

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

November 17, 2015

In Attendance: Dan Margoshes – Chair; John Fall, Dan Karson, Stephanie Lividini
Ex officio; Daniel Sarnoff, Ilissa Miller; Richard Slingerland (arrived 8:55 PM).

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. The chair noted the presence of a quorum of members.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 20 are pending distribution.

Recreation Use Fees

The charge for the use of the fields for youth recreation is \$30. There is a proposal to increase the fee. Mr. Margoshes noted his strong objection to an increase in fees. Mr. Sarnoff said that the increase was proposed in order to maintain the fields.

Mr. Margoshes said that the charge is \$110 per child for recreational soccer. There is a tiered system for baseball fees. Ms. Miller said that the village is seeking to recoup \$78,000. The village earned \$125,000 on parking and from the beach fees at Harbor Island.

Mr. Sarnoff said that regarding the harbor fees, there has been a big change in income. Mr. Margoshes asked what research had been done regarding the analysis of fees charged by each governmental entity. Mr. Sarnoff said that there is an agreement between the town and the school district. Mr. Margoshes inquired about the agreement, asking if there are payments back and forth between the town and the village, or the school district.

Mr. Margoshes said that Lanza Field had been destroyed at the beer festival. He recommended that there be a capital plan for the fields. Mr. Karson asked if the village's \$8 million in reserves could be used for a capital program. Mr. Sarnoff said that some of the fund balance is spendable and some is non-spendable. The balance is down from \$9 million because of how it is defined. Mr. Margoshes asked if the village draws from the fund balance to pay for expenses. Mr. Sarnoff said that there are villages that have fund balance policies. Mamaroneck does not. It is customary to have a fund balance amounting to 10% - 20% of cash flow. This helps the village's bond rating, which is "AA".

Ms. Miller said that the village does not involve the Recreation Commission in the determination of fees. She said we could look at how our fees compare to other villages. Mr. Sarnoff said that we do compare fees to other villages now. Ms. Miller said that we do so only when we grapple over how much is enough to charge. Mr. Sarnoff said that few fees are drivers of revenue. Ms. Miller said that the issue is not cost, but what activities we permit, such as in charging fees for blasting. Mr. Sarnoff said that there are fees we wouldn't analyze because they don't bring us much revenue and that we should not have a fee that makes it impossible to have an activity. Mr. Margoshes said that we should charge if we have an asset worth charging for. He said that there is a county group that studies fees.

Ms. Miller said that the committee can help determine if fees are right-sized, such as cell tower fees, or if there are other fees that can be charged.

Mr. Margoshes asked what the trustees want to accomplish. Ms. Miller said that an objective was quality of life and to attract visitors to use the village. She said the beer festival created a lot of restaurant traffic. Mr. Sarnoff said that there are 40 restaurants on Mamaroneck Avenue. Film location shooting brings in revenue. Many films have used the village. Ms. Miller said that the fee is \$500 per day to film. Mr. Sarnoff said that the film companies get tax credits for filming locally and the state urges village to cooperate.

2016 Committee Agenda

Mr. Margoshes asked the committee to consider topics for review for the next year. He suggested that fees, the reserve fund, the Automated Clearing House and payment process would be possible topics. He said he would ask Mr. Fusco for cash flow information.

Parking

Ms. Miller said that she recommended that a memorandum be sent to the parking enforcement agents to obtain their views of the situation.

Jefferson Avenue Bridge

Mr. Slingerland said that bridge was rated as structurally deficient. The load bearings may have to change. DOT made an inspection. The village did not make final payments to the contractor. There is a new railing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Dan Karson
Secretary