

Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget Committee – Village of Mamaroneck

April 29, 2014

In Attendance: Dan Margoshes, Chair; Douglas Dunaway; Manny Enes; Dan Karson; Steve Koller; Stefanie Lividini; Jeff Rubin. Ex Officio: Andres Bermudez; Richard Slingerland

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The chair noted the presence of a quorum of members.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2014. The minutes of the meeting of March 17 were approved at the conclusion of tonight's meeting.
2. Election of Chair and Secretary. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Dan Margoshes as chair of the Committee. No other nominations were made. The Committee voted unanimously to elect Mr. Margoshes as chair.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Dan Karson as Secretary of the Committee. . No other nominations were made. The Committee voted unanimously to elect Mr. Karson as secretary.
3. Regular meetings the Committee. Mr. Margoshes noted that the third Monday of each month was the regular meeting date for the Committee. He said that this date, however, has created conflicts with national holidays and village trustee meetings. Further he said that the village trustees expressed the view that the village committees meet on dates other than those of the trustee meetings and work sessions. He suggested that the third Tuesday of each month become the new regular meeting time.
4. Village Budget. Mr. Margoshes reported that the village budget was adopted. Mr. Bermudez stated that there were modifications made to the final budget: the elimination of pay telephones; a 2% pay increase for most employees, with certain exceptions; and part time staff was added to the Clerk's office. Mr. Margoshes stated that the Village could achieve savings with a head count reduction. He stated also that the Budget Committee did suggest raising parking fees and harbor fees as a way to raise revenue.
5. Parking. Mr. Bermudez was asked if the parking issue was close to a resolution. Mr. Koller stated that the Committee should review the study that was ordered by the village. Mr. Bermudez said that the village should consider charging more money for parking on Mamaroneck Avenue, requiring motorists to move their vehicles after 2 hours and utilizing a zone arrangement to enforce this. He said there is some consideration of the use of multi-space meters. He said further that the study was to be put on line. Mr. Slingerland said that he would look in to a Request For Proposal for multi-space parking.
6. Village Engineer. Mr. Bermudez reported that there is a discussion on instituting a fee arrangement to pay the village engineer a fee for review of flood prevention plans and storm water sewage prevention plans. This was intended to align with a plan to have village departments be self-sustaining.
7. Stuart Tiekert. Mr. Margoshes reviewed the issues brought to the Committee's attention by Mr. Tiekert - the Jefferson Avenue bridge, Drury Drive and the Barry Avenue project. [Minutes of the April 29 Budget Committee meeting provide details of these issues.]

Mr. Margoshes said that he believed that the Committee still did not have "comfort" as to how the village addressed these issues of this kind. He believed that the village should be better organized on the prioritization of projects. Mr. Koller asked whether any project was put off to take care of the Drury Drive project to which Mr. Tiekert objected. Mr. Slingerland responded saying that this was not so.

Mr. Dunaway stated that if the village had waited before addressing these projects, its liability would have been higher because the drainage was undermining the house foundation. Mr. Koller stated that the question is - who determines this?

Mr. Slingerland said that regarding capital projects, he has asked the village to address this. The village has purchased new equipment; the parks now are better maintained; there is better efficiency in the process. Regarding Drury Drive, the engineer said that there was a drainage issue. If it were undertaken in place of a project with higher liability potential it would not have been done. He said that there are few other projects like Drury of which he was aware of, and few in the pipeline. Mr. Slingerland said that there is another

problem now at Revere and that they are working on this, as well as Gate Road. The Army Corps project for the Mamaroneck River is a bigger item. (See below)

Mr. Slingerland reported on the correction of an EPA violation. He cited this as a priority and stated that any potential legal liability is addressed as a priority. At Pine Street the village got an EPA grant to match village moneys to address the situation regarding illegal discharge of sewage into storm drains.

Mr. Slingerland said that the village tries to plan on a short and long term basis. For example the fire department has a 50 year plan to replace fire trucks. The village leased a truck. It set aside a fund surplus for the purchase of a truck. It uses the surplus to fund and limit future debt and interest. The fire department is on a debt limit with the library and other budgets.

Mr. Slingerland said that regarding the need for space, a study is being done on the courthouse building. He said that the volume of projects of this kind is declining. The village is getting grants but the small money amounts are used for small projects.

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8. Water Flow. Mr. Slingerland reported that the county says the Village of Mamaroneck has the highest flow of water in the sanitary system. DEC now expects a plan. It will be in the millions of dollars. It will need to be done in phases. There are cracked pipes. Also some people are putting drains into the system illegally.

Mr. Slingerland said that the plan will be based on how heavy the flow is and how bad the leaks. If there is a potential fine it becomes a priority. The village owns the sewers up to the county trunk lines. There is sewage coming in from other towns. There is a bacteria problem with surges. It is expensive to identify leaks and fix them.

Ms. Lividini said that she was satisfied with Mr. Slingerland's handling of the issues raised by Mr. Tiekert.

Mr. Dunaway asked Mr. Slingerland if he had any concern about someone making a complaint to the Committee. Mr. Slingerland said that he had no problem with Mr. Tiekert coming to the committee and helping the Committee fulfill its purpose.

9. Snow/weather. Mr. Dunaway asked Mr. Slingerland what expenditures were required this winter for snow conditions. Mr. Slingerland said that the village exceeded its snow removal budget, for a total of \$350,000, in excess of the \$326,000 that was budgeted.
10. Recreation fields. Mr. Koller ask Mr. Slingerland if any action had been taken to renovate the recreation fields on Harbor Island. Mr. Slingerland stated that a company had been hired to reseed the pavilion field. It planted grass seed on the compacted dirt. He said that there was progress although the operation of the summer camp and the carnivals would impact conditions.

Regarding Taylor's Lane, Mr. Slingerland said that the village had installed a cutoff trench, and that a recreation field might be built there possibly in a year.

11. Army Corps of Engineers project. Mr. Slingerland said that there would be a public meeting, possibly on May 22 to discuss this project, which would entail deepening and widening the Mamaroneck River, eliminating or changing 18 bridges, and channelizing the river. The cost would be paid with contributions - from the federal government - \$30 million; County government - \$18 million; Village of Mamaroneck - \$9 million. It would be financed by borrowing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Dan Karson
Secretary