Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Village Board Workshop
Monday, November 14, 2022
6:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Room 301

A. Call to Order – 6:06 PM

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Upon roll call by Clerk Cosby, President Senak and Trustees Christiansen, Fasules, Kalinich, Payne, and Thompson answered "Present." Trustee Fasules moved and Trustee Christiansen seconded to allow Trustee Gould to join the meting via phone, with a unanimous vote in favor.

Also in attendance: Village Manager Franz, Assistant Village Manager Rodman, Village Attorney Mathews, Finance Director Noller, Police Sgt. Webber, Fire Lt. Andris, and Fire Chief Clark.

D. Audience Participation

No audience participation.

E. **Discussion**

Trustee Christiansen recused herself from the Fire/EMS conversation due to a potential conflict of interest.

Finance Director Noller reviewed the latest draft of the 2023 budget.

1) General Fund – Fire

Finance Director Noller reviewed the Fire budget, pointing out differences in last year's budget and asked if there were questions.

President Senak asked about the increase in the equipment fund. Trustee Payne added that is $177,000, which Finance Director Noller agreed.

2) General Fund – EMS

Finance Director Noller moved onto the EMS budget which includes a decrease in the ambulance cost. Village Manager Franz added some information on EMS operations for next year as well.

Finance Director Noller clarified the financial relationship with Metro and how the logistics work.

Trustee Payne asked if we would get confirmation before the end of the year. Village Manager Franz replied.

3) Fire Services Fund

Finance Director Noller moved onto the Fire Services Fund and pointed out the increase in the Fire Services fee.

President Senak asked Finance Director Noller if he proposed to increase the fire service fee. Village Manager Franz replied with reasons to wait on this proposal.

Based on several follow-up questions, Village Manager Franz explained the situation in more detail.

President Senak asked why the Village would pay Chief Clark's salary. Village Manager Franz replied that the arrangement is based on Fire Chief Clark being a Fire Company employee as opposed to a Village employee. He then went into a detailed explanation as to why this decision was made with input from President Senak and Trustee Fasules.

Fire Lt. Matt Andris added insight into Fire Chief Clark's status as a contract employee which is succession planning, overseeing EMS, training and long-term strategic and facility planning.

Trustee Payne asked about the number of hours that Fire Chief Clark will be working as full-time. Fire Chief Clark replied that he will be on the clock for some duties but does not expect to be paid when he is acting as a Volunteer member of the Fire Company and responding to calls.

President Senak identified 3 areas – safety, accountability, and oversight -- and explained what each meant to him. He then wanted to know how accountability and oversight is being achieved in this current agreement. Village Manager Franz replied.

Trustee Gould asked if expense summaries will be part of accountability for Fire. Fire Chief Clark replied that they will be reported like other departments in the Village with 100% visibility.

Trustee Fasules added that the budgets will be split into three – fire, EMS and Village – so it will be clear where expenses fall and can be reviewed and analyzed.

Trustee Payne asked about the Board being part of the oversight and how can they fulfill that function. Fire Chief Clark replied that he hopes to give regular input to the Board and answer questions so performance can be gauged.

Trustee Payne added that the Board will need to know why funds are needed, and that the data will help show the residents why infrastructure, equipment, etc. is necessary.

Trustee Fasules emphasized that the goal is to look at the process and make a list of what projects may be needed.
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Trustee Gould asked if, as a part of transparency, information is on the website where the Fire Company Board names are listed and are the Fire Board meetings posted and are they open meetings. Fire Chief Clark stated that Fire Board meetings are not public, and that the President and the Board are more than welcome to attend. He also gave the schedule for those meetings.

Trustee Fasules suggested that Fire Services could be tied into the Village website so that the residents will see more visibility to the Fire Department. Lt. Andris added that the Fire Department website has that information on it.

Trustee Payne asked about the vehicle budget. Fire Chief Clark replied that there is a vehicle that was expensed out of last year's budget. Village Manager Franz elaborated on equipment and the budget for it.

Trustee Payne thanked Trustee Fasules, President Senak, Fire Chief Clark, and the entire company for their work.

Trustee Fasules added his thanks as well, and that the Village does not appreciate the Fire Company enough and recognize their contribution and is a crown jewel of the Village.

President Senak added his thanks as well and was appreciative of the framework provided and the service to the community.

Fire Chief Clark thanked everyone and believed this will be a big improvement.

Village Manager Franz talked about next steps as far as finalizing the agreement.

4) Budget Follow-up

Finance Director Noller talked about items in the budget that had been added and will be in the general fund, and their effect of the budget.

President Senak asked that Finance Director Noller's slide of the breakdown be circulated to everyone.

Trustee Christiansen asked for clarification of the additional funds to the Village Links. Finance Director Noller replied.

Trustee Payne wanted to put out on the table the possibility of potential saving in operating fund using cash reserve for one-time expenses only.

Trustee Kalinich thought that discussion needs to continue, after the budget is approved, about the cash reserves and how to use them. Finance Director Noller and Village Manager Franz explained this further.

Trustee Fasules believes the 4.9% should be kept and then abated.

Trustee Gould was more favorable to 3% than 4.9% and expected some line items as options to the use of cash reserve for one-time expenses.

Trustee Payne asked for clarification of what the one-time items are. Finance Director Noller replied that the items are on page 393. Discussion of these items continued as to how “one-time” these items would be.

President Senak asked if, based on the discussion, if the tax levy would only be increased by new growth. Finance Director Noller replied yes.

It was agreed that further discussion is needed as far as the use of the cash reserve.

Trustee Gould stated that she expected a list of items that can be expenses that can be cut to achieve a lower levy.

President Senak thought Trustee Payne’s and Trustee Gould’s ideas could be combined and used in conjunction to reach the Board’s budget goals.

There was further discussion as to how to agree on a final 2023 Budget, with extended comments from Trustee Gould and Trustee Fasules.

Trustee Kalinich supported the budget and levy as presented.

Trustee Christiansen would like to cut $180,000 form the budget. Trustee Gould agreed.

Trustee Thompson stated that this is a public safety budget and needs to be funded, as well as the businesses affected by the upcoming Streetscape.

President Senak asked if Trustee Gould, Trustee Payne, and Trustee Christiansen are in favor of some sort of budget cuts. They all replied yes.

Trustee Fasules, Trustee Kalinich, and Trustee Thompson did not feel cuts were necessary because it would take time away from the staff to do other duties.

Trustee Gould wanted to know where the draft of cuts was. Village Manager Franz replied that the list was of the one-time items but can look to find more.

President Senak thought that the staff should take a hard look at the budget and see if there is something else that can be cut.

Trustee Thompson wanted the $60,000 added to the Chamber of Commerce’s budget and elaborated on the reasons why this should happen, particularly since the Taste of Glen Ellyn is probably not going to happen. President Senak added that they need to have oversight to get funding.

Trustee Thompson felt that art projects need to be funded in the community. Village Manager Franz replied with information about a possible partnership.

Trustee Kalinich talked about revisiting the Chamber situation in six months. Trustee Thompson said that the bands need to be booked sooner than that timeframe to get the desired entertainment.

President Senak supports using cash reserves for one-time items that Trustee Thompson is concerned about.

Trustee Christiansen thought that art projects should be public/private partnerships instead of funding it through the Village.

F. Adjourn – 7:29 PM

Mover: Trustee Christiansen; Second: Trustee Kalinich. Unanimous vote to adjourn.