

Finance Committee Meeting – July 17, 2001

Present: Commissioner McConnell  
Commissioner Zabloudil

Attendance: Martin Lyons, Director of Financial Services  
Trisha Steele, Assistant Director of Financial Services  
Rick Ginex, Village Manager  
Mike Baker, Assistant to the Village Manager

Meeting called to order at 5:30 P.M. Minutes from the last meeting of July 3, 2001 were approved.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Telecommunications/Infrastructure Maintenance Fee Swap.

Mr. Lyons received change from 2.5 to 3.5% on telecommunications tax plus elimination of IMF. Commissioner McConnell asked to confirm that expenses should be neutral to users. Commissioner Zabloudil would like audit issues reviewed. Mr. Lyons stated that he will actively work to make it easier to audit.

A question was asked by Commissioner McConnell if IMF was a fixed tax and Telecommunications was a variable tax? Mr. Lyons stated that both were variables.

Mr. Ginex questioned what this tax was related to? Mr. Lyons said it was related to any transmission of messages, such as phone or fax, directed to a telecommunications company, and must be collected.

Commissioner McConnell asked if this was scheduled for Workshop July 24<sup>th</sup>, with effective date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Lyons responded that this was correct.

The committee then discussed the issue of retroactivity regarding the repayment of Infrastructure Maintenance Fees. No information is available to-date from the courts or from the State of Illinois regarding the issue of refunding IMF to telecommunications companies for the subsequent refunding to end users.

2. Follow up on Parking Deck Issues.

Commissioner McConnell said that the Council needed a full estimate of deck costs and construction timeline and funding plan. Commissioner Zabloudil stated that validation of Morningside information will be helpful. Mr. Lyons said that a Village Tax Exempt

Letter will be given to them. Commissioner McConnell stated that we should hold the check to Morningside for permit receipts, and until they send information.

Regarding the Parking Deck, Commissioner Zabloudil said that often costs are needed for security systems and stairwell heating and that these costs need to be factored into our analysis of total parking deck costs. Other issues regarding Parking Deck:

- Taxable/Tax Exempt – need to determine cost/space. We need to hear from Council number of spaces.
- May need to re-issue bonds in the future if need to change amount.
- Commissioner Zabloudil wants quick reference table to determine “what ifs?” to see Taxable/Tax Exempt consequences.
- Commissioner McConnell stated that we need to pick on Northern (Ambrose) for Taxable/Non-Taxable.

Landbank discussion:

Mr. Lyons stated that the Landbank property is assessed at almost zero at this time. Commissioner McConnell asked that as soon as property becomes private property, will this be taxable at the sale price? Mr. Lyons stated that almost 100% of the assessed value will be received in the TIF. He further said that from a TIF perspective, difference is \$2 million (1. ) increment and it will provide significant additional funding. Comments of Committee will be provided to Council. Commissioner Zabloudil asked Mr. Lyons for a list of appraisals and copy of original RFP to be included with Comments. Mr. Lyons asked what the Committee would like forwarded to Council.

### 3. SCI Report.

Commissioner McConnell wanted confirmation that some aspects work very well but some don't. Mr. Lyons confirmed.

Mr. Lyons reviewed the progression of Utility software. . He stated that they are negotiating with new parent-firm, SCI-GEMS for the resolution of rejected utility billing system. We are also looking at new systems in the \$50,000 - \$100,000 product range that interfaces with selected meter reading system. This system should also address intergovernmental agreement with Downers Grove Sanitary for potential joint billing. The Village is also reviewing new enhancements to our contractual bill printing services to include: Print-on-demand copies of bills Option: web based provides better navigation tools for users. For Information Services, this option reduces administration duties and improves speed

Commissioner Zabloudil asked about references on SCI's new system. Commissioner McConnell wants them to load on our system so we can evaluate for a two-week evaluation period; SHOW US. Commissioner Zabloudil suggested the Village create an action plan based on references from other municipal users. Commissioner McConnell asked if the Technology Committee needed to be involved, and she would like to see the bid. Trisha stated that Budget Spreads would probably be easier to produce and

Personnel Expenses Projections would be easier. It was recommended that staff proceed to see it work.

Technology Commission decided that if it was necessary to review other vendors; then, we would talk to them.

Commissioner McConnell stated that decisions need to be made regarding 1) web based and bid systems and 2) finalized negotiations on water billing. Mr. Ginex questioned the system size. Mr. Lyons answered that it needed more memory. Mr. Ginex said that if more memory was needed, just do it, as he wants speed on the front burner. He further stated that he had already spoken with Wu and Bill from Information Services.

#### 4. Other New Business.

Future Agenda: We will be discussing the Purchasing policy, and changes to sign off levels. Mr. Ginex also noted that the Citizen Survey was being constructed for this year, and that he would forward a copy to the Committee.

The next meeting will be August 21, 2001:

- Parking Deck numbers
- Bid Spreads
- Automated Billing (30 min.)

Commissioner Zabloudil and Mr. Lyons will do agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 P.M.