

Minutes of the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force
Tuesday, July 24, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 101

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Chair David Pope, Members John Hedges, Jim Peters, Gary McCullough, Judy Greffin, Brian Chang, and Joi Cregler by phone

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager Cara Pavlicek, Village Attorney Paul Stephanides, Josh Ellis and Angela Reilly of the Metropolitan Planning Council (“MPC”)

3. Introductions

Josh Ellis and Angela Reilly of the Metropolitan Planning Council 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 and Village Attorney Stephanides.

4. Public Comment

Kitty Conklin questions the motives of the Task Force members in recommending an advisory referendum regarding the merger and consolidation of Oak Park taxing bodies.

Clarmarie I. Keenan, Oak Park Township Supervisor, asked that the Task Force not make a recommendation when binding referendum questions are calendared. She stated it is not fiscally responsible to schedule referendums on the same date.

Simone Boutet, Village Board Trustee, recommended the Task Force continue to serve beyond its August 20, 2018 sunset date. She stated that the Task Force should conduct additional research needs to understand the budget of each governing body. The Task Force will be rushed to make its final recommendations by August 2018. She thanked the Task Force members for their service.

5. Approval of July 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

It was motioned by Member McCullough and seconded by Member Chang to approve the Task Force’s July 10, 2018 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

6. Report Preparation

a. Draft outline

Chair Pope summarized the Village Board's discussion at its July 23, 2018 meeting regarding the Task Force's recommendation to place an advisory referendum on the November 6, 2018 election ballot on the merger and consolidation of Oak Park taxing bodies. Chair Pope stated that he anticipates the Board taking action on the recommendation at the Board's next meeting.

A draft report presented by Member Greffin was discussed by the Task Force. It is recommended in that report that a Village-wide financial commission be created that would and the Task Force discussed what the possible mission of such a commission. The Task Force also discussed priority based budgeting and the City of Evanston's current experience with it. Approximately 3,000 residents responded to Evanston's recent survey regarding budget priorities.

7. Responses to Questionnaires

a. Review of responses from Village, Township, and Park District

Member Hedges spoke of his experience with governmental cooperation during his time with the Park District. Member McCullough stated cooperation between taxing bodies has to be done in ways to reduce property taxes in the Village.

8. Analysis of recommendations

A handout was prepared by Josh Ellis and presented to the Task Force. The handout contained three categories: (1) completed analyses; (2) recommendations that are being analyzed; and (3) recommendations that have not been analyzed. The Task Force discussed each category and their subcategories and discussed the assignment of tasks to be completed by the Task Force members.

The Task Force requested that Attorney Stephanides prepare a memorandum regarding the recently adopted state statute on school district tax levies. Manager Pavlicek will provide the Task Force with an overview of Village tax increment financing districts at an upcoming meeting per the Task Force's request.

8. Adjournment

It was motioned by Member Hedges and seconded by Member Chang to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.