

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013
7:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, Trustees Blackwood, Breyer, Farwell, Glasgow, Hayes, Rosenberg, Scaletta & Sidor

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Dixon, D. Mikula, T. Kuehne, G. Mourning, G. Ericksen,
M. Juarez, N. Pecora, R. Niedrich, B. Lyons, K. Koeppen,
M. Teolis, P. Robb, P. Wilkiel

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Silverberg, Daily Herald, Gloria Casas, Arlington Heights Patch

SUBJECTS:

4. Staff Follow-up from Previous Meeting
5. Boards & Commissions
6. Fire Department
7. Police Department
8. Carryover items from prior meetings
9. Final Recommendation of Committee of the Whole to the Board of Trustees
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

President Mulder called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

4. Staff Follow-up from Previous Meeting

Mr. Dixon stated that the Village was advised that federal grants for the Davis Street/Sigwalt Street Fencing/Landscaping project will not be forthcoming. As a result, the \$141,000 expenditure in the Capital Projects Fund and the corresponding revenue can be deleted from the budget.

TRUSTEE HAYES MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE GLASGOW, TO REMOVE \$141,000 FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S DAVIS STREET/SIGWALT STREET FENCING/LANDSCAPE UPGRADE PROJECT IN THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND AND TO REMOVE \$110,000 FROM THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND'S OTHER GRANTS ACCOUNT. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Boards & Commissions

Trustee Rosenberg asked about the decrease of the Hearts of Gold line item in the Special Events Commissions' budget. Mr. Kuehne said that they haven't spent as much as what has been budgeted and explained that their expenditures are offset by their donations. Trustee Scaletta said that the Special Events Commission is very cognizant of not spending more than they bring in. He went on to say that there is a value to the Village's sponsorship and said that he hopes staff will make sure that the Village is recognized as a sponsor when contributions are made through the AE & E Fund.

Trustee Glasgow asked about the Discover Arlington website upgrade & improvements line item in the Economic Alliance budget. Mr. Dixon said that substantial upgrades were made this fiscal year and noted that it would not be needed to be done again this year.

Trustee Sidor asked that in moving forward with the proposal with the Chamber and the Economic Alliance, that we keep an eye on the Business Retention Outreach line item in order to eliminate any redundancy. Trustee Hayes said he consulted Jon Ridler and Mr. Dixon and said a proposed timetable was set for discussion of the proposal and an initial meeting will be scheduled for the 3rd or 4th of April, with the goal of having something formal to discuss at the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting on April 22nd. He went on to say that he talked to Tony Guido to make sure he knew that the Economic Alliance will be part of these discussions. Trustee Hayes continued by suggesting that the taskforce include a member of the Planning Department, a representative from the Economic Alliance, Mr. Ridler and Ms. Ehrenfried from the Chamber, and one other trustee besides himself.

Trustee Scaletta and Trustee Farwell felt that it was important that Mr. Melaniphy be part of the discussions. Trustee Farwell said that more than one person from a department be allowed to attend in order to get more input. Mayor Mulder agreed saying that it would avoid duplication of efforts. Trustee Farwell noted the concern with tipping the scales towards the department or administration, and suggested that each department only gets one vote in the decision making. Mr. Dixon felt that Trustee Farwell's suggestion about the vote would solve that problem.

TRUSTEE SCALETTA MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE FARWELL, THAT THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2014 BUDGET FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Fire Department

Fire Chief Glenn Ericksen gave an overview of the performance measures stating that 2012 was a very busy year with over 10,000 requests for service and that goals were met with the Fire and EMS response times. He said that due to resident interest, CPR classes have been resumed, and that Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes have been created. He also said that an Arlington Heights Emergency Preparedness Guide was created and distributed to the community to better inform residents of how to handle various types of emergency situations they may encounter. Mayor Mulder said she was pleased to see that there is an interest in these classes.

Chief Ericksen said that there are no expanded budget requests and that the proposed budget is within the budget ceiling. He explained a few increases in some of the line items which include; Salaries which reflect a reclassification of some of the administrative assistants, and Special Details because of the increased number of them. He said that some of the Capital Project Fund increases include replacement of defibrillators and hydraulic rescue tools, and the continued updates to the radios. Discussion took place regarding other line items which included; budgeted overtime, total Salaries, and Vehicle/Equipment Lease Charges.

Trustee Blackwood asked what employee staffing levels are based upon. Chief Ericksen stated that they are based on requests for service, not on total population. He added that various agencies have models that show how many firefighters there should be based on population, and said that based on those models, it shows that the Village is understaffed and answers more service calls with fewer firefighters.

Trustee Sidor asked that based upon this proposed budget, if they have enough equipment and training to keep the firefighters and the community safe. Chief Ericksen stated that between this budget and what is received from the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board they do. Discussion continued regarding the various required training and with continued education of firefighters. Chief Ericksen explained that not all firefighters are paramedics, but that they all have some level of EMT training.

The Board thanked Chief Ericksen for the great job of the Fire Department and said they are proud of the Village's Public Safety.

TRUSTEE SCALETTA MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SIDOR, THAT THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2014 BUDGET FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Police Department

Police Chief Gerald Mourning started by saying that the Police Department had a very busy and productive year and met most of its established goals and objectives. He highlighted some of the goals and objectives which included: national and state awards for their traffic safety programs, the 8th consecutive award for the National Night Out Program, and an increase of the number of residents to the Citizens Crime Alert list. He noted that traffic accidents dropped 7% compared to last year.

Chief Mourning moved on to the Performance Measures saying that traffic and parking citations have increased, and that the crime rate in Arlington Heights dropped almost 10% from the previous year, noting that it was the 4th year in a row with a reduction. He also said a Triennial Business Survey was completed and said that 96.1% of the respondents rated the overall services provided by the department as good to excellent. Chief Mourning continued by saying that the Police Department will finish the fiscal year under budget and that the proposed budget has no new staff positions and meets the budget ceiling. He highlighted the funds used by the Police Department which include; Police Grant, Municipal Parking, AE & E, and Criminal Investigation and described what each is used for.

Trustee Glasgow asked if this budget meets the safety needs of the officer's and the protection of the public. Chief Mourning stated that the equipment and training is excellent and said he would like to add more officers but understands that the Village is not currently in a position to do so. Trustee Glasgow asked what the statistics of injuries were with the use of tasers, about programs to address people who may have mental illness, and what the role of the Victim Services Coordinator is. Chief Mourning stated that there are more than 50% fewer injuries to officers and arrestees due to the use of tasers. He also said that 25% of the department is trained as a crisis intervention team which trains the officers to deal with people in a non-criminal way. He said that a 28-month grant was completed where the department teamed with Alexian Brothers Hospital to do outreach work focusing on the homeless in our Downtown area. He said that although the results showed that 29 arrests were made, the efforts showed that 78 clients agreed to long-term counseling or treatment, with 24 of them being placed in permanent housing rather than being homeless. Chief Mourning went on to explain that the Victim Services Coordinator assists crime victims with the court system and maintains social support for them.

Trustee Sidor asked Chief Mourning, down the road and in a better economy, how he would employ new officers. Chief Mourning said that what comes to mind is the Criminal Investigation Bureau because of a dramatic increase of financial crimes, financial exploitations, and bank fraud, and that another area would be Vice because of continued issues with prostitution. Trustee Rosenberg stated that he would like to see more officers on patrol. Trustee Blackwood asked if experienced officers are hired or if they are hired from the Police Academy. Chief Mourning said they attempt to recruit qualified candidates that meet our high standards from other Police Departments, and recruit primarily from colleges or universities that offer criminal justice programs.

Trustee Hayes commended Chief Mourning and his department for the great job that they have been doing. He asked Chief Mourning to address negative comments that he has received regarding citations being issued in order to increase revenue. Chief Mourning explained that the Village only receives a fraction of a ticket amount saying that the majority of it goes to other entities like the County and the Circuit Clerk's office. He said that revenue is a by-product of enforcement and not a priority or consideration when the Department enforces traffic laws. He continued by saying that police focus on areas in the community that experience the greatest number of serious accidents, and on accident reduction. He added that ticket revenue is not meaningless, but insignificant in the decision making process.

Mayor Mulder said that she hears complaints regarding parking tickets issued Downtown. Chief Mourning said the Downtown area is where they receive the most complaints, and said as result of discussions with the Downtown merchants and in order to make parking spaces available, you have to have parking enforcement. Trustee Scaletta said that any concerns the Police Department has regarding the parking in the Downtown can be brought to the Village's Parking Committee. Trustee Scaletta asked how the administrative hearing process is working out. Chief Mourning stated that it is working extremely well, and said it has relieved officers of many hours of arguing with residents and visitors in the lobby of the department on the validity of a ticket. He added there is potential for other departments to get involved in that process instead of going through the court system.

Discussion took place regarding some of the Police Department line items and with their Goals and Objectives which included Specialized Police Training, Sworn Overtime, construction of a virtual roll call, and the creation of a Use of Force Committee.

Trustee Scaletta asked if there was a formula on how the Village gets charged by the Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCD). Mr. Dixon explained that the Board of Directors of NWCD is comprised of the Village Managers of the eleven participating communities and said they meet every other month and that the executive committee meets every month. He said a formula was recently modified to be a more responsive with the widespread use of cell phones.

Trustee Breyer asked how many hours of continuing education is required for the officers. Chief Mourning stated that there is between 80-100 hours of various forms of training and said that he considers this department one of the better trained police departments in the Chicago area. Mayor Mulder said that continued training and support of the officers to better themselves, betters the department and the community. The Board congratulated and thanked Chief Mourning and his staff for their performance and all they do to keep the public safe.

TRUSTEE GLASGOW MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE FARWELL THAT THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2014 BUDGET FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Carryover items from prior meetings

There were no carryover items.

9. Final Recommendation of Committee of the Whole to the Board of Trustees

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Hayes thanked staff, department heads, the Finance Department and Mr. Dixon for making the budget process easier. He said that going over line item by line item through budget process is the most important thing the Board does as elected officials to assure the community that their money is being spent wisely.

TRUSTEE HAYES MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE GLASGOW THAT THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2014 BUDGET AS AMENDED THROUGH THE REVIEW PROCESS. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss,

TRUSTEE SCALETTA MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE FARWELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:13 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.