

**Minutes of the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Public Works Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Multi-Purpose Room**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**  
  
**Present:** Brian Chang, John Hedges, Judy Greffin, Joy Cregler, Jim Peters, Gary McCullough, David Pope  
  
**Absent:** None  
  
**Also Present:** Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager and Paul Stephanides, Village Attorney

3. **Introductions**

Each member of the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force (“Task Force”) introduced themselves as well as Village Manager Pavlicek and Village Attorney Stephanides.

4. **Public Comment**

Chris Donovan provided public comment that services in the Village should not be reduced. He also inquired as to whether the Task Force will be discussing the extension of any current Village tax increment financing districts.

Marty Bernstein provided public comment on the property tax referendum process by the school districts located in the Village and he stated that each taxing body seeking an increase in property taxes pursuant to a referendum should all do so at the same election.

5. **Open Meetings Act Review**

Village Attorney Stephanides gave a presentation to the Task Force on the Open Meetings Act. He reminded the Task Force members to complete the Illinois Attorney General’s on-line training, if they have not already done so, as required by the Act. Training must be completed 90 days after a member has taken his or her seat on the Task Force and a copy of the certificate of completion of the training provided by the Attorney General’s office is to be submitted to the Village Manager.

6. **Overview of Task Force Mission**

a. **Village Board Authorization**

Village Manager Pavlicek reviewed Resolution 18-816 adopted by the Village Board creating the Task Force and stated that the Task Force has until August 20, 2018 to make its final written report to the Village Board of its findings and recommendations.

Member Peters stated that pursuant to the Resolution, the Task Force's recommendations are not binding. Chair Pope stated that Section 1 of the Resolution provides a broad net for the Task Force to evaluate. Chair Pope stated that the Metropolitan Planning Council ("MPC") has offered to provide support to the Task Force at no charge. Bob Dean and Josh Ellis are the MPC staff members that will provide such assistance.

**b. Road Map**

Chair Pope stated that there are three buckets to the Task Force's charge: (1) those items worth pursuing; (2) those items that warrant future review, not necessarily by the Task Force; and (3) previous ideas that do not warrant further work.

Member McCullough stated that a determination as to be initially made as to what is the baseline tax burden and how have individual decisions by the taxing bodies created the baseline.

Member Cregler asked whether the Task Force can ask individual taxing bodies to provide internal recommendations. Member Hedges responded that over the years, taxing bodies have provided such recommendations and that information could easily be retrieved. Chair Pope said the Task Force could perform outreach to other taxing bodies. Member Greffin asked what has been previously discussed by IGov? Chair Pope stated that IGov has had discussions regarding property taxes as well as the Council of Government. The Council of Government is made up of the chief elected official and chief executive of each taxing body and meets bi-monthly.

Member Hedges suggested that low hanging fruit can be identified by the Task Force. Chair Pope stated that items that have a real impact should be the focus of the Task Force.

**c. Village website comments/suggestions**

Manager Pavlicek discussed the Village's online commenting capabilities per the Village's website. The Task Force wants to allow an opportunity for the public to have input and their comments can be submitted as part of the Task Force's final report. Village staff will provide an online comment recommendation.

Member Peters suggested that focus groups be organized to elicit ideas from the public. The Oak Park taxpayer watchdog group's Facebook page could be used to find participants. Member Greffin suggested that business community groups and the Chamber of Commerce should be approached to provide input.

**d. Metropolitan Planning Council**

Manager Pavlicek will send the MPC's website link to the Task Force members.

**7. Set meeting calendar**

Task Force meetings will tentatively be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month through August 7, 2018 with morning meetings at 8:00 a.m. and evenings meetings at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. A doodle will be sent the members regarding their availability for meetings.

Chair Pope suggested that the Task Force reach out to Oak Park Township Assessor Ali ElSaffar for input. The Task Force agreed that pensions should not be part of the Task Force discussion and capital expenditures by the taxing bodies should be reviewed.

Oak Park Library Board member Ted Foss provided public comment regarding services that can be provided by the Library for the Task Force.

Kitty Conklin provided public comment. Ms. Conklin stated that there are eight or nine Facebook groups in existence that are currently discussing property taxes in Oak Park in one form or another. Ms. Conklin stated that getting more bang for the buck is looking at headcount and increasing technology usage.

**8. Adjournment**

It was moved by Member McCullough and seconded by Member Hedges to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.