

# **Minutes of A Special Meeting and Public Hearing Of The Board Of Trustee For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Thursday April 26, 2012 At #90 Town Center Drive In The Village of University Park**

## **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro-tem Larry Brown called this special meeting/public hearing of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:15 p.m.

## **B. ROLL CALL**

Mayor:	Vivian E. Covington	Absent(arrived @7:07)
Trustees:	Elizabeth Williams	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present
	Milton C. Payton	Present
	Keith Griffin	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Absent(arrived @7:08)
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Village Manager Lafayette Linear, Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Public Works Superintendent Jerry Townsend, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Fire Chief Charles Exner, Finance Director Gloria Gibson, Police Chief Melvin Davis, and Cable Studio Manager Eddie Pearson.

## **C. PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2012/2013 BUDGET**

Trustee Griffin distributed several pages to the Board, Village Manager and Finance Director a list of proposed changes that he wants to see incorporated into the new budget.

Manager Linear reviewed the document and stated that he cannot make changes per each Trustee, that there must be a consensus of the Board.

Trustee Oscar Brown voiced his concerns with the budget that included the addition of two new police commanders and a deputy chief; he questioned changes in the IT budget including encrypted cost, and asked for clarity.

Finance Director Gibson responded that she believes the encrypted cost would allow remote sites to log on to the same network, and gave an explanation of the revised budget.

Manager Linear responded that the Board is charged with passing the budget, and that staff is charged with preparing the budget as staff has done which included making adjustments as the Board presented to them..

Trustee Oscar Brown questioned and increase cost for retention from \$2,000.00 to \$9,000.00; stated that there is a need for a job description for the police commanders, and asked to know the number of employees in the police department.

IT Director Bolton responded that the increase cost for retention from \$2,000.00 to \$9,000.00 is for archiving 45 years of village records, as requested by the Village Clerk. He noted that this has been an on-going process in getting the project ready for use, and that there is a need for the funding.

Trustee Griffin noted that he would support the commander positions, but would not support a deputy chief in addition to the commanders.

Trustee Larry Brown asked Chief Davis if there had been any additions to the police department rooster, and to explain the need for his request.

Trustee Payton referred to the proposal to move two sergeants to the rank of commander thereby leaving four sergeants, and asked if this move would save dollars in overtime.

Police Chief Melvin Davis responded that there are still 26 members in the department, and this action would not add personnel, but would allow command staffing that would also be deployed in the streets. He further stated that he needs a deputy chief to help with management of personnel, and that the commanders would be on the street as lead command.

Manager Linear reminded the Board that this is a public hearing, and that public should be allowed to speak, and that the Board can make motions at the regular meeting to signify their concurrence or lack thereof for the budgetary changes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Robert Travis addressed the Board and voiced his concern with the addition of a secretary for the chief, stating that the department already has a Secretary/Records Clerk, and asked if the Chief can reduce personnel and that individuals are allowed to multi-task; He questioned the salaries for five sergeants at \$243,000.00. Relating to the Golf Club he asked to know why there are three managers, when he thought employees would be reduced.

Finance Director Gibson responded that there would not be an addition in the clerical portion of the police department budget, but the records clerk would be moved to secretary.

Manager Linear responded that there are no new employees at the golf club, just temporary help from Davis Staffing.

Trustee Payton commented that he too has concerns with the golf club, but that he understands that once the budget is passed, it can later be adjusted as needs arises.

Ms. Jolanda White referred to the parks & recreation programs budget, and asked if the \$25,000.00 would be split between football, baseball and all other recreational programs. She also asked if the Parks & Recreation Director would decide how those funds are allocated; will repairs to the ball fields come out of the budgeted funds.

Ms. LaVerne Williams commented that she has several question relating to the Parks & Recreation budget, but is concerned that programs would be affected by this budget; she referred to the Kids Health Club, and asked if consideration was given to transportation of kids from within the village to the Town Center, and suggested that consideration is given to locating the Kids Health Club at Riegel Farm. She further stated that the Village should consider more funding for youth programs, rather than cutting the programs budget.

Manager Linear responded that the \$25,000.00 would be for all sports programs; that the village is not cutting funding for kids programs, and that the village subsidizes park programs at approximately \$600,000.00 per year, and pays for repairs and maintenance of park grounds.

Director Childress responded that before funds are allocated, she would have to work with the finance director and Village manager to see how to best distribute those funds.

Mr. Al Coleman commented that in the past repairs to the football fields came out of the parks & recreation budget, and asked to know how the funds would be allocated.

Mayor Pro-tem Larry Brown stated that if this budget is passed, he wants hard dates for review of the budget with quarterly updates.

Trustee Payton suggested quarterly joint meetings of the Board of Trustees and finance committee to review how budget is being maintained.

Trustee Roudez asked to know where and how much are road and bridge repairs are reflected in the budget; asked how overages and shortages are reflected in the budget; and referring to the general fund he asked to know how are we adjusting for checks that are being held for payment and how much we are in arrears.

Finance Director Gibson responded that there is approximately \$155,000.00 in checks that are being held.

Mayor Covington arrived and assumed the Chair.

Mayor Covington asked to know the deficit from last year, and if we are current with TIF payments.

Manager Linear responded that last year there were more expenses than revenue; and that since 2003 the village is millions of dollars in arrears with TIF payments.

Trustee Williams asked if we are using new money to pay past due bills, and what are the current expenses.

Finance Director Gibson responded that current expenses are approximately eight million dollars, but we will continue with spending freeze, and noted that necessary bills are being paid.

Mrs. Gloria Barnett-Brookins voiced her concern with the police department budget and questioned the amount allocated for salaries for police sergeants, noting that the math does not add up; asked to know where the salaries for the commanders are in the budget; questioned the reduction in police training, ammunition, and asked that clerical staff be reduced and that personnel begin to multi-task and that there is a freeze in spending.

Mr. Robert Travis commented that he is concerned with the time constraints of a public hearing on the budget on a night of the regular meeting, noting that it does not allow enough time for proper discussion.

Trustee Roudez asked to know where funding for the Kids Health Club is in the budget, and asked to know who would be responsible for staffing the health club.

Finance Director Gibson responded that there is \$10,000.00 allocated for the health club.

Manager Linear responded that Parks & Recreation staff would be responsible for staffing the health club.

## **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to adjourn this special meeting/public hearing of the Board of Trustees at 7:43 p.m.

***Motion to adjourn meeting carried By unanimous Voice Vote.***

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dorothy R. Jones, CMC  
Village Clerk

/drj