

**Minutes of the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force
Tuesday, June 19, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 101**

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m.
- 2. Roll Call:**
 - Present:** Chair David Pope, Members John Hedges, Jim Peters, Gary McCullough, Judy Greffin, Brian Chang
 - Absent:** Joi Cregler
 - Also Present:** Deputy Village Manager Lisa Shelley, Village Attorney Paul Stephanides, Bob Dean of the Metropolitan Planning Council (“MPC”) and Theodore Foss, Trustee of Oak Park Library and representative of iGov

3. Introductions

Theodore Foss, Oak Park Public Library Trustee and representative of iGov introduced himself to the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force (“Task Force”). Each member of the Task Force introduced themselves as well as Deputy Village Manager Shelley and Village Attorney Stephanides.

4. Public Comment

Theodore Foss of the Oak Park Library Board stated that I-Gov held a meeting on June 16, 2018. I-Gov will make the minutes of the June 16th meeting available online.

5. Approval of June 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

It was motioned by Member McCollough and seconded by Member Peters to approve the Task Force’s June 5, 2018 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

6. Analysis of Options

a. Analysis of potential recommendations

Members Greffin and McCullough stated that there has to be budget discipline between the taxing bodies. Member McCullough added that there is a lack of coordination between taxing bodies and they need to come together. Member Greffin stated that the annual tax increase should largely be reflective of inflation. There should also be an agreement as to the amount of tax increases each year between the taxing bodies. There was a discussion concerning the legality of enforcing an agreement to limit tax increases among the tax bodies. Member Greffin suggested that an independent commission or a governing board

could determine annual tax increases, but there should be a spirit of cooperation between the taxing bodies rather than something that is legally binding. Chair Pope stated that there should be an understanding between the taxing bodies about the total amount of property taxes and a target could be set as to where taxes need to go in the future for the taxing bodies. Chair Pope stated that there is a disproportionate emphasis on services by the taxing bodies verses the financial impact of taxes on the community.

Member Hedges suggested that the Task Force look at a 5-year capital spending plan for all taxing bodies. He stated it would be an opportunity to create transparency.

b. Identification of additional potential recommendations

Members Peters and McCullough suggested priority based budgeting to slow rising property taxes similar to what the City of Evanston has implemented for itself. There would need to be research about the other taxing bodies budgeting processes before this could be implemented. Chair Pope stated that the Village adopted a form of priority based budgeting in 2007-08.

Chair Pope distributed handouts about different categories to analyze which includes operating expenses; retirement, pension, healthcare and benefits expenses; capital infrastructure expenses; debt financing and capital instrument expenses; and revenue offsets. Under the operating expenses topics, the Task Force discussed how to reduce salary expenses by implementing a salary freeze and consolidating employee roles. Member Hedges raised questions on the submission of a referendum question concerning the consolidation of taxing bodies. A multi-jurisdictional fire protection district could also be established. Chair Pope asked whether the Village could change the amount the employees contribute to the pension plan. A change in the state law would be required before there is a change in employee contribution to the pension plan.

7. Outreach activities

a. Summary of comments received on Village webpage

Over the past three months, the Task Force has posed six online questions to the general public through the Village's webpage about property taxes, local government services and consolidation of local governing bodies. The Task Force will submit a report about the received comments.

b. Approach to other taxing bodies

Bob Dean of the MPC will obtain salary information from other taxing bodies and he will obtain past budgets.

c. Plans for further public engagement

Before the Task Force's report goes to the Board, the Task Force should receive input from other taxing bodies. A Task Force survey was sent to all taxing bodies. The Village and the Township are the only taxing bodies that have completed the survey.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The Task Force discussed whether to have the July 24, 2018 meeting begin at 7:00 p.m. rather than the scheduled time of 8:00 a.m. pursuant to comments the Task Force has received that a 7:00 p.m. start time would allow for more public engagement. It was motioned by Member Peters and seconded by Member Cheng to have the July 24, 2018 meeting at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

8. Adjournment

It was motioned by Member Hedges and seconded by Member McCullough to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.