



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Regular Village Board Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2023
7:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Galligan Board Room

A. Call to Order – 7:00 P.M.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Upon roll call by Clerk Cosby, President Senak and Trustees Christiansen, Fasules, Kalinich, Gould, and Simon answered “Present.” Trustee Christiansen motioned, with a second from Trustee Simon, to allow Trustee Thompson attend the meeting via Zoom, which the Board unanimously approved.

Also in attendance: Village Manager Franz, Assistant Village Manager/Community Development Director Rodman, Village Attorney Mathews, Public Works Director Buckley, Interim Finance Director Brankin, and Police Commander Downey.

D. Audience Participation

There was no off-agenda audience participation.

E. Employee Recognition

- 1) Compliment to Public Works Streetscape planning staff and construction crew from resident

Complimentary note from a Village resident regarding Streetscape execution read by Village Manager Franz

F. Public Hearing and First Reading of the Proposed 2023 Property Tax Levy for the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library

- 1) Motion to open the public hearing to receive comment on the proposed 2023 property tax levy for the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library

RESULTS: APPROVED [6 to 0]

MOVER: Trustee Christiansen

SECONDER: Trustee Gould

AYES: Christiansen, Gould, Fasules, Kalinich, Simon, Thompson

NAYS:

Interim Finance Director Brankin gave a presentation outlining the property tax levy. He reviewed the steps that have been executed to-date, and then proceeded to go over the breakdown of the proposed levy and its impact to an average homeowner.

There were no questions from the Board regarding the budget.

Trustee Gould asked for clarification on the proposed abatement. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied.

Trustee Kalinich emphasized that she views the proposed abatement as a compromise for trustees who are concerned about the levy amount, as noted in past discussions. She noted that there is shared concern of the financial impact to Glen Ellyn residents given the previously approved increase in water-related Village fees. She added that when the capital needs for the Fire Company are discussed, she hoped alternatives to raising fees could be considered, such as increasing the local gas sales tax or other local usage tax.

President Senak asked about the impact to an average resident, and if it included the increase in fees. Interim Finance Director Brankin replied.

Trustee Gould commented that when the Fire Company fee is figured into the rate increase, from a resident's perspective, the proposal is a 12% increase, which she felt was unacceptable. She then spoke about past years when the levy was kept low when fee increases were quite high, and that this should be the approach now. Trustee Kalinich asked if the 12% included the abatement. Trustee Gould replied "yes."

Trustee Simon asked how much the residents would pay if the Fire Company model was different. Trustee Gould said that this was not the point, that it was really about overseeing the increases with residents in mind.

Trustee Christiansen said that the fee increase is due to not raising the rates annually, which makes the increases seem higher since they are only executed every 5 years. Trustee Gould still thought that cuts in the budget, if asked for, could still be found to help the residents of the Village.

Trustee Fasules asked how much surplus capital is and should it be used to source the fees to support new fire stations.

President Senak said that the budget is where it is at because of increases in staff, and costs associated with that increase, not increases in Village fees. He hoped that there was still time to sit down and discuss cutting the budget before it is necessary for him to veto certain parts of the proposed budget.

Trustee Kalinich clarified that the discussion process, including the line-by-line review of each budget item that has been occurring over the last few months, was the primary time to identify items to be reduced or removed from the budget. She noted that there were items she did not want to have included in the budget or that she believed should be at a lesser amount, however, during the Board discussion, her opinion was in the minority. As such, she accepted that these items would remain as proposed unless the majority opinion of the Board changed. President Senak replied that the Board needs to step in and conduct meaningful oversight. Trustee Kalinich disagreed, stating the last few months of budget deliberations was the opportunity for meaningful discourse and to imply that meaningful oversight was not occurring was not accurate.

Trustee Thompson reminded everyone that there has been over 40 hours of discussion in Workshops and that the budget oversight has been done.

President Senak wanted to know what budget cut each Board member proposed. Trustee Kalinich responded that this was not the job of the Board. President Senak disagreed.

Trustee Fasules said that the philosophical differences in how the budget is constructed would need to be addressed to reach an agreement to shift the budget. He added that he would not tell staff what and where to cut.

Trustee Simon said she felt that the process has been gone about backwards and that the parameters should be set first in order for the staff to prioritize the budget and what resources are needed. She suggested that the Board needs to trust the staff to communicate what they need to perform their jobs to the level that the Village residents expect.

Trustee Christiansen agreed with Trustee Simon, adding that there have been staffing studies done that show personnel is needed. She was also fine with finding cuts and considering new revenue sources but felt that the budget should not be balanced on the backs of the staff.

President Senak agreed and reiterated that priorities need to be set so that the budget can reflect those priorities.

Trustee Christiansen said that everyone in every town thinks their taxes are too high. President Senak replied, giving examples of budget items that could be cut. Trustee Simon added her thoughts on this.

Trustee Fasules added his thought on the budget process and that Trustee Christiansen's suggestion to create other revenue streams would be a good approach, along with a discussion to address the rising property tax levy. Trustee Kalinich agreed and added that it should be a discussion that happens before the Fire Department needs are discussed.

To address one of the budget line items that concerned President Senak, Public Works Director Buckley explained the anti-icing operation. He added that the Village is trying to keep up with best practices in the industry. President Senak asked if Public Works Director Buckley would rather have a new assistant or the brine system. Public Works Director Buckley replied. President Senak gave his thoughts on this reply, pointing out that Public Works can't have everything and that items need to be prioritized in a year where costs to residents are drastically increasing. Discussion regarding decreasing the proposed budget ensued.

Trustee Gould talked about the compensation study being a great first step, and that a staffing study would be the next appropriate step before added positions to the Village staff. She added that she has been asking about overworking the staff, and felt that there are two ways to deal with this issue and that the timing is inappropriate to add seven positions.

- 2) Motion to close a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed 2023 property tax levy for the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library

RESULTS:	APPROVED [6 to 0]
MOVER:	Trustee Kalinich
SECONDER:	Trustee Christiansen
AYES:	Kalinich, Christiansen, Fasules, Gould, Simon, Thompson
NAYS:	

- 3) Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 7068 for the levy and assessment of taxes in the amount of \$16,491,897 for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024, of the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

RESULTS:	APPROVED [5 to 1]
MOVER:	Trustee Christiansen
SECONDER:	Trustee Simon
AYES:	Christiansen, Simon, Fasules, Kalinich, Thompson
NAYS:	Gould

G. Review and Discussion of Board Conduct and Operational Agreements

- 1) Discussion of Board Conduct and Operational Agreements

Trustee Kalinich proposed discussion on items that were reviewed in the Board self-evaluation “retreats” surrounding this topic. She suggested items to consider for this discussion.

President Senak said he appreciated Trustee Kalinich bringing the subject to the Board meeting.

Trustee Kalinich asked if this is something the Board wants to pursue. President Senak replied that he felt it was very much worth pursuit so that everyone on the Board can understand the intentions of each member.

Trustee Simon said she was grateful for the conversation and review of the guiding principles, which helps her understand her role better.

President Senak added that the functioning of the Board was of greater concern than any single member and that consensus building is key to understanding.

Trustee Christiansen asked Trustee Kalinich how she saw this being pursued and implemented. Trustee Kalinich referenced the example from School District #89 that the Board has previously reviewed, noting that the Board could identify agreements that are consistent with areas of the existing ordinances to find possible enhancements and/or voids to what is existing. The idea would be to ensure that there are clear and helpful guidelines for the Board to reference in determining the ideal manner in which to efficiently and respectfully do their jobs.

President Senak asked Trustee Kalinich what the first step would be. Trustee Kalinich suggested that it would be to identify a set of Board agreements that align with ordinances regarding how the Board will work together. Trustee Simon asked for clarification on the structure. Trustee Kalinich replied that it would likely be helpful to get a few sample agreements from other boards to use as templates for this Board's agreements.

Trustee Kalinich wondered if there were other strategies that should be employed when a meeting is going in an undesirable direction, some procedure to get a meeting back on track. She provided the example of temporarily pausing the meeting to give everyone an opportunity to regroup.

Trustee Kalinich suggested that the self-evaluation facilitator may have existing sample templates to use as a guide to start the process. Trustee Christiansen and Trustee Simon volunteered to investigate this with Trustee Kalinich. Trustee Kalinich offered to collect some samples and then distribute them to Trustees Christiansen and Simon for review.

Trustee Kalinich asked to work with Village Manager Franz to reach out and obtain the initial sample templates from the self-evaluation facilitator, and perhaps other municipalities and then those interested in participating can review the documents from other municipalities.

Trustee Simon reiterated that a "safe word" should be designated. President Senak agreed that it would be a good thing, and the Board agreed.

Trustee Kalinich asked if the Historic Preservation Commission had brought up a budget increase for the commission. Village Manager Franz replied he was not aware of it. Trustee Kalinich requested that someone reach out to the Commission to discuss funds they might need to continue their work in the future. Trustee Fasules thought there was a placeholder in the budget for an item like this.

Trustee Simon asked that the agenda include vision for the Village and ways to increase revenue, in which Trustee Christiansen agreed. It was agreed that it would be included in the January workshop.

H. Other Business

Trustee Christiansen reminded everyone that Friday is the Christmas walk and lighting of the tree, and that everyone should attend to see the great work done. Trustee Simon added that the downtown looks amazing.

I. Reminders

- 1) Village Board Meeting Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7 pm

J. Adjourn – 8:14 P.M.

RESULTS:	APPROVED [6 to 0]
MOVER:	Trustee Kalinich
SECONDER:	Trustee Gould
AYES:	Kalinich, Gould, Fasules, Christiansen, Simon, Thompson
NAYS:	

Adjourn to closed executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, Section 2.06, ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) and to discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, Section 2.06, ILCS 120/2 (c)(6) without returning to open session.