

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 6:30 P.M. ON DECEMBER 17, 2019 IN THE MAPLE ROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Maier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll, the following were:

Present: Chairman Maier and Trustee Towne

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Chairman Maier declared a quorum present.

Also, present: Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Financial Consultant, Dorothy O'Mary and Village Treasurer Carol Armstrong

Resident Present: Tom Heinz

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER

Chairman Maier requested a motion to approve the November 19, 2019 meeting minutes. It was moved by Trustee Towne and seconded by Chairman Maier that the minutes be approved and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

D. REVIEW OF INVOICES PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Chairman Maier stated the unpaid bills amount is \$ 119,072.40.

Village Administrator Irvin said he discussed with Village Attorney Ferolo the consideration of reducing their monthly retainer set amount given the number of hours included in the retainer is lower than what the Village is paying out. Village Attorney Ferolo replied he would look into this matter.

Chairman Maier questioned the Sheriff's office invoice amount. Village Administrator Irvin said their invoice reflects their decreased activity per their service being provided. The reduced service numbers can result in next year's contractual amount to be lowered to reflect actual activity. Financial Consultant O'Mary said she received a check from the Sheriff's office in the amount of \$81 for a ticket issued.

Trustee Towne asked if Lakes Disposal contract has been recently reviewed. Village Administrator Irvin said their contract was recently renewed for a 7-year extension. The rate increase was minimal.

Financial Consultant O'Mary indicated a few invoices were received after the Treasurer's Report was provided. Chairman Maier indicated those invoices will be paid next month.

Village Treasurer Armstrong stated only 13 checks remain outstanding from the tax rebate program.

E. REVIEW OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2019

Chairman Maier stated Grainger is tracking along with their revenue amounts. No further questions were made regarding the P&L.

F. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR THE CORPORATE AND MUNICIPAL PURPOSES OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA FOR THE YEAR 2019

Chairman Maier said this corporate and municipal document is our yearly ordinance. The Committee had no questions and approved this ordinance.

G. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE ABATING CERTAIN ADDITIONAL TAXES LEVIED BY THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA PURSUANT TO ORDINANCES NO. 692 FOR THE YEAR 2019

The Committee had no questions regarding the abatement ordinance.

H. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE REFUNDING THE BALANCE REMAINING IN THE SSA#2 DEBT SERVICE FUND

Trustee Towne asked if the Village should receive a portion of the SSA#2 refund amount. The Village did incur some expenses when they cleared the buckthorn from this parcel. Village Administrator Irvin said the Village does not pay taxes for their property and they do not pay into the SSA. Chairman Maier said the Village will retain \$2,000 for administrative fees to cover any expenses.

I. RECOMMENDATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FY2019-2020 BUDGET

Village Administrator Irvin commented this budget amendment is to reflect the SSA#3 tax levy increase of \$1,300 resulting from the CPI change. The recommended amendment is to ensure the ordinance correlates with the tax levy.

J. RECOMMENDATION TO RETIRE THE 2011 G.O. BONDS

Trustee Towne questioned if the bonds earnings would exceed the interest the Village is aiming to reduce. Chairman Maier responded no it would not. Chairman Maier commented with the Village retiring their debt and having AA1 rating this will place the Village in a strong financial position. Trustee Towne asked doesn't the Village want to have some type of debt.

Village Administrator Irvin replied the Village will have the Grainger land purchase as their future debt for 5 years. Lake Forest Bank and Trust will be funding the Grainger land

purchase. Chairman Maier added Grainger's counsel does not want to move forward with the land purchase until the current litigation has been resolved. Chairman Maier said we are currently accruing cash from Grainger's annexation which will result in the Village requesting a lower loan amount when it finally does occur.

K. DISCUSS PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS IN THE VILLAGE

Trustee Towne mentioned property assessments is a function of the zoning ordinance and other areas. Trustee Towne indicated he thought the understanding was that Parks and Recreation Committee and the Board had agreed that the Grainger property would be considered for farming. Village Attorney Irvin said there was some discussion. Trustee Towne said the new zoning ordinances indicates no farming in the Village's open space areas. Trustee Towne said his concept is to approach the Assessor's Office in Springfield with taking the Village's open space, forest preserve property, the preservation areas and requesting a credit for all of the residents to receive a tax exemption. Trustee Towne said the new zoning amendments will reduce the opportunity of this assessment pioneering. Trustee Towne said our Village is unique to this type of request from Lake County.

Chairman Maier said some residents have 10-15 acres and a portion of this land is being used for drainage to wetlands. These agriculture and geological aspects have a benefit, which is not being considered by Lake County's assessment office.

Trustee Towne said he has two people discussing the use of municipal solar indicating there are pros and cons to having solar panels. The details regarding on how to handle solar panels and charge backs are still be ironed out by ComEd and the municipalities. Trustee Towne indicated we have Village residents which are currently receiving credits for their conservation easements.

Chairman Maier said he would like to table this matter for further discussion. Trustee Towne said the proposed zoning amendment changes will impact his argument for a possible Village tax credit for the residents.

Village Administrator Irvin asked if residents are already receiving a tax credit for their property, why would they include their land in the pool and possibly reduce their credit amount. Trustee Towne replied an example is Deerpath Farms can receive a credit for all of their open space to reduce their current HOA fees. Village Administrator Irvin said why would those residents want to share their credit with remaining residents. Trustee Towne said his goal is to take the conservation approach and help the residents understand adding all of the available land into a municipality pool credit plan would be a greater win.

Chairman Maier asked the Village Administrator Irvin how many acres does the Village own outside of Grainger. Village Administrator Irvin replied about 100 acres.

L. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION, AND IF APPROVED, BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

M. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, it was moved by Trustee Towne and seconded by Chairman Maier that the meeting be adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk