

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 30, 2010, MEETING
OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
RICHARD T. FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER
6101 CAPULINA AVENUE
MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS 60053**

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the meeting of the Finance Advisory Commission was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Doug Steinman who led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ryan Horne called the roll. In attendance were:

Present: Chairman Doug Steinman, Commissioners Wilma Wendt, Stephen Worthley, Okwy Okeke, and Pete Meehan

Absent: Commissioners Roy Kogstad and Margie Rumpsa

Village Staff: Finance Director Ryan Horne

Also Present: Village Trustee Larry Gomberg
Village resident Eric Poders

Chairman Steinman requested approval of minutes from the April 28, 2010, meeting. Request was made to strike on page 2, second paragraph the last sentence which states, "Shortly it will be paid back." On page 2, last paragraph, a question mark should be placed after, "What will happen then?". Also a request was made to delete the following two sentences having to do with sidewalk replacements. All corrections need to be listed in the current minutes. Chairman Steinman made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 28, 2010, with corrections. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Chairman Steinman requested approval of minutes from the May 26, 2010, meeting. In the fifth paragraph which starts with, "Commissioner Rumpsa..." The last sentence, "Commissioner Wendt states it is not promising", what is it? Chairman Steinman felt it should state, "we cannot depend on receiving money the state owes us."

It was requested John Said, the new economic development director, attend a meeting. Mr. Horne stated that he will attend the August meeting and will bring his short/long range plans. The Commission would like him to attend the Finance Advisory Committee meeting so each Commission can see the others plans. Trustee Gomberg stated the Village has three comprehensive plans. There was one in 1997, one in 1999, and the Economic Development Commission drew up an economic development plan which was approved by the Trustees, and the new economic development director brought in his own ideas. Chairperson Steinman stated he would like to look at the Village not only from an economic development perspective but an entire community perspective.

Chairman Steinman made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 26, 2010, with corrections. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Mr. Horne stated the financial reports will be distributed in June. He also attended the GFOA annual conference. They reviewed topics related to the Generation Change forthcoming and how to deal with the knowledge that will be retiring shortly. Discussed was municipal customer software, risk management, generation change, recovery budgeting, reducing personnel costs. The key note speaker spoke on health care reform, which is a hot issue. Services were discussed. They were offered by choice. After the program was over you could purchase the audio which had the discussions available.

Mr. Horne stated a way to handle the change in garbage billing, is by having a standard response letter and everyone keeping a unified front. The department must learn to depend on each other and not one person for responses. There is a new software program available which might be the way to achieve this goal.

Commissioner Worthley asked how it is not having an animal control person working in the Village. Mr. Horne stated animal control needs to support itself. Traps might be available to residents in a self help type program.

Trustee Gomberg inquired what the status of Mr. Kogstad is. Chairman Steinman stated the Mayor will address this issue. He is treated as an active Commissioner until Mr. Horne is told differently.

Trustee Gomberg stated he presented the mission statement to the Village Board of Trustees and Corporation Counsel. He presented an issue to the Village Board about collection fees for water connections for new construction. A detail projection was presented in the Village Board packets. As of this time, none of the Trustees have questioned the water connection fee for new construction. Trustee Gomberg will now have a draft ordinance written to present back to the Finance Advisory Commission.

Trustee Gomberg also stated that Culver's is still trying to raise financing.

Chairman Steinman introduced the new member, Pete Meehan. Commissioner Meehan stated he has lived in town for 36 years and raised his family and has experience in managing finances.

Chairman Steinman proceeded to discuss the budget. The Village is in a deficit. Is it still possible to cut expenses? That is very difficult to do. It is not a favorable decision to raise taxes. Chairman Worthley stated that the equalization factor will increase in Cook County from 2.9 to 3.1 or approximately 10%. That factor brings in more money. Mr. Horne stated the Village requests a dollar amount from the assessor's office. The Village has not asked for an increase, the schools usually do. Commissioner Okwy wants to know if there is a way to cut services. Plowing the snow, picking up leaves are good services. But what actually can be cut without hurting residents? The question was asked if the Village does get its correct share of the pie. Mr. Horne stated the Village relies on the residents mainly for their tax base. Residents often want to compare Morton Grove to Niles. It is impossible; we have no retail base which would give us tax dollars. Chairman Steinman stated publicity is part of a package the Village is deficient on. We offer great services and people outside the Village do not know about them.

Commissioner Wendt showed the Commission an article about pensions and it shows the amount each resident in town owes to fund the pension plans. To fund the pensions completely the Village would need a check for \$152.00 from each resident. Niles figures are much higher, \$1,400.00 from each resident.

A survey was discussed to be given to the residents on choices offered. Commissioner Okwy felt the professionals are more qualified to make decisions that would affect the residents. Commissioner Meehan stated a strict line must be drawn to either raise taxes or remove services. Commissioner Worthley stated he felt Village residents will be prepared for any type of cuts.

Chairman Steinman asked if Mr. Horne will be making educated projections on the financial report. Mr. Horne stated the first part is the financial report; the second report is the revenue projection report. The Commissioners would like to see if they could cut expenses. Chairman Steinman suggested that at the next meeting a recommendation to the Board will be made to pursue the dollar amount requested to keep the Village going.

Trustee Gomberg requested an adopted budget book. It would be easier for the Commission if they had one to use. Chairman Steinman requested Mr. Horne at the next meeting, prepare a list of items the Commission should be viewing to see if cuts can be made and then to make a recommendation to the Village Board.

Mr. Eric Poders stated the Village is primarily residential with small shopping plazas. We cannot rely on plazas for revenue, but in the retail end we do have a supplier, Menards. Present to the residents a way to fix up their homes using Menards and the Village will then receive income. In the TIF areas these areas will generate revenue if the Village can charge for the new buildings and the water connections needed. We need to generate revenue; there still are a large number of seniors on a freeze which also does not generate revenue.

Chairman Steinman elaborated on the Menard's revenue generator. There may be a good way to generate income.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Worthley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wendt and approved unanimously pursuant to a voice vote at 8:25 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 28, 2010.

Ryan Horne, Finance Director/Treasurer

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