

**APPROVED MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M.
IN ROOM 101 OF OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL**

OFFICIAL RECORD

PRESENT: Trustees Brewer, Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Lueck and Pate; President Pope
ABSENT: None
QUORUM: President Pope called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and declared that a quorum was present.

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the agenda was approved as presented.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. 2011 Budget Presentation & Overview

Village Manager Tom Barwin gave an overview of the proposed \$125,000,000 2011 budget. This proposed budget does not call for cuts to department agencies, tax increases or lay-offs, although the Village work force will be slightly reduced through attrition.

Public safety remains the Village's top spending priority, with more than 50 percent of the \$45 million general fund budget going to police, fire and emergency medical services. This includes an additional civilian training coordinator position, which will result in one additional police officer on the street. Fire and EMS services will be supplemented in 2011 by two additional firefighter positions, which will be 100 percent grant funded.

The public works department will remain staffed at levels appropriate to keep streets, allies, water and sewer waste functioning. The Forestry division will receive an additional \$50,000 to replace storm damaged trees and those lost to emerald ash.

The Capital Improvements Program will continue.

Other changes in 2011 include funding for webcasting and re-broadcasting Village board meetings on demand and an expansion of on-line services.

While some employee groups that have negotiated multi-year contracts will receive pay adjustments of two percent, pay increases have not been budgeted across the board for 2011.

The Village's contribution to the police and fire pension systems will increase by \$60,000 in 2011, from \$6.2 million this year, to more than \$7 million next year, or 15% of the general fund.

Mr. Barwin concluded by informing residents that they may offer suggestions regarding the 2011 budget by going on line at www.oak-park/finance and turned the meeting over to Chief Financial Officer Craig Lesner.

Mr. Lesner also spoke about the increase in police and fire pensions. He gave an overview of the revenue summary, which included projected revenues from various taxes, licenses and funds.

Trustee Lueck asked what strategy the Village had in terms of the fire and police pensions and suggested that they work with other municipalities and legislative bodies to address this critical issue.

Mr. Barwin said that he has discussed this topic with various officials at the state and local level.

Trustee Lueck suggested that a more formal approach was needed. This was a significant issue for taxpayers; they don't generally understand how much of their tax payment goes into pensions, and how essentially, if this doesn't change, it will bankrupt the Village.

Trustee Hedges discussed Mr. Barwin's comment regarding work force reduction by attrition. The Village should be looking at how best to use their current resources, rather than leaving positions vacant.

Mr. Barwin stated that they will continue to address this as they have in the past, with transfers, reorganization and consolidation within the Village. He explained that the Village was in a quasi-hiring freeze; they would first try to provide the same services with greater teamwork. If this could not be accomplished, they would post the vacant position.

Trustee Hedges was also concerned about the two additional firefighters; what will happen after the grants are no longer available?

Mr. Barwin said this was discussed with Fire Chief Ebsen; the force would be reduced to 59 through attrition in the next 12 to 15 months.

Trustee Hale commended Mr. Barwin's letter regarding the budget and stressed the need to address the pension fund issue. He suggested reducing the police force; if the Village couldn't afford this, they would have to start cutting services. He also expressed concern regarding capital improvements; the Village needed a broader economic strategy to take advantage of the post-recession environment.

Trustee Johnson stated that there was a need for more innovative capital improvement plans and ways to reduce expenses.

Trustee Brewer asked what the department heads were asked to do in terms of developing their budgets.

Mr. Barwin answered that they were told to anticipate another challenging year, and to come up with whatever strategies they could to continue to deliver current services for less cost than what they are currently spending.

Trustee Johnson asked for the fund balance chart and Trustee Hedges asked for five-year projections; Mr. Lesner said he would provide them.

Mr. Lesner spoke about the refinancing of the Library bond and the risk management fund.

Mr. Barwin stated that October 21, 25 and 28 and November 4, 8 and 15 were tentative meeting dates to continue budget discussion.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M. Monday, October 11, 2010.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

By: MaryAnn Schoenneman
Executive Secretary

Teresa Powell, Village Clerk