

# Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

---

Council Chambers

10/3/2017

7:00 PM

---

In order to give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting by 9:00 p.m., please limit your comments to 5 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by Council. Thank you.

## 1. Call to Order

Mayor Martin Tully called the regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Downers Grove Village Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Tully led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Tully commented on the shootings that took place earlier in the week in Las Vegas killing 58 people and injuring more than 500. He sent prayers and good thoughts out to the victims of that horrific event, as well as the families of all the victims, and the first responders who rushed to the aid of the victims. Mayor Tully asked those present to join in a moment of silence.

## 2. Roll Call

**Council Attendance (Present):** Commissioner Walus, Commissioner Earl, Commissioner Waldack, Commissioner White, Commissioner José, Commissioner Barnett; Mayor Tully

**Absent:** None

**Non-Voting:** Village Manager David Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, Village Clerk April Holden

The Council meeting is broadcast over the local FM radio station, WDGC. In addition, a tape recording and videotape of the meeting are being made using Village-owned equipment. The videotape of the meeting will be used for later rebroadcast of the Council meeting over the Village cable television Channel 6.

The Council will follow the rules of conduct for this meeting as provided in Sec. 2.5 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code. These offer the public the opportunity to comment at several points in the meeting. First, immediately following approval of the minutes of past meetings, an opportunity will be given for public comments and questions of a general nature. If a public hearing is scheduled for this meeting, an opportunity is given for public comments and questions related to the subject of the hearing. Finally, an opportunity is given for public comments and questions on items appearing on the Consent Agenda, the Active Agenda and the First Reading.

The Mayor stated that at the appropriate time the presiding officers will ask if there are any comments from the public. Individuals wishing to speak, should raise their hand to be recognized and, after acknowledgment from the presiding officer, approach the microphone and state their name. Remarks should be limited to five minutes, and individuals are asked to refrain from making repetitive statements.

Mayor Tully said there are agendas located on either side of the Council Chambers, and he invited the audience to pick up an agenda and follow the progress of the Council meeting.

### 3. Minutes of Council Meetings

**MIN 2017-7527** — A. Minutes: Executive Session Minutes for Approval Only - September 12, 2017

**MIN 2017-7528** — B. Minutes: Council Minutes - September 19, 2017

**Motion:** Commissioner White moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Waldack seconded the motion.

Mayor Tully declared the motion carried by voice vote.

### 4. Proclamations

Mayor Tully proclaimed the month of October 2017 as Community Planning Month in the Village of Downers Grove. He presented the Proclamation to Stan Popovich, Director of the Village's Department of Community Development and Planning.

Mayor Tully then proclaimed October 2017 also as American Pharmacists month in the Village. The Proclamation was presented those present from Midwestern University's College of Pharmacy.

Emily Le, a pharmacy student, thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation and described the service role of pharmacists in the lives of citizens. She explained that Midwestern University has decided that they will be hosting multiple mini-health fairs throughout the year. Their first such fair will be held at SEAPAR this winter.

The Mayor then explained the Village's activity in historic preservation. The Friends of the Edwards House recently received the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Advocacy Award for historic preservation. The award was received from Landmarks Illinois, and it was the last of nine awards presented at their event. The award was created as a replica of the floor of the Chicago Stock Exchange and is given to those who are passionate about historic preservation, and who are not financially supported for their efforts. They are grass-roots community-based supporters of historic preservation. Mayor Tully congratulated the Friends of the Edwards House for receiving this recognition, and named and thanked all of their members.

Rich Kulovany, 6825 Camden, a member of the Friends of the Edwards House, said he was moved during the ceremony. He agreed with the Mayor that there were many amazing projects, and receiving the Advocacy Award was a great honor. Mr. Kulovany said that we are blessed to have a Mayor and Village Council that understands the importance of historic preservation. He said that historic homeowners have to be thanked for their efforts to keep something for future generations. The Award will be on display in the Village Library to share with the entire community. Mayor Tully suggested that they might want to include some explanatory historic photographs with the display.

### 5. Public Comments

This is the opportunity for public comments.

1. Shanon Tully, 5413 Main Street, and Cindy Zaeske, 1130 Franklin Street, co-chairs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Landmark House Tour, said they were present to thank the Council and the public for participating in their event. They had a record number of ticket sales and the funds raised will go to support historic preservation in the Village.
2. Jenny Garst, 5230 Farrar Court, near Fishel Park, said that stormwater is a large concern for the residents on her street. Over the years the homeowners have invested in measures to address stormwater issues, but it has not been enough. A new home is planned for construction on an empty lot at the end of their street, and two more large homes are expected to be built uphill when the house at 1108 Maple is sold. She encouraged the adoption of

enhanced regulations to minimize stormwater runoff caused by new construction. She extended an open invitation to the Council members to visit the homeowners on their street to discuss their stormwater concerns.

3. Ed Pawlik said he has been a homeowner for over 30 years and is a management consultant. He said he has heard about boards and commission concerns, and thought that Mayor Tully's explanation regarding appointments to boards and commissions was great. He suggested that the week before appointments, the names of potential appointees be available so the public could comment. This provides extra transparency as residents will know who is being considered.

Mayor Tully replied that they put out the names on the Friday before the Tuesday vote. He noted that it has been suggested that they do it sooner. The Council, as part of its long-range action items, will talk about other changes that could be made. Multiple people express interest in a single position each year. He thanked Mr. Pawlik for his comments.

4. George Swimmer, 4905 Main Street, commented that the Village receives good professional services from Mr. Popovich. He also congratulated the Friends of the Edwards House for their award. He has personally been involved for 25 years in railroad safety, and has investigated train accidents for years. Mr. Swimmer is a member of the DuPage Railroad Council, and has appeared before the Council about 15 times over the years. He noted that last week was National Railroad Safety Week. Metra has a total of eleven lines, and Metra BNSF is a contracted service. He discussed protocols for other trains entering or exiting railroad stations. Those protocols do not exist on the BNSF line, and they ignore recommendations. Mr. Swimmer said that the Village has had at least five fatalities. Last week in Clarendon Hills a young woman was killed crossing the tracks. He asked that the Council please talk to BNSF personnel, as the Village needs a better second train warning system. Second trains go through the train station at 70 mph. The Fairview Station and Main Street Station are landmarked buildings. He asked that they also be made safer stations. He feels that even though he keeps talking about this problem, people keep getting killed.

5. Amy and Dave Gassen, 5320 Benton, provided the Council with an American Foursquares initiative update. They showed slides of many of the foursquares in Downers Grove, which was a common house-style in the early 1900s. Ms. Gassen said they created an inventory and found about 140 foursquares in the Village. They have created a map of the locations and a flyer that was distributed to the owners of the foursquare homes. She said they are still getting contact information and currently have information for more than 40% of the foursquares in the Village.

Dave Gassen said they have toured some of the homes and catalogued their floor plans. They have given two presentations on the history of the foursquares. These were held at Ballydoyle's and at Emmett's. In addition, the Gassens had an open house at their own home with 50 people attending. Since establishing their project they have sent out a second newsletter.

Amy Gassen said that the Historical Society will be hosting a page on their website. She explained how to use the interactive map showing the location of the foursquares. They are doing a second canvass focusing on their new web page and interactive map. Their purpose is to educate people about the foursquare. As a result of their activities, they have made friends and see other new friendships being made.

Mayor Tully thanked them for their great work, which reflects their love for the topic. He stressed that this is all volunteer work, being done by the community for the community, and it is fantastic work.

## **6. Mayor's Report**

### **New Business**

**RES 2017-7249** — A. Resolution: Appoint Members to Village Boards and Commissions

**Summary:** This appoints members to Village Boards and Commissions.

Village Clerk April Holden read the Resolution appointing and reappointing members to the Village Boards and Commissions.

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO VILLAGE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**RESOLUTION 2017-74**

**Motion:** Commissioner White moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Waldack seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barnett said he would vote against this. The process remains the problem, not the specific individuals being suggested for appointment or reappointment. He said Council has heard repeatedly that process matters. He feels the process is flawed and he thinks “we are our biggest enemy.” Commissioner Barnett said they have one process that is written, and another process the Mayor has described that generally seems to be the policy that is followed. In the last week, we have engaged in another process that does not match either of the other two. He thinks the Council has work to clarify the process, execute on it and be transparent. He noted that the two Library appointees are recommended in an inconsistent manner. The first one was recommended consistent with the Mayor's description of the existing process. Council had notice, information and an opportunity to speak with the appointee and each other in terms of the appropriateness of the appointment. Apparently the process was then skipped, and on Thursday he was advised to give a thumbs up or down on the current appointee. He would have liked to have had the time and opportunity to speak with the candidate and was unable to do so. He only spoke with Ms. Stapleton. He found that meeting to be insightful and helpful. He is charged with confirming or not confirming the appointees. In order to do that, everyone has to be willing to invest their time and energy. That involves more than a couple of email conversations days before a candidate is to be appointed. He does not think the Council focuses on the process well. The applicants for the Library Board have had a broad range of time when they applied for the position. It does not seem to be the case that the Council talks with the candidates in advance of their appointments. Some people are appointed moments after they apply and others are never contacted. In the case of the second applicant, Commissioner Barnett said he thinks she was contacted after he was told he had to decide.

Mayor Tully said Commissioner Barnett's facts are wrong. Upon further discussion, Mayor Tully said he spoke with Ms. Gigani years ago.

Commissioner Barnett said that the criteria for selection is inconsistent. One applicant came in who apparently had the expertise, yet he said the Mayor told him that applicant was not appropriate. There is a conflict with the process. He would like to settle on a process that is transparent, that the public understands and is easy to execute. He hopes this will happen sooner rather than later. He reiterated that he and the Mayor had a conversation on Friday and the Mayor told Commissioner Barnett that he had not spoken with the applicant in years.

Mayor Tully said Commissioner Barnett is assuming that the Mayor is the only one having communications and that he did not ask other people to have that communication. He has been asked to involve his colleagues, which he did. The Mayor said Commissioner Barnett is leaving out information. The Mayor asked Commissioner Barnett if he has made any attempt to contact Ms. Gigani since Thursday and now.

Commissioner Barnett replied that he has not because they were the Mayor's appointees, and it was not necessary because the votes were there.

The Mayor said Council members have a duty to the community and asked if Commissioner Barnett attempted to speak with this individual.

Commissioner Barnett said that, as liaison to the Library Board, he will try to speak with all the members.

The Mayor asked if Commissioner Barnett reached out to any of the people whose names were read tonight.

Commissioner Barnett said he has not because the process has not been like that; it has not been collaborative.

The Mayor said that the names have been out for well over a month.

Commissioner Barnett said he has not reached out to the other nominees, except for Ms. Stapleton, because he did not think they were being debated.

The Mayor asked if there was anything stopping Commissioner Barnett from speaking to any of the candidates or any previous candidates. Commissioner Barnett said when he was liaison, he contacted the people and met with them in most cases.

Mayor Tully asked in 6-1/2 years how many appointees Commissioner Barnett voted against. The Mayor said there were less than five.

Commissioner Barnett said that the process has not been collaborative, although it used to be. The process now is Mayor Tully presenting a list of names and asking for thumbs up or thumbs down because he had the votes.

Mayor Tully said that is incorrect and he is disappointed. Commissioner Barnett replied that the Mayor could be disappointed if he wanted to, but Commissioner Barnett said he would not have said this if he knew it to be incorrect.

Commissioner José said he looked forward to conversations as to how to change the process and he hoped it happened sooner rather than later. He said he has spoken with Mayor Tully about some of those improvements. Commissioner José thanked those who have agreed to serve. He expressed the hope that they keep diversity a priority.

Commissioner Waldack thanked everyone who applied. A number of applicants have expressed an interest in the Library Board after the recent publicity. He thanked those who have applied for other boards and commissions. He said that individuals can attend boards and commission meetings. He thanked the Mayor for his work, and reviewed the process over the years. People want to serve but don't want to be publicly embarrassed when the vote is taken. He said he has been involved with this under three Mayors and thought Mayor Krajewski created a great process for boards and commissions, involving the Commissioners. The process is now being killed politically. Mayor Tully has done an excellent job under the circumstances, and has taken on the job of doing the interviewing. He will support the slate up for vote.

Commissioner Earl said that she has spent ten years sitting on boards and commissions and attending meetings. She has seen the process restructured a number of times. People are appointed en masse so they won't be embarrassed. She is mortified for the appointees for the Library being dragged through the mud for the personal gain of the accuser. She thanked every volunteer, because it takes a lot of time with no pay. She thanked those who applied.

Commissioner Walus echoed the sentiments expressed, saying there are so many passionate people who want to help and be involved. She thanked the nominees. She also said they can streamline the process and look for ways to improve the process.

Commissioner White said he fully supports every one of the nominees this evening. He looks forward to discussing this process and harnessing the energy of the applicants.

Mayor Tully said that they are seeing transparency in action and there is nothing sneaky about the process. To suggest otherwise is disingenuous. It is a simple process. He has one vote. He cannot put anyone in a position by himself. It is a collaborative process. He noted that if enough people disagree the candidate's name does not go forward. After every election there is a governance meeting, which is to determine how they will conduct themselves and how they will appoint people. He noted that they achieve consensus. In 2011, 2013 and 2015 they had governance meetings. On January 24, 2017 a governance meeting was held and Council went through the appointment process. His colleagues recommended people at various levels of involvement. Typically they have a 2-4 week advance notice. There is nothing sneaky or secret or sinister about the process. He said they can make changes. There is a timing element, which is why he takes on the role. He has to have the collaboration of his colleagues. He thanked the appointees, saying that the Village relies on commission members. They have done a good job over his 6-1/2 years as Mayor with more than 210 appointments. He recognized the appointees in the audience, saying he always appreciates their work and recommendations.

**Votes:** Yea: Commissioners White, Waldack, Walus, Earl, Hosé; Mayor Tully

Nay: Commissioner Barnett

Mayor Tully declared the motion carried 6:1.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

**COR 2017-7529** — A. Claims Ordinance: No. 6231, Payroll, September 15, 2017

**BIL 2017-7530** — B. Bills Payable: No. 6354, October 3, 2017

**MOT 2017-7489** — C. Motion: Authorize \$50,000.00 to Superior Road Striping, Melrose Park, IL, for the 2017 Pavement Striping Maintenance Contract

**Summary:** This awards a contract for the 2017 Pavement Striping Maintenance Contract to Superior Road Striping of Melrose Park, Illinois in the amount of \$50,000.00.

**RES 2017-7525** — D. Resolution: Authorize a Second Amendment to License Agreement with American Tower Asset Sub, LLC

**Summary:** This authorizes approval of a second amendment to License Agreement with American Tower Asset Sub, LLC for the continued operation of an antenna tower on Village property located at 5231 Katrine Avenue.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TO LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND AMERICAN TOWER ASSET SUB, LLC**

**RESOLUTION 2017-75**

**RES 2017-7490** — E. Resolution: Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of DuPage

**Summary:** This authorizes approval of an intergovernmental agreement between the Village and the County of DuPage on behalf of its Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) for reimbursement of eligible one-time expenses incurred by the Village during the consolidation with DuPage Public Safety Communications (DU-COMM) for emergency dispatching services.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND THE COUNTY OF DUPAGE**

**RESOLUTION 2017-76**

**MIN 2017-7526** — F. Minutes: Note Receipt of Minutes of Boards and Commissions

**Summary:** Library Board - August 23, 2017; Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee - April 13, 2017

**Motion:** Commissioner White moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Waldack seconded the motion.

**Votes:** Yea: Commissioners White, Waldack, Walus, Earl, Hosé, Barnett; Mayor Tully

Nay: None

Mayor Tully declared the motion carried.

**8. Active Agenda**

**ORD 2017-7492** — A. Ordinance: Amend Provisions for Landmark Designation Filing

**Summary:** This amends certain provisions for Landmark Designation filing.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PROVISIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION FILING**

**ORDINANCE NO. 5648**

**Motion:** Commissioner White moved to adopt "An Ordinance Amending Provisions for Landmark Designation Filing," as presented. Commissioner Waldack seconded the motion.

**Votes:** Yea: Commissioners White, Waldack, Walus, Earl, Hosé, Barnett; Mayor Tully

Nay: None

Mayor Tully declared the motion carried.

**RES 2017-7491** — B. Resolution: Grant Historic Landmark Designation for 4714 Oakwood Avenue

**Summary:** This grants historic landmark designation for 4714 Oakwood Avenue.

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR 4714 OAKWOOD AVENUE**

**RESOLUTION 2017-77**

**Motion:** Commissioner White moved to adopt "A Resolution Granting Historic Landmark Designation for 4714 Oakwood Avenue," as presented. Commissioner Waldack seconded the motion.

**Votes:** Yea: Commissioners White, Waldack, Walus, Earl, Hosé, Barnett; Mayor Tully

Nay: None

Mayor Tully declared the motion carried.

Mayor Tully thanked the Wanders for volunteering to landmark their home. He presented them with their certificate.

John Wander thanked Cindy Zaeske who made it easy for them to landmark their home. His grandfather came to the Village in 1890 and bought two lots from Earl Prince. Mr. Wander grew up in this home as did their children, and their family has worked in the Village throughout its history. It's nice to keep the look of the Downers Grove he knew.

**9. First Reading**

**INF 2017-7532** — A. Information: Review of Mobile Food Truck Ordinance

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said that this item was requested by Alter Brewing Company. Since adoption of the mobile food vendor ordinance, one license has been issued. Ongoing discussion points include requirements for background checks and the cost of the license itself.

Mayor Tully said he is very glad that the Village has a food truck ordinance. This is a stationary versus a mobile issue, and he is disappointed with the paucity of licenses because it doesn't provide a data set from which to draw. He would be in favor of reducing some of the restrictions to provide more experience and to be more competitive. The model has worked successfully elsewhere.

Commissioner José said he agrees with making changes, particularly modifying background check requirements that limit it to parks and school areas. He suggested having two classes of licenses – one to allow food trucks in the restricted areas, and one for other industrial park areas.

Mayor Tully said he is an advocate of not having background checks. If the truck is located on school or park district property he would let those authorities make the decision. The food trucks are stationary and are not roving through neighborhoods.

Commissioner José said he agrees that they would not be in the neighborhoods. He hopes that other units of government would act appropriately, but hope is not a strategy. If the Village allows them to operate in the Village, then the other agencies would have to act accordingly.

Commissioner Waldack said he would support fees that match taxpayers' costs. The Village cost is \$250. Any lower fee would be at the taxpayers' expense. He could see a reduction in the cost of renewals. He would also support a 12-month license, and not necessarily based on a calendar year. As for background checks, he wants to protect kids. He wants responsible background checks for the worker who is on the truck. No background check on the owners is necessary if they don't work on the truck. He would also support a court search rather than fingerprinting. Commissioner Waldack said he would not support a designer ordinance geared for one or two businesses.

Commissioner Barnett said he thinks this should be loosened up, and would like to be more deliberate. This is an opportunity to create vibrancy in the community. He thinks the risk is exceedingly low. Covering costs makes sense to him and he would agree with removing other restrictions so as not to put the Village at a competitive disadvantage.

Mayor Tully said he agreed.

Commissioner White asked if they removed all background checks would there be any reason to license them.

Mr. Fieldman replied it would be to keep track of them and make sure they are operating within other regulations.

Commissioner White said that so long as they are restricted to certain industrial areas, with the parks and schools taking responsibility on their properties, he is neutral on the topic. He said figuring out the cost to the Village will be more than the Village would ever collect. He does not want to see food trucks near restaurants. Having them in industrial parks is a different story. The money is trivial.

Commissioner Barnett said he thinks that staff can determine the costs associated with licensing, and licensing can insure compliance with the County. He doesn't have any problems with locations.

1. Pete Kasanovich, Alter Brewing Co., said they are not asking for one business to be benefitted. The 1% food and beverage tax would help benefit the Village. They chose to be in Downers Grove and are trying to be part of the community. Over the past two years, they have helped fund the honey project in Lyman Woods, and have supported all of the events in the Village. They don't want to get involved in the food business. They specialize in making beer. The food truck industry has grown considerably in the United States over the last ten years. He doesn't want to inundate truck businesses with costs. They are looking to work together to come up with a solution.

Commissioner Waldack thanked Mr. Kasanovich for his letter and information. Regarding the lack of the number of food trucks that have applied, there is a food truck strike against Downers Grove based on the fee, etc., and that's why the Village hasn't had more applicants. Commissioner Waldack reiterated that he wants to recover Village costs, and not make a profit. He asked about background checks in other communities.



Mr. Kasoavich responded that he appreciates that the renewal could be lower. Fingerprinting is onerous on businesses. People on food trucks come and go because they are not high paying jobs. He doesn't think it is necessarily a strike in Downers Grove, but it is seen as setting a precedent for them in other villages.

Commissioner Waldack replied that other communities do court searches and he could live with that.

Commissioner Earl asked whether owners are often on trucks.

Mr. Kasanovich said many times the owner is on the truck. He reiterated that fingerprinting is onerous.

Commissioner Walus thanked staff for information regarding background checks. She said she hoped they could come to a compromise.

2. Chris Fregeau, 1918 Elmore, asked about ice cream trucks and whether they are required to have background checks.

Mayor Tully replied that they have looked at it before and should look at it again.

3. Jim Wilkinson asked if these would be allowed for a private party on private property and was told it was allowed.

Mayor Tully said they could be used for a private party as long as it's not open to the public. If it were for the public they would have to have a special event license.

Mr. Wilkinson said that the Morton Arboretum has had two events with food trucks, and he suggested that the Village look at their experience.

Mr. Fieldman said staff will do research and will place this on an upcoming agenda,

## 10. Council Member Reports

Commissioner José announced that the Night At the Firehouse would take place on Wednesday, October 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Station 5, 6701 Main Street.

Commissioner Waldack recommended that residents check [www.downtowndg.org](http://www.downtowndg.org) to review upcoming downtown events.

Commissioner Walus announced Fire Prevention Week from October 8-14, with the Silent Parade to be held October 13 at approximately 7:15 p.m. in Downers Grove on Maple Avenue.

Mayor Tully gave a FEMA Flood Plain Mapping update saying that the July open house was very successful. The comment period is now closed. He will keep everyone apprised of the schedule.

The Mayor asked for a motion to recess to the Committee Room to discuss the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.

Commissioner White moved to recess to the Committee Room. Commissioner Waldack seconded the motion.

The Mayor declared the motion carried by voice vote and the Council recessed at 9:00 p.m.

## 11. Manager's Report - Committee Room

**ORD 2017-7523** — A. Ordinance: Adopt the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget in Lieu of Passage of an Appropriation Ordinance

Mayor Tully reconvened the Council meeting at 9:14 p.m. in the Committee Room for the first of ten discussions of the Village's FY18 budget.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said this budget is the implementation of previously discussed plans. This is the first of ten public meetings. He noted that the budget as proposed is posted on the Village's website. It is a deliberative process. Mr. Fieldman explained that staff has met with each of the Council members previous to this meeting for a thorough budget review. He also thanked the staff members who have put together the proposed budget.

Mr. Fieldman explained there are eight key points related to the budget, beginning with the General Fund that has a planned use of reserves of \$320,000 due to the temporary hold back of 10% of State income taxes. He said it is also due to maintaining a fund balance of 39%, which is looked upon favorably by the rating agencies. The second key point is the food and beverage tax revenue of \$1.5 million dollars adopted in July 2017, effective January 2018. The budget also includes a \$550,000 increase in the public safety pension levy as required by State law. There is no increase in the property tax levy for operations for the seventh straight year. There has been a reduction in staffing of two full-time positions due to retirements. The remaining three key points will be discussed in next week's meeting including funding to implement facilities direction, a contribution to OPEB unfunded liability, and continued investment in the infrastructure. Mr. Fieldman noted there are some things that pose risks such as the food and beverage tax revenue as this is its first year. Sales tax revenue has also been fluctuating for the past 12 months, and finally the risk that State budget actions could affect the Village budget.

Regarding the General Fund, Mr. Fieldman said most Village services are paid through this fund. This fund has strong cost-control measures, as well as significant continued increases in public safety pensions. Revenues are flat or declining bolstered by the food and beverage tax. He then reviewed expenses, which are expected to increase only 1.1% compared to FY17 due to public safety pensions. Personnel expenses are also projected to increase by \$430,000, which is 1.2%. Non-personnel expenses will increase by less than 1%. These increases are due almost entirely by the increase in the required public safety pension contributions of \$550,000. Cost savings are driven by staffing reductions and also retirements in the Police and Fire Departments.

Most major revenue sources are budgeted to be about the same as FY17 budget, and about \$1.4 million more than the FY17 estimates. Most revenue sources are flat or declining. Sales tax is flat to the 2017 estimate, and income tax is estimated to be less due to the 10% hold back of State income tax. That is why the food and beverage tax is necessary to replace lost and declining sales tax revenues. The property tax levy is up, with a total increase of 4.3% driven by the increase in the required public safety pension money. The impact of this tax levy on a home with a market value of about \$300,000 will be in the range of \$24-\$25. He noted that the Village portion of the tax bill homeowners receive is only about 9%.

Commissioner José said that we cannot count on the State's ineptitude being only one year. The hold back may be more than one year. It may not be only 10%. Village costs are increasing and he is struggling with the idea of a deficit budget. They ought to have a conversation about raising taxes, absent any other idea that does not talk about a reduction in service levels.

Commissioner Waldack thanked staff for the budget preparation. Everybody gets higher bills. Not having an increase for five years for operations is a great job, but he also wonders if it is the right thing to do. He commented that facilities have been a problem for years. He thinks they should have been putting money away for facilities for a long time. He would like them to consider the possibility of adding revenue in property taxes. He also thinks it's time to consider an animal boarding tax that could generate approximately \$100,000. It could cover costs for Meals on Wheels, taxi subsidies, etc.

Mayor Tully noted that the food and beverage tax is a replacement tax to replace lost revenue, and he would like it to stay that way. He asked as to the impact fees.

Mr. Fieldman replied they would fit under "other"—permits, licenses, and fees.

Mayor Tully suggested developing an impact fee regarding historic preservation that could be carved out of the existing impact fees. Regarding the hotel tax, it was designed to promote tourism for the Village. He asked if this would correlate to an animal boarding tax.

Commissioner José said he agrees that the food and beverage tax is a replacement tax and he does not want to make it higher than it needs to be. He would like to keep the property tax levy for operations flat as they have for the past six years. Another way to look at this is to keep the tax rate flat.

Mr. Fieldman said there is a slight reduction in the property tax rate.

Commissioner José said he doesn't like the idea of raising the property tax, and if they could get to a flat rate that could close some of the gap.

Mr. Fieldman said the question is what would the levy be with a flat rate. He said they would try and get numbers on that for them.

Commissioner Waldack referenced District 99's referendum of \$65 for a \$300,000 home. He thinks putting money aside is a good idea for the Village.

Mr. Paradis commented on related funds.

Mr. Fieldman replied that the funds related to the General Fund are Health, Risk, Fleet and Equipment Replacement. They are hardly ever balanced over one particular year but tend to balance over 5-10 years.

Commissioner Barnett said that the budget to him is dissatisfying. He said there is no reason to expect sales taxes to improve. He doesn't expect Springfield to sort things out and he has a hard time accepting things they are not going to do, such as facilities. He thinks they should be balanced to start with, and he doesn't think they are acting as good stewards. At some point there will be personnel changes or a building will have to be built.

Mayor Tully said that the community has had an opportunity to weigh in on this, and it is the Council's job to educate them.

## 12. Adjournment

There being no further questions or comments Mayor Tully asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Commissioner White moved to adjourn. Commissioner Waldack seconded the motion.

Mayor Tully declared the motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Holden

Village Clerk