COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022
7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Thomas Hayes, Trustees Bertucci, Canty, Grasse, LaBedz, Scaletta, Schwingbeck, & Tinaglia
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:	R. Recklaus, T. Kuehne, M. Juarez, K. Baumgartner, M. Mattio, C. Perkins, C. Papierniak, Chief Pecora, and Various Department Support Staff
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve Daday and Brookes Ebetsch from Metropolis

SUBJECTS:

A. Staff follow-up from previous meeting
B. Performing Arts at Metropolis
C. Review of Department Budgets
D. Final Recommendations of Committee-of-the-Whole to Board of Trustees for Property Tax Levy
E. Final Recommendations of Committee-of-the-Whole to Board of Trustees for the 2022 Budget

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Staff follow-up from previous meeting

Mr. Kuehne said there was a press release from the Office of Cook County Treasurer stating that the second installment of the property tax bills are available online and paper copies would be mailed soon. He also indicated that staff discussed Trustee Bertucci's suggestion to eliminate "other" categories in the budget, and agreed that it is a good change to make for future budgets.

Mr. Recklaus said per Trustee Scaletta's suggestion and with the agreement of the Board, computers in the Trustee's library will be removed and reused elsewhere.

Performing Arts at Metropolis

Mr. Daday thanked the Village for their support and said they continue to suffer from the effects of the pandemic. Earlier in the year they had to cancel a number of shows due to actors being sick with COVID. On a positive note, he highlighted that Cabaret was the best show Metropolis ever produced, the school of performing arts has continued to offer an array of classes, and the fundraising gala exceeded fundraising goals. The gala's fundraising efforts was geared towards an Arts for All campaign to offer sensory-friendly performances.

Trustee Bertucci, Grasse, and Canty expressed their gratitude for Metropolis and for providing residents and children with an opportunity to explore the arts.

President Hayes inquired about the need for private security. Ms. Ebetsch said they have encountered people unexpectedly wandering onto stage or backstage and they need trained security to escort those people out.

Trustee LaBedz asked if the Theater is seeing a comeback with ticket sales for A Christmas Carol. Mr. Daday said it's unpredictable because patrons are purchasing tickets day-of. They have however, seen higher ticket sales. Ms. Ebetsch added that daytime performances are also filling up or sold out with school fieldtrips.

Trustee Scaletta mentioned that it has been a hard time for theaters with all the available streaming services. He asked how the Theater is doing in comparison to the estimated actuals prepared in August and their fundraising projections for 2023. Ms. Ebetsch said the estimated actuals seem to be accurate for where they will end up in 2022. She highlighted that ticket sales have gotten better, in part thanks to the marketing team. In regards to their fundraising projections, Mr. Daday said staff has aggressively been reaching out to past donors, subscribers, and sponsorships for their return and support. Ms. Ebetsch added that having a full-time events coordinator and hosting in-person fundraising events has also been extremely helpful. Trustee Scaletta inquired about the "service fee re-coop" line. Ms. Ebetsch said that it is the service fee patrons are charged for online ticket purchases. In regards to 2023 revenues, Trustee Scaletta asked why the projections are higher than 2022 projections. Ms. Ebetsch said that there is a new marketing team working differently than in the past. They are sending show reminders, thanking patrons for attending a show, marketing efforts have shifted to focus on emails, ad words, social media, and Metra advertising instead of mailings. Trustee Scaletta asked if the Theater had a plan in place in the event their revenue does not cover the increase costs and higher wages. Ms. Ebetsch said they can reduce the number of shows produced to reduce high operational costs or shorten the run of a show to attract more people to visit limited showtimes. She added that they have enough reserves to survive more stress.

Trustee Schwingbeck said that as a subscription holder he is given the ability to see four performances and can add-on A Christmas Carol. He suggested the Theater send subscriber's information about the performances included in the subscription as subscriber's are not necessarily seeking to see the show, rather it is included in the subscription. He also suggested being more flexible and allowing subscribers to choose which four performances they'd like to see. Trustee Schwingbeck asked about grant monies and if they are still able to receive any others and if they have sufficient reserves. Ms. Ebetsch said they have enough reserves, and the only outstanding grant is ERTC, which they continue to work and can be retroactive to the previous fiscal year.

Resident Keith Moens disagreed with the Village's contribution towards the Metropolis Theater, and said that the benefits from the Theater mostly accommodate upper-income residents. He asked President Hayes to request to the Metropolis Board to open their meetings to the public, provide a copy of their bylaws, and provide statements of their cashflow.

Mr. Recklaus said the Metropolis Board is not a public entity, and the Village does not require entities to have public meetings as a condition to receive contributions. He went on to say that the Village has had meeting with downtown businesses, and they expressed their gratitude for the presence of the Metropolis Theater as theater-goers boost their business as well.

Review of Department Budgets – Department Representatives

Boards & Commissions

Mr. Recklaus said the Boards and Commissions 2023 budget is very similar to that of 2022. There are two changes. The first, increased dues for Meet Chicago Northwest based on 2021 actual Hotel Tax receipts; the second, a $5,000 decrease in the Special Events Commissions budget due to the removal of the Arlington Spring Sweep event.

President Hayes asked if Boards & Commissions have to submit their request before proceeding. Mr. Recklaus said that the budgets for most commissions are relatively flat, except for the Special Events Commission who run actual activities. He added that they have to submit any ideas through a liaison. All Boards and Commissions will be asked to submit a memo to the Board with recommendations on what they would like to see in the next two-year cycle.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked if the 2023 budgeted amount for dues is based on a projection of how hotels in the Village will perform. Mr. Kuehne said the Meet Chicago Northwest 2023 dues are based on 2021 actual receipts.

Trustee Baldino asked why there was a decrease in the marketing budget for the Arlington Economic Alliance. Mr. Perkins said in the past there was two printed pieces that would go out to the business communities and it was changed to one.

Planning and Community Development

Mr. Perkins began by discussing some challenges his department has had this year. Earlier in the year, two bids were released and one did not receive any responses. The other is still pending, however if no responses are received, they will return to the Board for request to re-budget. Another challenge is the large amount of major development projects, increased permit reviews, code enforcement, and complex plan commission applications. He added that there are currently 45 potential active development projects that could be submitting to go through the public hearing process.

In regards to the budget, the General Fund has two increases. The first, reflects hiring an additional assistant planner who will focus on implementation of key projects. The second, is for promotion and business marketing in part due to the Village's rebranding.

President Hayes, Trustee Scaletta, and Trustee Tinaglia thanked Mr. Perkins and his staff for their extensive knowledge and all of the hard work they do. They all expressed their support for the addition of a new Assistant Planner.

In regards to the current hiring challenges, Trustee LaBedz asked Mr. Perkins if he thinks it will be difficult to attract good candidates for the Assistant Planner and Deputy Director positions. Mr. Perkins said it's too early to know, but hoped interested candidates are either looking to advance their career or start their careers.

Trustee Canty asked for an update on the Hickory/Kensington TIF. Mr. Perkins said there were some delays due to a strike earlier in the year. However, two projects are currently under construction and progressing, they have been working with Commonwealth Edison to bury some overhead utilities, and a developer purchased the 4 N. Douglas property and will begin the review processes soon.

Trustee Baldino asked why the high increase in commodities in the AE&E Fund. Mr. Perkins said on the Planning side they budgeted for new barriers. On the Public Works side, Mr. Papierniak said it is for the cost of plants, flowers, ropes, and sandbags. Mr. Recklaus added that the Alfresco food & beverage tax has performed very well thanks to the popularity of the event. The Village will continue to polish up the event, and the additional expenses have been covered by the additional food & beverage tax.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked Mr. Perkins if he's given any thought to what his Department will need when the redevelopment of Arlington Park begins. Mr. Perkins said he will know more when detailed plans are received, but anticipated consultants will be hired and a comprehensive plan will be developed. There will be times when they will focus on the zoning process and other times when they will have to focus on building permit inspections.

<u>Public Works</u>

Mr. Papierniak began by announcing that over the past two years, Public Works has hired 20% new replacement staff due to retirements, and has spent a lot time training to make sure they are up to par with the operations. He went on to say that 2022 has been a challenging year with many obstacles pertaining to procurement problems, and labor and material shortages that delayed some projects. However, they have successfully completed the Berkley/Hintz public infrastructure improvement project, staff has spent countless hours on researching current and new water meter technology and have ordered new residential water meters, developed a lead service line replacement program to accommodate a state and federal mandate, and staff continues to aggressively seek grant money for future projects. In addition, the Village has purchased its first electric vehicle and are working with the Planning Department to install charging stations in Village parking garages. Going into 2023, Mr. Papierniak said he expects to encounter some of the same challenges as in 2022. Nonetheless, there are plans to complete numerous Village facility improvements, a parking garage rehabilitation program, and elevator modernization program. In addition, staff will continue to participate in the ERP implementation process.

President Hayes asked if water main break have leveled off over the past 12 months. Mr. Papierniak said that for the second year in a row there have been under 200 water main breaks in comparison to previous years when they were averaging 265.

Trustee Tinaglia asked if the Village has enough salt going into winter months, how much salt we use in comparison to the anti-icing liquid, and how many vehicles are set up to distribute the liquid. Mr. Papierniak said the Village has sufficient salt going into the winter months, as they stocked the dome last year when prices were lower than expected. He mentioned that the cost of salt doubled this year in comparison to last. In regards to the anti-icing liquid, currently the Village uses about 100,000 gallons of the liquid, and averages about 10,000 lbs. of salt, with 50% of the plows being able to distribute the anti-icing liquid. Trustee Tinaglia asked if the Village is involved in Nicor and ComEd's line replacement projects. Mr. Papierniak said the Village is not active in the project. However, a permit must be obtained through Public Works anytime there is excavation in Village right-of-way. Steve Mullany and GIS are in charge of obtaining all the information for those types of projects.

Trustee Bertucci inquired about non-Village fuel resale. Mr. Papierniak said the Village has a fuel island, and they sell fuel to local school districts and the park district.

Trustee Baldino asked for status on the lead service line survey. Mr. Papierniak said the internal paper survey has been completed and have started to analyze each neighborhood. He added that the next step will occur during the water meter replacement program. They will hire a company to install water meters in 20,000 homes, and as part of their contract they will require them to check the pipes coming in and out of the homes to obtain insight on those homes from the b-box to the house.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked about the calculation of curb miles for snow removal. Mr. Papierniak said it pertains strictly on plowing and how many times we have to plow a curb mile.

Trustee LaBedz inquired about the Municipal Parking Fund and asked what phase 3, completion of the Vail garage, entails. Mr. Papierniak said that the parking garage rehabilitation program is a multi-year program. The first consisted of significant concrete repairs, then an epoxy top coat was applied to prevent corrosion, and the third phase is maintenance.

Trustee Scaletta asked if the service lead line replacements will be done by private contractors or Public Works, and if they have the necessary equipment for the project. Mr. Papierniak said some replacements will be done in-house; others will be contractual. He added that they started an in-house program to replace the public side and were able to complete 115 replacements. However, they had to halt because of lengthy copper procurement times. As for the equipment, they have the necessary equipment for what is currently being done, and will look at leasing or purchasing additional equipment in the future, if needed. Trustee Scaletta noted that the Municipal Parking Fund revenue budget is the same as the previous year. Mr. Recklaus said staff will be looking at the state of the fund after the first quarter of 2023. Maintenance costs will continue to be present and some costs can be deferred, while others have to be tended to. He added that there have been talks with Metra regarding scheduling. In regards to See, Click, Fix, Trustee Scaletta noted that the inquires nearly tripled in 2021 in comparison to 2019. He asked how many of the inquiries are the responsibility of Public Works, and suggested itemizing inquiries for future reporting purposes. Mr. Papierniak said most inquiries are for Public Works, but they also receive inquiries that belong to other governmental bodies.

Police Department

Chief Pecora and Deputy Chief Czernecki presented for the Police Department. Chief Pecora was happy to announce that the Police Department was once again recognized for high-level achievements. He highlighted some 2022 achievements, to include that all sworn and public service officers are equipped with body-worn and dashboard cameras, enhancement of traffic safety initiatives, prioritizing diversity recruitment efforts, and initiated a new and innovative bicycle and pedestrian safety programs. One achievement he is particularly proud of is the introduction of a Crisis Co-Responder team which connects persons in crisis with mental health treatment, hospitalization, substance abuse services, therapy, temporary housing, and other related referrals. However, 2022 did not go without its challenges. He mentioned the Department is navigating through issues related to the SAFE-T Act, such as unfunded mandates and additional training hours. In addition, the Pretrial Fairness Act will be a challenge through the beginning of 2023. The Department will continue to participate in working groups providing direction on implementation. To offset additional training cost, staff is preparing to teach certified curriculum. In 2023, they will continue to focus on increasing diversity recruitment for entry-level sworn officers, expand critical incident response training, enhance selective enforcement for bicycle and pedestrian safety, evaluate new methods for enhanced community dialogue, expand or implement new programs, and continued collaboration on the redevelopment of the Arlington Park Racetrack project.

In regards to the body-worn cameras, Trustee Schwingbeck asked if each Officer has their own camera or if they are shared, and if the yearly fee includes replacement cameras. Chief Pecora said each Officer has their own camera, and the yearly fee includes refurbishment or replacement of defective cameras. He added that they also have spare cameras on-hand.

Trustee Bertucci asked for an update on the S. Arlington Heights Rd. and Algonquin corridor issues with hotels. Chief Pecora said he along with the Village Attorney, Hart Passman, have met with several hotel management staff to make them aware of the issues and what is expected to keep the community safe. Since the meeting, nothing serious has occurred but the Police Department will continue to keep the area on their radar. Trustee Bertucci inquired about the lab fee line item and why it was $0 in 2022 but $114,000 for 2023. Chief Pecora said that is the fee for the Northeastern IL Regional Crime Lab. It was previously covered by the Criminal Investigation Fund, and the expense will now be covered by the Police's Operating Fund.

Trustee Baldino asked if the Police Department has everything they need to perform their duties. Chief Pecora said they did. He added that it would be ideal to add a few more Officers and offer new programs, but understands the revenue isn't there.

Trustee LaBedz asked about the Pretrial Fairness Act and if the Village received any revenue from bail money. Chief Pecora said municipalities do not receive revenue from bail money. The County takes 10% of bail money to operate the criminal justice system. Trustee LaBedz asked if there has been an improvement in the fight against catalytic converter thefts. Chief Pecora said these types of thefts continue to be an issue because there is a market for them.

Trustee Scaletta inquired about the success of being a member of the Northeastern IL Regional Crime Lab. Chief Pecora said he can attest that the turnaround time for receiving lab results is within six weeks or less compared to the 18-month waiting period from the State Crime Lab. Trustee Scaletta asked if the Cook County State's Attorney is one of the many State's Attorney Offices challenging the SAFE-T Act, and if the office is aware of the concerns law enforcement agencies within Cook County have. Chief Pecora said the Cook County State's Attorney's Office is not challenging any part of the SAFE-T Act, and the office is aware that law enforcement agencies withing the County are against the Act.

Resident Melissa Cayer asked what asset forfeitures are and if use of those funds need Board approval. Chief Pecora said it is assets seized from criminals, which are turned over to the municipality by court order for use by the Police Department for crime prevention or criminal efforts. Mr. Recklaus said use of those funds needs Board approval, as it is reported on the warrant register and it is in the budget. However, it is a different source of funds and not taxpayer dollars.

Final Recommendation of Committee-of-the-Whole to Board of Trustees for the Property Tax Levy

Trustee **Scaletta** moved, seconded by Trustee **Canty** that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to the Village Board of Trustees to authorize staff to prepare the Village's and the Arlington Heights Memorial Library's 2022 Tax Levy Ordinance reflecting an estimated total tax levy of $52,871,000 or a 0% increase over the 2021 extended tax levy for the Village and Library portion of the levy.

Final Recommendation of Committee-of-the-Whole to Board of Trustees for the 2023 Budget

Trustee **Bertucci** moved, seconded by Trustee **Schwingbeck** that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to the Village Board of Trustees that the Board approve the Proposed 2023 Budget as amended through the review process.