

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

May 19, 2015

In Attendance: Dan Margoshes – Chair; John Fall; Dan Karson; Stephanie Lividini; Keith Waitt
Ex Officio: Village Manager Richard Slingerland

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. The chair noted the presence of a quorum of members.

Parking

Mr. Margoshes stated that there would be a meeting of the village trustees on parking tomorrow night attended by members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Slingerland reported as follows:

- The Board tabled discussion of the issue of changing the existing 2 hour parking limit per space on Mamaroneck Avenue. The issue is whether to go with license plate readers and pay by plate or by space. The chief of police said it would be hard to enforce paying by space without a license plate reader. With paying by space, agents check each space. With paying by plate number, it doesn't matter. For drivers, paying by space is easier. The driver has to remember the space numbers.
- The village has hired more parking meter collection personnel. It had been done by one person and now there are three assigned.
- The plan is to install 18 multi-space meters. Drivers can pay for parking by phone. The meters will take credit cards.
- There has been concern expressed about license plate readers constituting an invasion of privacy.

Mr. Margoshes inquired how other villages managed parking. Mr. Slingerland said that he did not think that others pay by plate. Paying by space is easier.

Mr. Margoshes said that the other issue is zone parking – what it meant. The Chamber raised concerns about the time limits for parking.

Mr. Slingerland said that the feeling is that 2 hours is not enough. There is a problem of turnover in evening. The merchants admit that past 6 PM some employees pay for the last chargeable hour of 5 – 6 PM and then go to work in restaurants. The Walker study said that in 15% of the spaces there is no turnover. There is resistance to expanding enforcement hours, but the Chamber would consider extending chargeable time to 7 PM. The Chamber also agreed that raising the parking rate would be ok.

Mr. Fall inquired as to whether the area behind Mamaroneck Avenue could be free. Mr. Slingerland thought that this would be abused.

Mr. Margoshes asked whether the village should show the Chamber how other municipalities operate.

Mr. Waitt inquired as to whether the restaurants might validate tickets and assume the cost.

Ms. Lividini said that the difficulty is that we are considering hard limits on parking.

Mr. Karson said he would favor getting the new system going, compromise with the Chamber on their views and then see how it's working. Then we could make changes as required and indicated.

Mr. Margoshes said that there is a diversity of opinion on this among the merchants.

Mr. Slingerland said that the Board asked for a committee to be formed, with representatives from various interested village boards. He distributed a survey composed by the Chamber.

There followed a discussion on extending meters to uncovered spaces like the Post Road, Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Harbor Island.

Mr. Slingerland noted that Smashburger paid fees required into the parking fund, but Molly Spillane got an exemption.

Mr. Waitt asked whether the lengths of parking times be varied on different places on Mamaroneck Avenue.

Ms. Lividini said that people came to the village for different reasons and that should justify different time limits. Some come to shop, eat or move in and out for quick needs.

Mr. Margoshes inquired as to installing electronic parking meters at Harbor Island harbor parking and said that with meters the village need not be concerned about permits that now are issued for regular users for sports. Mr. Slingerland said that the park is mostly in a flood zone. At high tide and full moon, the area floods. There is a danger relating to electrical fixtures. The water extends as far as Rushmore Avenue. He noted that the village already doubled revenue by closing loopholes and other measures.

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Other Items

Mr. Margoshes inquired about funds used to repair the docks. Mr. Slingerland said that the funds came from surplus - \$180,000. The problem was docks and pilings. The village is using more durable hardware and wood to resist the salt water damaging effects. There were 18 inches of ice and tidal movement.

Mr. Slingerland said that the village budget was approved. The tax rate went up. The valuation base changed. The assessments had never been updated. \$73 million was the assessment for the village. The Assessment Unit was abolished. The village properties now are assessed at full value of \$3.7 billion. The effect is on the tax rate will be a one third reduction; one third no change and one third increase. Grievances now will have to go to the two towns.

The minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2015 were corrected and approved.

Mr. Slingerland said that the sewer laterals between houses and streets are 50 - 100 years old. This is letting groundwater and rainwater to get in and causes overflows in low lying points. This could amount to tens of millions of dollars in sewer mediation over the next 25 years.

Mr. Slingerland said that the village has lost 25% of the revenue formerly paid by Sportime. Mr. Margoshes said that this amounted to 1% of the village revenue.

Mr. Slingerland said that LMC TV board is considering moving into the old firehouse at 147 Mamaroneck Avenue, but that the three local governments have to agree on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.