

II. Review of Budget Decisions

Mr. Amoruso reviewed how and why certain expenditures impact the 2008 tax levy and how and why other certain expenditures do not impact the 2008 tax levy.

Information Services Department – Budget Request

Mr. Skiles reviewed the memorandum submitted to the Village Board regarding 2009 PC and Server Replacement and Phone System Replacement. Mr. Skiles stated that based on current estimates, a new phone system will pay for itself in five years. The Village shares phone expenses with the Park District, with the Village responsible for approximately 64% of expenditures.

Mr. Skiles stated that there are approximately 170 computers in operation. The computers are allocated based on three tiers of usage. The computers that are used the least are always the older computers in the Village.

The Village Board agreed that there is a need to replace two servers in 2009. The 2009 budget will allocate \$10,000 for servers and \$15,000 for computers and other miscellaneous replacements.

Water & Sewer Budget Decisions

President Canning stated that the Harms Road Interceptor was in the Capital Improvement Program several years ago at an approximate cost of \$4,000,000. The improvement should be included in the CIP as a placeholder and be part of a comprehensive sewer improvement program.

Trustee Swanson asked about the historical context of sewer lining. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that there are significant needs for sewer lining, those needs are greater than the \$425,000 that is proposed to be budgeted in 2009. The funds are prioritized based on the sewers in the worst condition. The money budgeted for sewer lining in 2008 was diverted to sewer main repairs due to need.

Trustee Terman asked for further explanation of the Greenleaf sewer improvement project. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is requiring improvements as the sewer is experiencing dry weather flow into the channel. Following the improvement, MWRD will assist in maintenance.

Trustee Watt suggested that some sewer improvements be funded through the general fund such that the expense is tax deductible for residents.

The Village Board agreed to include all proposed sewer projects in the 2009 budget.

President Canning directed the Village Board's attention to the water fund.

Trustee Watt asked about the Automatic Meter Reading program and where savings will be realized in personnel. Mr. Amoruso stated that savings are found in contractual meter reading services. Mr. Ames stated that the program will be completed in 2011.

Trustee Swanson asked about the proposed water plant study in the context that there is a trend towards water conservation and as such the plant will be operating under excess capacity. Once potential customers are identified, the study should be conducted. Mr. Ames stated that Kenilworth and Northfield are potential customers.

Trustee Watt suggested that the Village examine alternatives for shuttering part of the plant to reduce operating costs.

Mr. Ames stated that the study is not intended to evaluate capacity but to evaluate the facility and proposed upgrades in the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Amoruso stated that from 2010 – 2013 there are \$7 million worth of improvements in the Capital Improvement Program.

The Village Board agreed to defer the water plant roof replacement to 2010 and the water plant study to a later date. Repairs should be budgeted for roof repairs at \$15,000 in 2009. The remaining water improvements proposed for the 2009 budget are to remain in the budget. The 1933 building lighting improvements for \$2,000 are to be added back in the budget.

President Canning called a recess at 8:45pm.

Police Department Overtime Expense

President Canning called the meeting back to order at 8:53pm.

Chief Carpenter reviewed the memorandum presented to the Village Board regarding police overtime and explained that police overtime is driven by activity levels more so than staffing.

The Board discussed the merits of training that is discretionary and how it impacts the organization and services provided to residents. Trustee Watt stated that it is more important to have officers on the street than to fund training. Deputy Chief Perkins stated that officers are needed on the street but their effectiveness decreases if they are not trained.

President Canning stated that the cuts proposed for police are too dramatic and are service cuts. Adding back three police positions would impact the tax levy by approximately 2%.

Trustee Levin explained his approach to the budget process which is that the most basic services must be funded first. Followed by ambulance service, police protection is the second most basic service provided by the Village. The proposed budget hampers basic police services. Based on experience as a member of the Board of Fire and Police Commission, Trustee Levin stated that further reducing the training budget would have a significant impact on the Police Department.

The Board discussed an appropriate level of funding for police overtime. Based on 2008 estimated actual for overtime, the 2009 budget should be \$264,000 if two patrol officers and one community service officer position are added back to the budget.

President Canning stated that the remaining budget item to review is the General Fund which will be discussed on November 17th at 7:00pm.

III. Adjournment

Trustee Terman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Trustee Watt. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Braiman
Assistant to the Village Manager