



Village of Mamaroneck Budget Committee

Meeting Date: 15th March 2016

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Regatta Conference Room

Attendees:

Budget Committee Members:

Diane Hirschberg

Adam Honig

Village Members in Attendance:

Richard Slingerland

Committee Members non in attendance

Stephanie Lividini

John Fall

Keith Waitt, Chair

Carlo Reca

Only 2 Committee members were in attendance – Adam Honig and Diane Hirschberg, which did not constitute a quorum.

Here what was discussed at this meeting:

- Richard reviewed the plan for the upcoming budget cycle
- Department heads will present to the Board
- The Budget Committee is encouraged to attend all meetings
- Pensions, salaries, medical, have increased substantially
- The sewer renovation is also expected to be a large budget item of about \$2.5MM
- Sewer upgrade will improve water quality in the harbor and the Sound.
- Bacteria levels are dropping in the Sound
- Water bills will increase – and proposed sewer charge will be added to water bills
- Charges are expected to be roughly \$18 per quarter per household
- Overall spending increase is expected to be .026% and the tax cap is .32%
- Low interest rates are hampering investment gains
- The budget will be approved by 5/1/16 for adoption by 5/25/16
- A new electricity buying program has been approved by the Board
- Community Choice Aggregation Program – Con Ed will be sending letters to all homeowners who can participate in a reduced price green environmental program and a brown option.

Proposed budget dates are below:

Pre-Introduction Tentative Budget Workshop held with the Board
February 17, 2016 Wednesday – Village Manager, Clerk/Treasurer and Departments

Friday March 18, 2016 Tentative Budget Official Introduction and release (Friday)

Monday March 28, 2016 Budget Hearing – scheduled as part of the Board Meeting

Department Budget Work Sessions, start at 5:30 p.m., to finish by 7:30 p.m.:

March 29, 2016 Tuesday, Budget Work Session – Harbor Master, Parks and Recreation

March 31, 2016, Thursday, Budget Work Session – Police Dept. and ~~Building~~ Fire Dept.

April 5, 2016, Tuesday, Budget Work Session – ~~Fire~~ Building Department and Court

April 6, 2016, Wednesday, Budget Work Session – Public Works and Vill. Mgr. & Clerk/Treas.

April 12, 2016, Tuesday, Budget Review including Revenue w/Manager and Clerk/Treasurer

April 14, 2016, Thursday, Budget Changes/Amendment review, if necessary. If not, no meeting

April 25, 2016 Budget Adoption, to comply with May 1st Annual deadline for Budget Adoption

- a)CR introduced the discussion field fees and the current discussions that are taking place at the Recreation Committee. Before the details of how or if fees should be demanded by the VOM, KW asked whether the Budget Committee could agree on our approach to this issue. Specifically :
- i.- events/programs should be covering their costs
 - ii.- usage based fees should be considered and are more palatable than a tax
 - iii.- any Harbor Island Ground Fees should be directly associated with improvements in the field conditions
 - iv.- subsidies should be given to those families that cannot afford it
 - v.-special commercial events (such as the BeerFest) need to be commercially priced

There was consensus on these 5 points.

b) CR proposed a methodology for pricing for field usage, with which the RC was in agreement and would like to propose to the BoT. This was to charge each sports program based on percentage usage during the season (e.g. 50% for soccer etc.). This would be a percentage of the overall costs of maintain the fields, and the percentage numbers for each sports programme are easy to obtain and fully transparent. The BC agreed this approach but the question was how to determine the overall cost. Was it the outside contractor fee? How much of the Parks Department costs should be allocated? Can we determine this? SL raised the point that, in order to charge a fee, we have to demonstrate a value to the user, and so we need to demonstrate over time that the standard of the fields are improving. CR added that improvement would require portable irrigation (water wheel) that needs to be purchased, and so has to be factored in to the overall field maintenance costs.

The Budget Committee agreed that:

- Percentage usage was the right way to price the fees,
- An accurate determination of field maintenance costs needs to be determined by the Village Manager,
 - The introduction of a usage fee needs to be phased over a 3 year period,
 - This fee should be introduced, if possible, for the 2016 Fall season,
 - The BC should advise the RC that we support their approach and are happy to work with them in any capacity to make sure field fees are introduced in 2016.

KW brought the meeting to a close at 8.45pm