

**Minutes of the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force
Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 101**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Chair David Pope, Members Brian Chang (8:10 a.m.), John Hedges, Jim Peters, Gary McCullough, and Judy Greffin (by phone)

Absent: Joi Cregler

Also Present: Village Manager Cara Pavlicek, Village Attorney Paul Stephanides, Village Attorney, Bob Dean and Angela Reilly of the Metropolitan Planning Council

3. Introductions

Bob Dean and Angela Reilly of the Metropolitan Planning Council (“MPC”) 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

None.

5. Approval of May 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Member McCullough and seconded by Member Peters to approve the Task Force’s May 1, 2018 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

6. Research Activities

a. Comparable communities and case studies

Evanston, Palatine and Woodridge have been contacted and interviews will be scheduled. Evanston has the highest comparability to Oak Park. The Task Force agreed to add Berwyn and Park Ridge as comparable communities to be contacted for interviews. The communities will be asked for their past and future ideas for governmental collaboration and their governance structure will be explored.

b. Financial analysis

Member Peters asked that the effective tax rate of comparable communities be part of the Task Force's inquiry. Member Greffin asked that the trajectory of taxes be discussed.

7. Outreach Activities

a. Summary of comments received on Village website

Bob Dean commented that the website closed on May 14, 2018 for responses to the first question. There were over 130 responses. Member Peters commented that there should be press outreach on the survey. Manager Pavlicek stated that the Village has placed items on its webpage and Facebook and Twitter pages to publicize the survey.

Bob Dean stated that about 20 people thus far have responded to the question regarding how taxes have affected the value of their homes, which is the newest question on the website.

Manager Pavlicek stated that she will provide the Fair Housing Task Force Report that was Member Cregler assisted in preparing to be distributed to the Task Force members as an example of the type of report to be ultimately provided by the Task Force.

b. Approach to other taxing bodies

Letters were sent to the Village's taxing bodies by Chair Pope and thus far Oak Park Township is the only taxing body that has submitted a response. The Task Force reached out to the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Township, School District 97, School District 200, the Park District of Park, the Oak Park Library and the Mental Health Board.

8. Development and prioritization of options

a. Categorization of past social media suggestions

The Task Force will be careful about setting expectations regarding ideas that cannot be accomplished. Zero based budgeting for Village taxing bodies was discussed. Member Peters stated that the comments and recommendations indicate a public frustration regarding taxes. Bob Dean discussed government consolidation and stated that the Task Force could recommend that the Village advocate for changes at other levels of government.

b. Review of categorization proposal

Chair Pope asked that the member submit their ideas for the next meeting scheduled for June 5, 2018. Chair Pope stated that the Task Force will look for responses from the other Village governmental bodies for the next meeting. The Task Force asked for a legal analysis of the Township's Community Mental Health Board.

9. **Adjournment**

It was moved by Member Hedges and seconded by Member Chang to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

The next meeting is June 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall in Room 101.