

**APPROVED MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN ROOM 101 OF OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL**

OFFICIAL RECORD

PRESENT: Trustees Brewer, Hedges, Johnson and Lueck; President Pope
ABSENT: Trustees Hale and Pate
QUORUM: President Pope called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and declared that a quorum was present.

PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET REVIEW

1. Law Budget

Village Attorney Ray Heise referred to his memo that was distributed to the Board that described the functions of the Law Department. He stated that the focus of his budget was on consultant fees. The 2011 budget request is \$50,000 above 2010, for anticipated consulting with regard to labor issues, and particularly public safety.

He stated that the funds that his department tries to bring in collectively under budget each year are civil liability legal expense, consultants and civil liability claims. The Village has managed its risk well and has not encountered any problems with the present level of funding in the self-insured retention fund, although that is not to say that the Village shouldn't work towards increasing that fund. He noted that in the audit, their reserves are reported as expenditures when, in fact, they are not.

President Pope asked for clarification regarding reserves; Chief Financial Officer Craig Lesner explained that depending on what cases are under way, it is an estimate of future expenses. The reserve amount is set by the auditors based on industry standards.

Mr. Heise spoke about the Illinois Risk Management Association (IRMA) and said that it would be advantageous to the Village in terms of cost to become part of that.

Trustee Johnson asked if there was a process in place for getting RFQs every two to three years for rate comparison purposes. Mr. Heise said that it is not that often, but the firms being used have not raised their rates in three years.

2. Police Budget/West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center Budget

Chief of Police Rick Tanksley thanked Village Manager Tom Barwin and the Board for ensuring that the Police Department has the resources to continue to provide a high level of service to the community. He gave an overview of the employees in his department and presented his 2011 budget.

Chief Tanksley discussed grants received totaling \$1.4 million, including radios through the Cook County Sheriff's Office. He also noted that crime is down 11 percent.

Trustee Johnson asked if the budget included filling five vacant officer positions; Chief Tanksley said it did. Trustee Johnson praised the Police Department for the outstanding job that they do.

There was a discussion concerning police pension reform. Trustee Lueck suggested that a more proactive approach was needed regarding this issue.

Mr. Barwin introduced Henry Gralak, Director of West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC).

Trustee Johnson commended Mr. Gralak's staff and asked if there were plans for expanding the regional approach to the dispatch center. Mr. Gralak stated that they have had discussions with the Village of Forest Park.

Mr. Gralak also explained the importance of the radios granted from the county and the role that plays in the Village's narrow banding initiative.

Trustee Hedges asked how close WSCDC was to their budget for this year. Mr. Gralak stated that they would come in approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 under budget.

3. Fire Budget

Fire Chief Tom Ebsen spoke about the functions of the Fire Department and programs initiated in 2010, primarily alarm registration. He also discussed ALS ambulance calls and noted that personnel historically sent on fire trucks to provide assistance are now utilizing a former command car outfitted in paramedic equipment; this has proven to be much more efficient.

Mr. Barwin praised the medically trained dispatchers affiliated with Loyola Hospital. Chief Ebsen added that this was a great benefit for citizens, as these dispatchers determine the level of support needed.

Chief Ebsen stated that two additional firefighter positions would be added as a result of a Federal government grant.

Trustee Hedges asked if there was a decrease in false alarms due to an adjustment in fines. Chief Ebsen noted that it has only been two months since the Fire Department has taken this on; they would be monitoring it more closely in 2011.

Trustee Johnson asked about the feasibility of a regional fire department. Chief Ebsen said that there have been discussions between chiefs but setting this up is beyond their levels of expertise. A consultant may have to be hired.

President Pope noted that there's an active discussion about this issue going on at the Metropolitan Mayors Conference level, and they have put together some materials that could be useful for a municipality that would consider entering into such an agreement. He suggested that there be a discussion at the manager level among the communities, and put together a set of steps to investigate what would be involved. Once some preliminary information is gathered, a more involved discussion with the Board could be arranged.

4. Public Works Budget

Director of Public Works John Wielebnicki described the funds of the Public Works Department, which include general, water and sewer, environmental services and capital improvements, and what they encompassed. He discussed initiatives and estimated expenses for 2011.

Mr. Lesner noted that he and Mr. Wielebnicki were still reviewing this and were hoping to finalize the revised version to provide to the Board.

Trustee Johnson asked if outsourcing was saving the Village money. Mr. Wielebnicki said that it is and described how responsibilities have been shifted with a condensed work force.

Village Forester Jim Semelka spoke about tree trimming cycles and other forestry issues. There was a discussion regarding 4-year and 6-year cycles.

Mr. Wielebnicki discussed future sewer maintenance projects, equipment purchases and the water meter replacement program.

5. Review of Revenues/Adjustments

There was a discussion regarding suggested adjustments to all department budgets.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 P.M. Thursday, November 11, 2010.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

By: MaryAnn Schoenneman
Executive Secretary

Teresa Powell, Village Clerk