

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
Oak Park Village Board

**Minutes**  
**July 6, 2013**  
**Village Hall, Room 101**  
**123 Madison Street**  
**9:00 am**

**Attendees:**

Ray Johnson – Village  
Colette Lueck - Village  
Peter Barber – Village  
Teresa Powell - Village  
Jim Gates – D97  
Denise Sacks - D97  
Janet Kelenson – Library  
David Sokol - Library  
Jeff Weissglass – D200  
Ade Onayemi – Township

**Additional Invited Participant:**

Craig Lesner, CFO - Village

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am. Mr. Johnson reported that minutes of the meetings of April 12, 2012, May 19, 2012, December 1, 2012, April 13, 2013 and June 1, 2013 were distributed to Village members of the I-Gov Committee for approval. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed and the minutes were approved.

**Orientation**

Mr. Johnson welcomed new attendees to the I-Gov committee, Peter Barber and Ade Onayemi and reviewed the vision and mission statements.

**Letter to the Editor, One View**

Mr. Johnson asked for feedback on the draft One View. The Township and Parks Boards will review the draft at their July meeting. Mr. Weissglass and Mr. Sokol provided some written revisions for review. Mr. Gates asked that any additional changes be submitted directly to him to compile.

**Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cost Savings**

Mr. Johnson introduced Craig Lesner, CFO of the Village of Oak Park, who distributed a summary of Shared Services compiled by the business officers of taxing bodies in Oak Park in March 2012 and reported that they have met monthly over the past year.

Mr. Lesner reported that earlier discussions on additional shared services, such as health insurance and phone service, have not yet demonstrated enough cost savings to move forward. IT and HR have been proposed but obstacles remain. Mr. Lesner pointed out that business managers see these decisions a

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policy issues and would like direction from elected officials to move forward with investigation of such options.

Mr. Sokol and Mr. Weissglass noted that they would welcome recommendations from staff on cost-saving opportunities in order to provide direction. Mr. Weissglass asked for information from business managers on areas which have been explored but are not currently feasible to consider in order for elected officials better respond to resident inquiries.

Mr. Onayemi suggested that combined efforts with Oak Park's largest employers, such as the hospitals, also be considered.

Mr. Barber suggested taking another look at IT, Wi-Fi and phone systems and possibly hire a consultant to coordinate the effort. Mr. Lesner noted privacy and security concerns as impediments to past efforts.

Ms. Lueck suggested using the expertise of Village advisory boards, such as the Citizen Information Systems Commission (CISC) and Board of Health as resources for collaboration as well.

Mr. Lesner distributed Community Financial Projections provided by each taxing body and compiled for the Council of Governments. Following discussion of the summary page and annual reserve funds by taxing body, Mr. Sokol suggested that footnotes identify the passage of referenda and larger reserves for capital expenditures to clarify points with larger fund balances.

Ms. Lueck expressed concern that Oak Park may be in danger of squeezing out "the middle class" with tax increases. Following discussion of the impact of passage of referenda on the overall tax burden and past consideration of each "good reason" to pass these, there was general agreement for the need to consider future initiatives as part of the overall tax burden and better coordinate needs.

Mr. Barber suggested review of reserve funds compared to other communities to determine reasonable levels for funds. Mr. Gates asked about intergovernmental loans to help cover revenue reimbursement delays from the County and State governments.

Mr. Lesner will provide the documents he distributed electronically to the I-Gov participants.

### **Report out from Participating Taxing Bodies**

Mr. Weissglass reported that the High School finance committee will have 15 members including residents and has scheduled 10 meetings for budget preparation. The Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board on July 9 at 6:00 pm. The Board held a protocol and planning meeting facilitated by the IASB.

Ms. Lueck reported that public meetings to review the recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan have concluded and the written report is being prepared. The budget process for 2014 is beginning.

Ms. Kelenson reported on the renovation of the main lobby of the Main Library, a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new building in October, and the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the library in Oak Park. She also mentioned that people she talked with at the American Library Association meeting noted that Oak Park was a leader in municipal libraries.

Mr. Sokol added that a new library director, David Seleb, is now in place and several other senior openings on the library staff are to be filled. He noted the new wi-fi service at Scoville Park as an example of collaboration with the Library and encouraged re-examination of joint phone service.

Mr. Onayemi described the Face-It counseling program sponsored by the Township with referrals from the Village's Adjudication Department, with 110 families served to date. Students receive credit from the

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TIME program and Community Service at the High School. He offer to arrange for a presentation on this program at a future I-Gov meeting.

Mr. Gates noted that work on school playgrounds is proceeding as a collaborative effort. D97 hosted a Board retreat on June 22 at Holley Court.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Village Board held a protocol session with goals for the next two years and beyond, identifying four main themes: Economic Development, Service Delivery, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Eisenhower Expressway corridor. He reported that a Term Sheet for development of the Colt-Westgate parking lot area is now in development. He also thanked Mr. Lesner for presenting to I-Gov.

**Next Meeting**

Mr. Johnson asked that agenda items for the next meeting be sent to him and Mr. Gates. Agenda suggestions included review of major tax appeals and review of the shared services list and phone services. The next meeting will be late August or early September, and Mr. Gates will send a schedule request (Doodle) for availability. Mr. Gates offered to host the next meeting at D97.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

**SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:**

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Teresa Powell, Village Clerk

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