

Committee of the Whole
March 25, 2024
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens, Nicole Callos. Also present: Wayne Gift, Lindsay Buss, Brandt Esling, Nick Bergman, Louise Workinger

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of March 25, 2024 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2024

2) On a motion by Peight second by Keeffer to approve the meeting minutes from February 26, 2024. ALL AYE.

Approval of Bills Payable

3) No Bills Payable at this time.

Public Participation

4) There was no public participation at this time.

Discuss Budget

5) The Board reviewed the excel budget spread sheet for Village revenues. Buss stated the following: video gaming tax will be increased to \$55K. Checking interest has increased \$10K. A line item for \$1.2 million loan repayment for street improvements was added. \$5,662,425 for total revenues. Resident taxes did not go up, but the Village capture of funds increased. Callos presented Village expenses; \$2.69 million street projects, \$1.2 million sales tax. Peight inquired about streets dept overtime since water has one employee and streets has three employees. Budget is \$12,500 for overtime for water and streets department; \$5,000 for streets \$7,500 for water. Callos explained numbers for overtime pay for streets and water were based off 2023 fiscal year and will run a report showing the breakdown. Engineering expenses are estimated to drop after the major projects are complete. \$200K budgeted for a plow truck. Audit costs increased from last year and \$36K was budgeted for the upcoming year. Buss explained approximately \$10K comes into MFT funds a month. Milfred Street projects are awaiting IEPA review, but a reserve for the project is in place. Total budgeted expenditures are approximately \$7,937,900.

Discuss Adjustment of Appropriations

6) Callos presented the appropriations draft that will be up for approval at the April Board meeting. No more money was spent; the accounts were adjusted from what was budgeted to what was actually spent within each department.

Discuss Village Newsletter

7) Stevens presented a draft newsletter. Keeffer will be following up on gathering information for the electronic recycling day to be added to the newsletter. Madi Becke and Stevens have been working on the newsletter to include QR codes to assist residents in locating Village information. Peight gave credit to the Cemetery Board for all their work with gravestone restoration and the new Cemetery Office. It was suggested to add an employee spotlight section. Baldauf stated she was approached by a resident who was curious if there would be assistance in clearing out inlets. If a resident needs help they can contact the Village.

Discuss Electronic Recycling Day

8) Keeffer is awaiting updates on this.

Discuss Streets Department Helping with the Lena Burial Park

9) Esling explained the company that used to handle grave digging within the Lena Burial Park is no longer in service. The work takes approximately an hour to complete and costs \$400 per grave. Of the \$400, \$200 is for maintenance, \$125 goes to renting an excavator. Buss stated he did not know that they should be charged considering the Cemetery is essentially another branch of the Village. There was discussion of buying an excavator with the Cemetery Board that the Village would house and maintain to cut out rental costs. TrueVine charges \$500 and is the back up plan if Village employees are unavailable.

On a motion by Smith second by Keeffer to adjourn to Executive Session - *Pursuant to the exception set forth in Section 2 (c) (1) of the Illinois Open Meeting Act concerning personnel. No action was taken during executive session. On a motion by Keeffer second by Smith to adjourn to regular session. ALL AYE.

Adjournment

10) On a motion by Smith second by Keeffer to adjourn the March 25, 2024 Meeting at 7:10pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk