

**Minutes of the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force  
Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 101**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**  
  
**Present:** Chair David Pope, Members John Hedges, Jim Peters, Gary McCullough, Joi Cregler and Judy Greffin  
  
**Absent:** Brian Chang  
  
**Also Present:** Village Manager Cara Pavlicek, Deputy Village Manager Lisa Shelley, Village Attorney Paul Stephanides, Bob Dean of the Metropolitan Planning Council, Oak Park Township Assessor Ali El-Saffar, and Park District of Oak Park Executive Director Jan Arnold

3. **Introductions**

Oak Park Township Assessor Ali El-Saffar, and Park District of Oak Park Executive Director Jan Arnold introduced themselves to the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force (“Task Force”). Each member of the Task Force introduced themselves as well as Village Manager Pavlicek, Deputy Village Manager Shelley, and Village Attorney Stephanides.

4. **Public Comment**

None.

5. **Approval of May 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

It was motioned by Member McCullough and seconded by Member Hedges to approve the Task Force’s May 15, 2018 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

6. **Research Activities**

a. **Discussion with Ali El-Saffar, Oak Park Township Assessor**

Ali El-Saffar gave a PowerPoint presentation titled “Oak Park Tax Levies and Tax Rates.” Mr. El-Saffar reviewed the formulas for state and local taxes in Illinois. The total property tax levy for 2017 was \$199,096,000 of which \$180,391,000 goes to Oak Park governmental bodies and the remainder goes to county and regional agencies. The total tax levy in 2015 was \$150,429,000. The levy for non-home rule governmental entities is limited to the rate of inflation with certain exceptions, including tax increases due to referendums. The largest taxing district in Oak Park is Elementary School District 97, second is Oak Park and River

Forest High School District 200, the Village of Oak Park is third, the Park District of Oak Park is fourth, the Oak Park Public Library is fifth and Oak Park Township is sixth. Mr. El-Saffar presented the history of the property tax levies for each of these taxing districts since the year 2000. Mr. El-Saffar compared the history of the total tax levies in Oak Park from the year 2000 against the levies in Berwyn, Elmwood Park, River Forest and Forest Park.

**b. Review of Civic Federation study on effective tax rates**

Bob Dean reviewed a handout from the Metropolitan Planning Council comparing Oak Park's effective tax rate against the effective tax rates in Berwyn, Evanston, Mount Prospect, Palatine and Park Ridge. Oak Park's effective tax rate has gone up over the last 10 years and the rate of the increases is comparable to the other municipalities.

**c. Review of MPC research on correlation between tax rates and number of taxing bodies**

Bob Dean also highlighted the tax rates in DuPage County verses the number of taxing bodies located in a given area in DuPage County pursuant to the handout.

**7. Comparable Communities**

**a. Discussion with Jane Grover, former Evanston alderwoman**

Jane Grover, former Councilwoman for the City of Evanston and current Outreach Principal for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, gave a presentation on the City of Evanston's experience with the dissolution of Evanston Township with the City assuming the Township's functions. Ms. Grover discussed the referendum and legislative process for the dissolution of Evanston Township and provided a handout summarizing the process and providing the legal documents that accomplished the dissolution. A state statute had to be enacted to accomplish the dissolution which was provided as part of the handout. The functions of the Township are now performed by the City's Health and Human Services Department.

Ms. Grover also discussed the City of Evanston's current experience with priority based budgeting, which calls for a comprehensive review of all programs and expenditures by the City with a ranking system for the programs and expenditures. This process is currently ongoing and 52 programs are under review. Ms. Grover discussed Evanston's experience with the sharing of services with other taxing bodies.

**b. Findings from discussions with comparable communities and schedule for future discussions**

Bob Dean informed the Task Force that a conversation is scheduled with the Evanston's City Manager and Health Department Director. A conversation occurred last week with the Village of Woodridge.

## **8. Outreach activities**

### **a. Summary of comments received on Village webpage**

Bob Dean discussed the comments received on the Village webpage from the public to the questions posed to date.

### **b. Approach to other taxing bodies**

The Oak Park Township has responded to the Task Force's survey. Other taxing bodies have not submitted their responses to the survey to date.

### **c. Plans for further public engagement**

The public questions posed on the Village's website are being publicized on the Village's Facebook and Twitter pages and through E-News. Two more questions will be posted on the website to be answered through mid-June.

## **9. Analysis of options**

### **a. Review and analysis process for potential recommendations**

There was a discussion of whether the Task Force's report will be publicly vetted before the August 20, 2018 adoption date and how the report will be drafted.

### **b. Identification of additional potential recommendations**

The Task Force discussed the following items for possible recommendation by the Task Force and the assignment of the items to individual Task Force members for drafting: (1) priority based budgeting – Members McCollough and Peters; (2) scheduling of referendums – Members Greffin and Hedges; (3) zero based budgeting/budget discipline – Members Greffin and McCollough; (4) joint capital budgeting among taxing bodies – Members Greffin and Hedges. Task Force members will send Bob Dean a list of their other ideas for possible recommendation

## **10. Adjournment**

It was motioned by Member Greffin and seconded by Member Hedges to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.