



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Village Board Workshop
Monday, September 18, 2023
7:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Room 301

A. Call to Order – 7:00P.M.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Upon roll call by Clerk Cosby, President Senak and Trustees Fasules, Kalinich, Gould, Simon, and Thompson answered “Present.” Trustee Christiansen was absent.

Also in attendance: Village Manager Franz, Assistant Village Manager/Community Development Director Rodman, Public Works Director Buckley, Interim Finance Director Brankin, Village Engineer Daubert, Police Chief Norton, and Fire Chief Clark.

D. Audience Participation

No audience participation.

E. Presentation

1) Fire Services Fee Presentation and Discussion (Interim Finance Director Brankin)

Village Manager Franz gave background on recent long-term planning, including some details of the planning, and how these plans resulted in the need to increase the Fire Service Fees.

Interim Finance Director Brankin presented the history of the Fire Services Fee, starting in 2013, how it has changed over the years since, where the fee structure is currently, as well as proposed fee increases to support quality Fire Services for the future needs of the department. Proposed fee increases depend upon property type. It was agreed that the proposed fees were in-line with inflation and other historical factors.

Cost comparisons of other towns near Glen Ellyn were presented. Trustee Thompson asked why the fees in other towns are so much higher. Fire Chief Clark replied, pointing out that some Fire Department budgets include items such as, but not exclusively, career fire fighters and EMS, and that the Village has a unique funding structure because of the volunteer nature of the department.

Trustee Kalinich asked what is the closest town to the Village that has a volunteer

department. Fire Chief Clark replied, with additional discussion about his response.

President Senak asked what the current Fire Services fee is in the Village. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of the current regressive system of the fees for residential fee payers, as well as the progressive structure for the commercial sector. The fairness of the fees was the main point of this discussion, and it was suggested that perhaps a progressive structure for all would be fairer to the residents.

President Senak asked what the total amount of revenue that would be generated by the new fee structure. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied, with continuing discussion on the subject.

Interim Finance Director Brankin pointed out that it is proposed to move the DuComm expense to the Fire Services fund because with the proposed increases, it can be supported within the budget and it really should be in the Fire Services budget anyway. Discussion about DuComm and the billing process ensued.

President Senak asked about Medicaid reimbursement for the GEMT program and if it is included in the proposed budget. Fire Chief Clark replied. President Senak wanted to be sure that the Village is going to collect revenue from the state.

Village Manager Franz explained the method used in trying to project the fee schedule being presented, which includes shifting the current model. Discussion ensued.

Village Manager Franz spoke about the Facilities study and subsequent plan, and that it would be the biggest part of the proposed increases.

Trustee Gould asked if the food and beverage tax could be used for the Fire Station. Village Manager Franz replied. Trustee Thompson added details about the tax when it was passed, and what it can be used for, and how it could be revised.

President Senak asked about the special services fees and if they increase every year. Village Manager Franz replied, with an additional response from Fire Chief Clark.

President Senak asked about the Fire Company expenditures, and where that money comes from. Interim Finance Director Brankin, Village Manager Franz, and Fire Chief Clark replied.

President Senak asked where the revenue from property taxes is listed. The response was the General Fund.

President Senak asked about the difference between the EMS fee vs. ambulance service fee. Village Manager Franz replied.

President Senak asked what the reason for the 4-fold increase in ambulance fees was. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied that it comes from the model fee.

Julie Spiller, business owner, asked about the business fees and wanted to know who pays them. The response was it would be whoever pays the water bill.

Interim Finance Director Brankin asked for direction with the budget and if the proposed

fee structure was supported by the Board. Fire Chief Clark clarified the proposed EMS fee again and how it is reflected in the increase.

Trustee Gould asked why the fee is broken out into three categories. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied. A majority of the Board felt that breaking it out was more transparent.

Support for the fee increase was given, with President Senak objecting to the way it is collected, and that it should be fairer to the residents.

2) 2023 Mid-Year Financial Report (Interim Finance Director Brankin)

Interim Finance Director Brankin reviewed the mid-year financial report.

President Senak asked about the current balance of the General Fund. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied.

President Senak asked specifics on the income fund. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied.

President Senak asked why the Parking Fund carries such a high balance over the minimum policy. Interim Finance Director Brankin pointed out that parking is an enterprise fund and that there are not tax dollars in the fund. Village Engineer Daubert added to the discussion of how much money needs to be in the fund for reconstructing/resurfacing parking. Discussion dug deeper into the parking fund.

3) Draft CY2024 Capital Budget (Village Engineer Daubert)

Village Engineer Daubert presented a draft of the CY2024 Capital budget for Capital Improvements projects.

Village Engineer Daubert spoke about the major roadway projects that are planned, including lead service and water mains that will be replaced when the streets are being renovated.

Trustee Kalinich asked if this included sidewalks. Village Engineer Daubert replied this did not.

Trustee Thompson thought that Crescent/Glenwood parking lot should be a multi-level lot. Discussion turned to past proposals to do this and that perhaps it should be explored again as a possible solution to parking on the north side of the railroad tracks.

President Senak asked about the allocation for the Crescent/Glenwood lot. Village Manager Franz and Village Engineer Daubert replied, citing reasons for this allocation and how the plans for the lot have changed and need to be reviewed. President Senak asked follow-up questions regarding the streetscape for this lot. Village Engineer Daubert clarified the streetscape plan, with additional clarification from Village Manager Franz.

Trustee Kalinich asked how it is decided which sidewalks get scheduled for removal and replacement. Village Engineer Daubert replied. She followed-up by asking if there was a master list. Village Engineer Daubert replied. Trustee Kalinich added that perhaps this should be done in a more equitable and comprehensive way so that it doesn't seem that the "squeaky wheel" gets new sidewalks.

Discussion continued about the current and future sidewalk plans. Trustee Thompson thanked Village Engineer Daubert for the efforts being made, and that residents notice.

Trustee Kalinich asked if the sewer work near Walnut would make it possible for those residents to hook into the water system. Village Engineer Daubert replied.

Village Engineer Daubert spoke about future projects in 2025 and 2026, including the train station/underpass and traffic signal improvements.

President Senak asked what qualifies as an antiquated traffic signal. Village Engineer Daubert replied. Trustee Fasules asked if smart signals are possible. Village Engineer Daubert replied.

President Senak asked how much of the preliminary budget for the train station was grant money. Village Engineer Daubert replied and gave more details about grants.

Village Engineer Daubert spoke about 2024 miscellaneous initiatives/expenditures and answered questions about specific line items when asked.

President Senak asked for clarification on the Glenwood Station streetscape and why it was not included in the overall streetscape budget. Village Engineer Daubert replied. There was further discussion of the details of this point.

Trustee Kalinich asked if the Glen Estates development issues had been resolved. Village Manager Franz replied.

Village Engineer Daubert spoke about the overall 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (2024-2028), including high-level details.

President Senak asked what the total for debt service was, which was not included. Village Engineer Daubert replied.

Trustee Fasules suggested that the Fire Stations needs to be included in the Capital Improvement Plan and that there should be an effort made to limit the issuing of bonds.

The Board and Village Manager Franz further discussed this idea at length. The issue of safety came up, to which President Senak gave his reasons why he thought the pedestrian tunnel was not a safety issue.

The food and beverage tax was addressed and how many 5-year plan projects it could actually support, and the amount of grant money needed. Village Engineer Daubert replied, with follow-up questions from President Senak.

Village Engineer Daubert continued with the debt service analysis.

Village Engineer Daubert moved onto the Capital Improvement Commission's review. Capital Improvement Commission Chairperson Szymanski added his thought on the Commission's work.

Trustee Gould asked what the philosophy behind the 2% increase in the food and beverage tax was based on. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied and confirmed that it has increased 6%.

Trustee Gould asked about value engineering cost reductions categories and if they could be

further broken out. Village Engineer Daubert replied. She asked for clarification on the contingency portion, as well and how it could affect the overall budget. Village Engineer Daubert replied. There was further discussion on how to control costs from going over budget.

Julie Spiller, business owner, asked what would happen if there's another COVID episode, as far as the reliance on the food and beverage tax. President Senak and the Trustees replied.

Village Manager Franz pointed out that the plan does not include the US Bank property project.

Norris Eber, resident, stated that as a taxpayer, fees are a tax no matter what you call them. He asked if the residents with sprinkler systems that needed a larger water intake and got charged more, are being taken into consideration for the 2024 budget.

Trustee Kalinich, and then the entire Board, praised Interim Finance Director Brankin for his work on the budget.

F. Reminders

- 1) Village Board Meeting Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7 pm

G. Adjourn – 9:48P.M.

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