommended Budget for 2010. The proposed property tax levy of 3.13% represents a 0% increase for the Village, a tentative 2.33% reduction for the Oak Park Public Library and an estimated 10.97% increase in Police and Fire Pension Fund obligations mandated by the state. Mr. Lesner noted that the \$4.5 million line of credit does not affect the fund balance.

Due to a delay in issuance of property tax bills, the Village will not have these revenues to pay \$5.6 million on debt service on November 1, but will tap into other sources of funding, which will be repaid when these funds are delivered. Mr. Lesner expects that the current line of credit will be paid off before the July 10, 2010 deadline.

The General Fund will have a balanced budget with an anticipated net surplus of \$2,398,573 through personnel reductions, increased transfers and use of the fund balance. M. Lesner noted that unlike some other communities, which were able to tap into reserves when the recession

arrived, Oak Park had been without reserves and had to work harder to create the current reserve in a down economy.

Real estate transfer taxes and building permits are projected to be above 2009 estimated collections but still significantly lower than in recent years. Sales taxes are projected to increase 3%. Business license and health inspection fee increases were included in the totals. Mr. Lesner noted that the Housing Center expenses are included in the Housing Department line item. Partner agency funding is down 10% from 2009. In addition to General Fund resources, the Health Department will receive grant funding for some programs.

Authorized police staffing has been consistently higher than actual staffing since 1991, which is currently at 116. Average staffing over this time has generally been below this level while crimes have dropped by 50% over the same time period.

Projections for the General Fund over the next 6 years indicate that by 2015, expenses will outstrip revenues by \$4 million, largely due to personnel cost increases and pension obligations.

The Parking Fund is in balance this year after years of showing a net loss. This is due to a recommended increase in off-street parking permit fees. TIF continues to pay for its share of garage debt service, and the amount owed to the General Fund is down from \$10.6 million in fiscal year 2007 to about \$5 million in fiscal year 2009.

The Water Fund includes a 14% rate increase to cover expenses. In addition to standard expenses and water main replacements, Oak Park will be replacing water pipes below I-290 for the first time since 1955. This will be done in conjunction with IDOT to assure that these pipes, which supply water service to Oak Park south of the expressway, do not fail. This project is estimated at a cost of \$1 million.

Trustee Hale suggested that the Village investigate state support, since the interstate project has made access to normal repairs of these pipes impossible. Trustee Johnson recommended review of ARRA funding as well.

The Sewer Fund shows a net surplus of \$26,195, having retired all outstanding debt. The Solid Waste Fund projects a \$5000 deficit with a 3% CPI increase.

The Village contribution to Capital Fund projects (which also includes grant funding) shows a \$2,019 surplus. Funding this year has allowed early repairs of alleys and lower maintenance costs for buildings as part of a multi-year plan detailed in this report. Trustees discussed options for capital improvement funding sources.

Trustees agreed to changes in the proposed calendar budget review, canceling budget discussions for October 12. Any questions for staff should be sent by October 9, with responses to Trustees by October 20 and discussion as part of the Public Hearing on the budget on October 26.

President Pope noted that radio station WBEZ has been broadcasting programming on the pension crisis in Illinois. Only one municipality was represented in recent discussions of options; this lone voice raised objections to passing the problem down to the local level.

**ADJOURN**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 P.M. Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

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Teresa Powell, Village Clerk

By: MaryAnn Schoenneman  
Executive Secretary