

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

June 16, 2015

In Attendance: Dan Margoshes – Chair; John Fall; Douglas Dunaway; Manny Enes; Dan Karson; Stephanie Lividini; Keith Waitt  
Ex Officio: Trustee Ilissa Miller; Deputy Village Manager Daniel Sarnoff

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

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2015 were approved as amended.

### Parking

Mr. Margoshes reported that following a village meeting last month, a new parking committee had been formed. He said that at the meeting it was evident that there were divisive views on whether or not the new meters should be installed.

Mr. Sarnoff said that the remaining issues are whether to pay by space or by pay by plate. Mr. Sarnoff said that people would be satisfied with pay by space. He restated his earlier expressed view that meters were not viewed as a revenue source for the village, but rather were intended to encourage turnover.

Ms. Miller said that she favored paying by space. She said further that solutions were needed for handicapped parkers so they would not have to walk to meters. She suggested keeping the parking meter heads on handicapped spots.

Mr. Dunaway said that the meters were installed in 1985 and helped to revitalize the village.

Mr. Margoshes asked the members what we could do as a committee on the issue to advance the process. Mr. Margoshes said that we should try to help accelerate the process.

Ms. Miller said that the village should have done a better job of educating the community and getting a real discussion and hearing views to get buy-in. Mr. Margoshes said that there should have been a more considered conversation and that a lot of people at the meeting had the wrong information.

Ms. Miller said that resumes for the committee are being gathered.

Mr. Sarnoff said that the plan is to continue parking enforcement hours to 6 PM during the week and no parking between 2 AM – 5 AM on weekends. Ms. Miller said that if we can show that the spaces are filled at 6 PM, then maybe we should extend meter times to 7 PM.

Mr. Waitt asked if the village will need more enforcement agents. Mr. Sarnoff said that there currently are two enforcement agents and other two who do other jobs, such as school crossing. Ms. Lividini asked if the new parking program would require additional expense for enforcement agents. Mr. Margoshes said that there should be additional revenue if the hours were extended. Mr. Sarnoff said that there should be no additional increase in head count under the new proposal.

Mr. Sarnoff said that the original plan was to be pay by plate, and so now the village has to order signs and brackets. Installation of the meters will cost a few hundred dollars each. The meters are alarmed for anti-theft. He said the meters have been purchased. They are solar powered.

Ms. Lividini said that it made more sense to put the new meters in the lots and not on the street. Mr. Sarnoff said that there are defined walking patterns on the lots and the idea does make some sense. He said the meters will be spaced 150 apart. Individual space meters are \$500 each.

Mr. Margoshes commented that the rules are “up in the air” and this is a reason for the new committee. Ms. Miller this is a good debate to have. Mr. Waitt said that it is now important to communicate the decisions that have been made.

#### Reimbursement of Officials for Expenses

Ms. Miller stated that there should be a policy addressing the issue of reimbursing attendance for community service events. The question is whether the village should pay for the mayor and other officials to go to charitable events. She mentioned that Senator George Latimer pays his own way from personal funds for some events and from campaign funds for others events. She said that according to the village attorney if an event is charitable, the village can reimburse the expense. Ms. Miller said that she uses her trustee salary to pay for such events.

#### Jefferson Avenue Bridge

Mr. Sarnoff reported that the village retained special legal counsel to represent it in its dispute with the contractor over damages incurred in the reconstruction of the Jefferson Avenue bridge. The attorney retained is Randy Heller of Gallet Dreier.

#### Marine Education Center

Mr. Sarnoff reported that the village funded \$6000 for tank maintenance for the village camp marine education center. He asked if the committee could consider how to keep the program operational and fund it. The tank expense does not account for personnel time needed to maintain them. The tanks are used to collect marine life.

#### Village Contracts

The committee discussed the issue of awarding contracts to the lowest responsible bidder and the question as to how the term “responsible” is defined. Mr. Sarnoff said that it is difficult to prove that a bidder is not qualified.

Mr. Karson said that he recalled during his service at the New York City Department of Investigation in the late 1970s – early 1980s, New York City agencies formed a “committee of responsibility” after awarding a contract to assure that the winning bidder actually had the means and ability to fulfill a contract. The village could establish tasks and standards for such a process. Mr. Dunaway said that there were many ways to accomplish this, including examining a contractor’s prior performance.

Mr. Sarnoff said that there have been some multimillion dollar projects, and many under \$500,000. He said there were two types: one “to install furnish and deliver”, and the other being public works. Mr. Karson suggested that the village consider the process of issuing specifications for evaluating contracts.

Mr. Sarnoff said that for professional services, the village does not have to accept the low bid. Sole source award requires approval by the village board of trustees.

#### Rock Chipping

Ms. Miller said that there was a change in the fees for rock chipping. The fee for chipping and blasting is \$2500 per day, which is paid to the village. Other governments charge a onetime fee.

#### Parking Licenses

Ms. Miller said there was a license agreement request from a resident on Baldwin Place. The property owner uses 1200 square feet that encroaches on village property. The owner requested a license agreement for parking. The charge is \$25 per year. Mr. Sarnoff said that there are several dozen of these licenses.

#### Sewers

Ms. Miller said that there will be a sewer lateral grouting pilot program. Mr. Margoshes asked whether the committee should study this for long term planning and perhaps borrow and bond it when rates are low.

Mr. Sarnoff said that the process involves installing a pipe within a pipe. The big issue is the connection between a home and the sewer main. It is the responsibility of the homeowner. The village is looking into a program for a service contract where one pays a monthly fee to be part of the program. There is one vendor so far in negotiation. There are energy incentives, but not yet for sewers. There is a big push at the county and state level for this. The state has to inspect and maintain laterals. The Save the Sound organization intends to sue the state to enforce the law. Mr. Sarnoff said that the village is ahead of the developments on this.

Ms. Miller said that it is a service contract right now. Mr. Sarnoff said that a homeowner will have to certify every 10 years that its lateral pipe is up to code. He said that there are a lot of problems with laterals that are 80 to 90 years old. Laterals have water and fertilizer that attracts tree roots.

Village Audit

Mr. Sarnoff said that an auditor had been retained – O'Connor Davies. The fiscal year ends May 31.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Dan Karson  
Secretary