

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD**  
**MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Laube called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center. Present at roll call were Trustees Bowman, Cramer, Figurski, Menzel, Pelletier and Tuman. Also present were Attorney Rosenthal, Chief Lukasik, Administrator Osten, Treasurer Toppel and Clerk Brouder.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Trustee Pelletier made a motion to approve the Board Minutes of the February 21, 2008 meeting. Trustee Tuman seconded.** The motion passed by a roll call of six yes votes.

**VISITOR'S COMMENTS**

Present in the audience were Mark Hoffman representing Moretti's Restaurant for their Zoning Hearing, Chamber representative John Trandel, and PEDC member Bob Nunamaker.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Trustee Figurski reported the following for the NWMC ~

- 2009 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chicago "Burnham Plan".
- Metra Board has three new members ~ Morton Grove Village President, Wilmette Village President, and a Village of Niles Trustee.
- There is a Public Safety Pension Resolution urging the General Assembly to preserve the solvency of the Public Safety Pension. There will be a Pension summit March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Mt. Prospect Village Hall. Jim McNamee was named President of the Illinois Public Pension Commission.
- A Green Procurement Expo and Conference will be held June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> at Navy Pier in Chicago.

Trustee Pelletier reported the following for McCOG ~

- Next meeting is March 26<sup>th</sup> and Trustee Pelletier will be out of town. It is a dinner and roundtable discussing:
  - Pot Hole Removal
  - Liquor Licensing
  - The Role of Townships in Land Use, Zoning and Planning
  - The McHenry County Water Resources Taskforce
  - Approaches to maintaining security at Village Hall and other public places
  - Current trends in development impact fees
  - Dealing effectively with irate residents

President Laube stated she would be able to attend the next McCOG meeting.

- IML Lobby Day and Reception will be April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Trustee Figurski made a motion to adopt a resolution urging the General Assembly to stop making costly benefit improvements and adopt reforms that protect police and fire pensions. Trustee Menzel seconded.** It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes. This will be Resolution 2008-02.

Mr. Trandel asked about the pension situation. Trustee Figurski mentioned the Village's referendum in 2002 that passed the police pension, but not the funding for it. This pension is now paid from the Village's General Fund with 25% of our tax levy. The Village can not afford to increase the benefits. We do not want anything taken away from our pension, but don't increase the benefits that many municipalities will have trouble funding. Mr. Nunamaker asked if the tax cap restriction might be waived for police pensions. Trustee Figurski stated there is currently one proposed bill attempting to do that.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

~ **Trustee Tuman made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Report for February 2008. Trustee Menzel seconded.** The motion was approved by a roll call of six yes votes.

~ **Trustee Tuman made a motion to recommend payment to Maxim for Phase II of the Wastewater Treatment plant in the amount of 46,605.30. Trustee Pelletier seconded.** The Village received all paperwork from them, so there are no conditions. This will be reimbursed 55% from the grant. It was approved by a roll call of five yes votes. Trustee Menzel had stepped outside.

~ **Trustee Tuman made a motion to enter into a contract with Eder, Casella & Company for Audit services. Trustee Figurski seconded.** This is a three-year contract. It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes.

~ **Trustee Tuman made a motion to enter into a contract with Eder, Casella & Company for bookkeeping services. Trustee Cramer seconded.** It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes.

~ **Trustee Tuman made a motion to enter into a contract with American Appraisal. Trustee Figurski seconded.** It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes.

Trustee Tuman reported the budget includes the cost of living amount of 3.3% and 3.3% for merit raises. The merit amount is \$45,300 and CPI is \$28,300. There is additional money for any salary adjustments the Village Board might like to make. The \$20,000 for Skill Steps has been carried over from last year.

Administrator Osten and Treasurer Toppel had passed out a memo regarding the budget changes from the Finance meeting and the Public Works Facility Funding. There were several comments and questions regarding it.

Trustee Menzel was concerned about having \$8,000,000 listed for the public works facility. Administrator Osten stated that having that amount listed does not mean it will be spent. If we only put in \$4,000,000 and it costs more, we would have to amend the budget.

President Laube did not remember the \$1,000 being added to Streets & Parks Capital for the labor to put up and take down banners. Administrator Osten stated that \$4,500 was for the holiday decorations, but did not include labor. The banners will be a 50/50 split with businesses and \$7,500 is earmarked for that.

President Laube pointed out the landscaping for the train station is listed in two places. Administrator Osten stated if Metra doesn't approve the use of the funds, we do have it in capital. It is backup.

The increase in Water & Sewer administration fees is the overhead costs that are attributed to Water & Sewer costs ~ Penny as the Utility Billing Clerk, Attorney fees, other Village staff time. This has not been increased in three years. It is transferred from Water & Sewer Fund to the General Fund. Trustee Menzel objects to this.

President Laube explained that the increase from \$24,000 to \$41,000 for landscaping services is spread among different Village funds. Superintendent Huizinga did not have enough time to get quotes from other vendors, but used past quotes for landscape maintenance to arrive at a maximum amount.

The increase in Water & Sewer revenue of \$20,000 for Wynstone is a very conservative number. Their water levels are not as high as last year, so we did not want to over-estimate the revenue.

Trustee Figurski asked to have information at least the day before any meeting it will be discussed at. Trustees Menzel and Bowman have strong concerns regarding the Public Works facility. This item will be discussed more later during Speer Financial's presentation.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

~ **Trustee Pelletier made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing membership in the McHenry County Council of Governments Public Works Emergency Mutual Aid Service Agreement. Trustee Figurski seconded.** It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes. This will be Resolution 2008-03.

~ **Trustee Pelletier made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing membership in the McHenry County Council of Governments Public Works Non-Emergency Mutual Aid Service Agreement. Trustee Figurski seconded.** It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes. This will be Resolution 2008-04.

~ **Trustee Pelletier made a motion to paint the light poles at the train station black and as poles need to be repainted throughout town, they will also be painted black. Trustee Cramer seconded.** It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes.

Trustee Pelletier reported that Ace Hardware will have a drop box for mercury light bulbs.

Trustee Pelletier stated our train station is not handicapped accessible and asked Attorney Rosenthal if the Union Pacific would be legally obligated to bring the station into compliance. He stated that the Village should send a complaint to the Commerce Commission for ADA and the Governor. The Attorney General is a disabilities advocate.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT**

~ **Trustee Menzel made a motion to adopt an ordinance repealing Chapter 7 "Civil Defense" of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Fox River Grove. Trustee Figurski seconded.** This chapter is obsolete. It was approved of a roll call of six yes votes. This will be Ordinance 2008-04.

~ **Trustee Menzel made a motion to enter into a contract with Bonded Collection Corporation for debt recovery. Trustee Figurski seconded.** This is a collection agency we will be working with to collect delinquent water & sewer bills, parking tickets and miscellaneous billings. It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes.

## **VILLAGE ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Laube reported that Kevin Cunningham is stepping down from the Parks Commission due to increased work responsibilities. He has been on this commission since it first began in 1987. Member Bill Conway is not available to become Chairperson. Member Dan Otto is considering it. President Laube will be contacting members who are not very active to see if they want to continue and will be looking for new members as needed.

President Laube referred to Trustee Cramer for the Special Events Committee meeting details. Trustee Cramer reported that the 2008 events would be the April 27<sup>th</sup> \$100 raffle, Village Fireworks, Fox Fest and the Tree Lighting, which will be chaired by the Lioness. On the park fundraisers (the ice skating and car show), the Committee did not feel this would fall under Special Events. Trustee Pelletier stated that she felt Parks Fundraisers should be done under the Parks Commission. Also, the Bike Race wasn't really discussed because Trustee Cramer didn't know enough about it. Resident Jim McNutt spoke to Trustee Cramer about having a Farmers Market in 2009.

The Committee will begin to make Master Plans for community events and create a volunteer network of individuals that would be willing to help at events. Chamber member John Trandel stated the Village should ask the Chamber for volunteers. It was also noted that the Boy Scouts are interested in volunteering.

President Laube stated that the official responsibilities of the Special Events Committee would be the \$100 Raffle, Fireworks, Fox Fest and the Tree Lighting.

## **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

## **VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT**

**~ Trustee Figurski made a motion to waive the park and sound permit fees for FRG Lions Craft Show. Trustee Bowman seconded.** It was approved by a roll call of six yes votes.

Clerk Brouder reminded everyone that our meetings are taped and when there are side conversations, they are heard on the tape. Besides being rude, it is also disruptive for the person who is talking. They should refrain from any side conversations.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Cramer reported that in honor of Earth Hour, lights throughout the metro area should be turned off from 8 – 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The NWMC and Metro Mayors Caucus recommend that everyone participate.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. David Phillips from Speer Financial was introduced and reviewed his report on the financing of the new Public Works Facility. The Village's current available debt is \$10,756,333. Our debt limit is \$13,273,833 and we have approximately \$2,500,000 outstanding. There was discussion regarding passing referendums, possible court litigation, using water and sewer funds, rate increases, percentages of department funds, EPA directives, real estate taxes, bonds and a

possible blending of options. New revenue sources and grants are possible and rates may not need to be increased as much. President Laube advised Trustees to review the proposal and direct any additional questions to Mr. Phillips. President Laube thanked Mr. Phillips.

She asked the Village Board to reconsider the \$8,000,000 listed in the budget and if it should be reduced to \$4,000,000. **Trustee Bowman made a motion to reduce the \$8,000,000 to \$4,000,000 for the Public Works Facility in 08/09 Budget. Trustee Menzel seconded.** The motion did not pass. Trustees Bowman and Menzel voted yes and Trustees Cramer, Figurski, Pelletier and Tuman voted no. The \$8,000,000 amount will remain. Because it is there, does not mean we will spend all of it.

Administrator Osten stated that a 6% water and sewer increase is included in the budget. He also stated that the budget will be balanced because we are reducing our reserve balances. Our General Fund will have a seven-month operating reserve and Water & Sewer will have a fourteen-month reserve.

The cost of living increase will be 3.3%. All Trustees agreed. Trustee Bowman feels the maximum of 3.3% merit is too high. This is just a budget line item. After evaluations are completed, the Trustees can decide what the amount will be. We have \$45,300 for merit.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

~ **Trustee Menzel made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. Trustee Bowman seconded.** All were in favor. A five-minute break was taken. **Trustee Bowman made a motion to return to the Village Board meeting at 9:47 p.m. Trustee Figurski seconded.** All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

~ **Trustee Figurski made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 9:48 p.m. Trustee Bowman seconded.** All were in favor.

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Katherine A. Laube, Village President

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Date Approved

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Donna M. Brouder, Village Clerk