



## Village of Mamaroneck Budget Committee

Meeting Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Court Room Village Hall 7:30pm

Attendees:

### **Budget Committee Members:**

Diane Hirschberg

Stephanie Lividini

John Fall

Keith Waitt

John Campbell

Carlo Reca

### **Village Officials:**

Richard Slingerland, Village Manager

David Finch, Trustee

Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager

Agostino Fusco, Village Treasurer

Apologies for Absence: Adam Honig

- The Budget Committee unanimously voted to elect Keith Waitt as Chair of the Committee and Diane Hirschberg as Vice-Chair and Secretary.
- The Budget Committee agreed that the committee would continue to meet in 2016 on the on the third Tuesday of each month.
- The Budget Hearing is tentatively scheduled on Monday March 28 and 5 or 6 sessions of budget workshops will be scheduled in prior to the Budget adoption which is on April 25.
- Much of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion on the Procurement and Investment Policies of the Village in order to opine on a BoT agenda item on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 to decodify these policies.

- Committee Members ask questions with regard to the current procurement policy, as well as the codification process for Village laws and regulations - as opposed to adoption of policies and procedures for internal operations of the Village.
- The Committee members wanted to understand how Village Law operates in this regard and what the potential consequences would be if these Policies were decodified.
- According to Village officials continued codification of the Village Procurement Policy for purchases under \$20,000 had numerous drawbacks – here are a few:
  - A very slow approval process due to the necessity to have a public RFP, a legal review of the RFP and then a comparison of the bids
  - The Village Managers ability to react quickly to a repair or quickly needed maintenance issue is severely hampered
  - The internet has rendered the RFP process obsolete and an ineffective method of price discovery for many goods and services purchases.
- The decodification of the Village Investment Policy was requested by the Village Treasurer for the following primary reasons:
  - To reduce the timeline for approving new investments or products which enable the Village to benefit from higher and more competitive interest rates and make faster more informed investment decisions.
  - To create a faster process to approve new banks, financial institutions or products which are offered to the Village Treasurer.
- Village Officials explained that the main benefit of decodification would be to reduce the time needed to change a Policy and the cost of advertising for a Public Hearing. Public comments would still be required and the BoT would still vote on any changes.
- The question was asked over how often, within a fiscal year, such changes may be expected and, therefore why this change was required. Village officials responded that they did not anticipate any amendments but it was nice to have this just in case.
- After this lengthy discussion the Budget Committee in accordance with our mandate to optimize programs and services and identify value added opportunities voted **unanimously** to:

***Support the decodification of the Village Procurement Policy for purchase contracts under \$20,000 and public works contracts under \$35,000, and adopt the resolution that internal control policies and procedures for purchases not subject for competitive bidding requirements of GML 103.***

***Support the decodification the VOM Investment Policy and adopt the Written Investment Policy resolution.***

***On the understanding that any proposed change by the BoT must be referred without exception to the Budget Committee for their review and opinion.***

Both initiatives have already been brought to the Board of Trustees for approval on 12/7/15 and will be voted on at the BoT meeting on 2/8/2016.

## Future Business:

- The Committee had a short discussion regarding the Village playing fields, the cost of maintaining the fields, and the apparent lack of fees assessed directly on those who use the fields, which are currently various sports teams in leagues in Mamaroneck and Larchmont. This subject was brought up by Carlo Reca and evidently has been a hotly debated issue in the past. The Committee agreed that this issue should be addressed and will discuss it more thoroughly at the next meeting in February.
- David Finch, Village Trustee raised the issue of changing the Village Auditors who are O'Connor Davies and have been for sometime. David would like the budget committee to research what is the corporate practice in terms of retaining, reviewing and changing audit firms.