

SPECIAL RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST
COOK AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
May 10, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor John Ostenburg; Trustees: Mae Brandon, JeRome Brown, Tiffani Graham, Georgia O'Neill, Theresa Settles

ABSENT: Trustee Robert McCray

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Dankowski, Director of Finance; Sharon Floyd, Assistant Finance Director; Bruce Ziegler, Fire Chief; Tracy Natyshock, Deputy Fire Chief; Robert Gunther, Director of Recreation and Parks; Kevin Adams, Recreation Manager

OTHERS: Gary Kopycinski

Mayor Ostenburg called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Village of Park Forest Board Room. The roll was called.

Chief Ziegler reported that the Fire Department had 3,381 calls in 2015. Of the proposed budget for the Fire Department, 89.7% goes towards salary, pensions, FICA, and IMRF; 2.2% is earmarked for professional services (SouthCom); 1.6% for operating supplies, 1.4% for capital outlays and 5.1% is applied to vehicle services. The proposed budget for the Fire Department FY 2016/2017 is \$4,748,102.

Capital expenditures include: SCBA cylinder replacements, replacement of personal protective equipment, fire station maintenance, portable radio upgrade/replacements, replacement of copy machine, computer system upgrade, and fire station furnishings. A grant to replace SCBA cylinders has been applied for. Regarding the Vehicle Services Fund, the Fire Department will be replacing Engine 56 in August 2016 at a cost of approx. \$750,000. Replacement of Car 71 is planned for January 2017 at an approximate cost of \$55,000. The current vehicle will be handed down to the Building Department.

Present and forecasted challenges were reviewed. The staffing goal is to have a 6 person minimum staff present (2 ambulances staffed plus 2 at the station for other calls). Currently there are 14 paid on call firefighters, but ideally there would be 25. There is a wider scope of candidates from communities contiguous to Park Forest. The Affordable Care Act presents a challenge. Two senior firemen are retiring this year. Continuing education takes place yearly. Firefighter health and safety, including mental health, is always being addressed. Research is being completed for a grant for bariatric ambulance transport which would include a cot that can hold a larger patient up to 850 pounds. When needed, the Village could loan the ambulance and one firefighter to other communities.

Service fees are reviewed annually. Ambulance billing is increasing and is estimated to produce an income of \$450-500,000. An expanding scope of services is provided by the Fire Department relating to the Affordable Care Act and specialized response (i.e. HazMat, water rescue, active shooter training). Sustainability is always a focus including shared services, such as sharing a reserve pumper with Flossmoor, which is a concept to be researched in 2016-17.

Grants received/requested include: AFG Power cot grant (essentially completed); Enbridge pipeline grant for \$1,000 for training site improvements; and the IDPH Grant for CPAP equipment. Future grants applied for include: AFT breathing apparatus; bariatric transport; fire prevention and safety (replacing the fire safety education trailer at an approximate cost of \$120,000).

Chief Ziegler concluded his presentation with a demonstration of the emergency reporting system through SouthCom.

Mr. Kevin Adams began the Recreation and Park presentation by discussing the TeenZone structure changes. User supported programs create maximum revenue and offset costs for other programs (i.e. trips produce revenue that can offset the cost of other programs that do not produce revenue such as Kids to Parks and Main Street Nights). Teen Zone falls in the bottom portion of that tier. TeenZone has partnered with PAAC. Adina McCullough is working with PAAC during the summer as a site supervisor. Students will hopefully transition from PAAC to the afterschool program when school begins in the fall. Ten students went on a tour of mid-western colleges. Bitty Ball and the Youth Basketball program had successful seasons. Next year the Pride Basketball Team will transition from a Village-operated program to a community program similar to Park Forest Baseball and the Park Forest Hurricanes. The Village maintains four areas used as community centers: the Aqua Center, Tennis and Health Club, Freedom Hall, and the Rec Center. The school district no longer has need for the Rec Center. The Village will be completely responsible for building maintenance. Access and parking will be reviewed as well as the shared heating system.

Dealing with the emerald ash bore crisis is virtually complete. A \$13,300 grant from the Morton Arboretum will help in planting replacement trees. The Village expects to plant 45 trees with the grant. Attendance at the Freedom Hall series has increased. Next year will mark the 40th anniversary season. Expenses at Freedom Hal are expected to be offset by revenue with adjusted ticket prices.

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board recommends replacing the equipment at the Murphy Park playground. Capital outlays have always been used for repairs at the Rec Center. Over the course of the year, staff will assess what needs to be done at the Center and develop a plan for capital improvements and maintenance of the building. Other capital outlays include resurfacing the parking lots at Village Hall, Aqua Center and Tennis and Health Club, upgrading the shooting range at the Police Department, and needed HVAC work. Staff was encouraged to seek grant funding for parking lot resurfacing.

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board will participate in opening day at the Aqua Center as Kids to Parks Day coincides with the Youth Commission carnival, and participation at that event has been marginal for the past three years. Staff will evaluate replacing the basketball court behind the Michelle Obama School but will also look at other locations for a court. Skaters are still using the skate park on Wilson Street.

Last year, in spite of the weather, sales were up 30% at the Aqua Center. Residents account for 49% of season passes (up 15%). Park Forest residents accounted for 79% of daily fees. There is a new resident/non-resident fee structure in place for the 2016 season. Capital outlays planned at the Aqua Center include resurfacing the parking lot, replacing the pool pump, computer system upgrades, replacing the south fence, and replacement of deck chairs and dressing room partitions.

Usage of the Tennis and Health Club has been robust. Local colleges use the facility for practice. Currently the State has closed the whirlpools at the Club pending details on how they were constructed and addressing the emergency shut off. Pump and chemical issues need to be worked out. Planned capital outlays include upgrading the whirlpools, Virginia Graham compliance, and resurfacing the parking lot.

Planned vehicle service purchases include a pick-up truck, plow and a planting attachment for the skid steer to assist in planting trees.

The Village should receive documents from the architect next week for the Village Green expansion. A budget of \$327,000 is planned for the project which includes a native edible garden, water features, a venue for public art, a labyrinth, and a walk around the stage where vendors can set up for events.

Mayor Ostenburg had closing comments regarding being good stewards of the community trust, neighborhood meetings, SSMMA housing related issues, manufacturing events, the Makers Lab, and Business after Hours.

Trustee Graham moved for adjournment; second by Trustee Settles. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dolores DuBois, Recorder