

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

October 22, 2014

In Attendance: Dan Margoshes, Chair; Manny Enes; John Fall; Dan Karson. Ex Officio: Andres Bermudez. Attending: Daniel Sarnoff – Assistant Village Manager. In attendance: Ellen Hauptmann

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM. The chair noted the presence of a quorum of members.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of September 16, 2014.

The minutes of the meeting of September 16 were amended and approved upon motion, seconding and vote.

2. New Member

New committee member John Fall was introduced.

3. OPEB – Other Than Pension Employment Benefits

The committee continued its discussion on OEPB. (See prior months' minutes.) Mr. Margoshes noted that OPEB is a pay as you go unfunded liability in the amount of \$67 million. The committee's resolution regarding home rule was intended to seek ways to fund it. Under present law the village cannot fund it. The idea was to initiate home rule to enable it. A home rule resolution was introduced to the Board of Trustees by Trustee Potok.

Mr. Sarnoff noted that FASB relates to the private sector and GASB to the government sector. Mr. Sarnoff said that the village resolution related to local village home rule but the committee's resolution had addressed state home rule. Mr. Margoshes said that it was likely the issue would not come up at the trustee's meeting until after October.

4. Floor Area Ratio – FAR

Mr. Margoshes distributed a proposed local law related to FAR. (See FAR discussion also in committee minutes of September 16, 2014.) He inquired of Mr. Bermudez as to the status of the proposed law. Mr. Bermudez said that it had been submitted to the Harbor and Coastal Zone Management Commission (HCZM) and that a vote on the proposed law would come after consideration by the HCZM.

Mr. Margoshes asked whether the law was intended to motivate redevelopment, and why the 10% figure (of appraised value) was determined as the village's loan contribution. Mr. Sarnoff said the 10% represents a percentage of the value of the additional space. Mr. Margoshes asked if the amount of money was really meaningful or enough to accomplish its purpose. Mr. Sarnoff said that the money would be meaningful to some extent. As an example, it could, he said, can fix an electrical panel.

Mr. Enes said that if one builds in the village, the builder is supposed to provide parking. Mr. Sarnoff said that if a builder cannot meet the parking requirements, there is a mandatory contribution to a village recreation fund. However, the fee is not intended to be "confiscatory."

Mr. Margoshes asked how big this fund could get. Mr. Sarnoff said a figure really could not be determined, but that the money would not be used all at once.

Mr. Margoshes said that there should be an investment in green energy. He asked further how the fund would be managed. Mr. Bermudez said that the money is now in a Public Improvement Program for general purposes.

5. Parking

Mr. Margoshs recounted the history of the issue before the Committee. He noted that electronic meters can lead to revenue.

Mr. Sarnoff said that parking is not a revenue issue. It was intended to promote turnover for the merchants. He cited "the high cost of free parking".

Mr. Enes said that the key is to have spaces where people can shop. Meters turn over 8 to 10 times a day. Parking is abused by workers and residents. One can park at a metered space all night, and those spaces are taken away from consumers who seek to park at night after the regulated time expires.

Mr. Fall said that he thought the new meters were a good convenience.

Mr. Bermudez said that the meters can be programmed, so that a motorist could not simply switch parking spaces to start a new parking period.

Mr. Sarnoff said he recommended using license plate readers. Electronic readers will recognize the violators.

Mr. Bermudez said that the issue should come up again at the next Trustee meeting. The mayor raised the topic of installing meters in area of the harbor and the sewage treatment plant. Mr. Enes said that the plan should stick to the business district.

Mr. Sarnoff said that the committee encouraged the trustees to just raise fees and increase the hours – to at least do this. He asked Mr. Bermudez to take this issue, which the committee previously approved, back to the trustees.

Mr. Enes said that it was a question of the viability of the village.

Mr. Bermudez asked whether the committee favored enhancing revenue in the business district or expanding the meters to the Post Road.

Mr. Karson asked that the trustees at least do what the committee recommended originally.

Mr. Margoshes said that the meters should be placed in the highest revenue places.

Mr. Enes suggested that the village allow parking in the permit parking spaces when they're not customarily used. Mr. Sarnoff said that this is allowed at the railroad station.

Mr. Bermudez said that the issue will be on the agenda again next Monday.

Mr. Karson made a motion to approve Mr. Bermudez expressing the view of committee to the trustees as previously stated. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

6. Building Inspector

Mr. Sarnoff said that building inspector Dan Gray will go to the board of trustees to discuss the quality of life issues that Mr. Karson raised at the September 22 meeting, relating to investigating whether housing in the village is illegally overcrowded and unsafe.

7. Village office space

Mr. Sarnoff said that the issue of village office space required study. He said that the police need a new facility. He recommended building a new police department and consolidating all village offices in one place.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Dan Karson
Secretary