

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Finance Committee

Thursday, October 22, 2020

7:00 a.m.

Village Conference Room

Attendance

Committee Members:	
Timothy Nugent, Mayor	X
Timothy Boyce, Trustee (7:03 am)	X
Todd Crockett, Trustee	
Diane Dole, Trustee	X
Joel Gesky, Trustee	X
Sam Martin, Trustee	X
Wendell Phillips, Trustee	X
Other attendees:	
Chris LaRocque, Village Admin	X
Jim Hanley, Supt. Of Public Works	X
Al Swinford, Chief of Police	X
Ryan Marion, Building Official	X
Sarah Marion, Event Coord.	X
Sheila Martin, Treasurer	X

Trustee Gesky called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Nugent, seconded by Trustee Gesky, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2020 as written; motion carried by voice vote - all ayes, no nays.

No Public Participation

Items for Discussion:

- **2020 Tax Levy** – Mr. LaRocque presented a handout showing a levy comparison. The handout showed the Equalized Assessed Value for 2019 and 2020. The handout also presented the history of last three years for the tax levy. Mr. LaRocque presented options for the committee for the 2020 Tax Levy. The committee recommended that the 2020 Tax Levy be increased by 1.75%.
- **Police Pension Contribution Report** - The village received the actuarial report that recommended an amount to keep the Police Pension Fund funded. For FY 2020-2021 the amount is \$527,204. The village has budgeted \$500,000. \$448,595 has been paid to date. The village will pay the full amount.
- **CURE and IEMA Reimbursements Update** – Mr. LaRocque announced that the village will be receiving \$379,693.00 from the CURE program as a reimbursement due to the pandemic. The village will submit to IEMA \$8,000 Coronavirus related expenses for up to 75% reimbursement.
- **TIF #1 Recap** – Mr. LaRocque presented two handouts showing costs associated with the Square on Second, Phase II project and total TIF #1 projects. Mr. LaRocque reminded the committee that TIF #1 owes \$1,500,000 to different village funds (Water Sale Fund and the Road/Bridge Fund) and that money will need to be paid back before the end of TIF #1. Mr. LaRocque will monitor the account and if possible pay back

one of those loans (\$750,000). Besides some TIF Façade projects, Mr. LaRocque stated that he would like to see the parking lots at the Village Hall and Food Pantry be re-done and then the finishing of the area at the Square where the apartment building once stood.

- **Election Day Holiday** – Earlier in the year, the State of Illinois had approved a change that stated that all public buildings would be closed on election day. The IML asked for clarification on behalf of all municipalities as this constituted an unfunded mandate. The IML had to file suit against the Illinois State Board of Elections. The judge ruled in favor of IML that there was ambiguity in the language and municipalities can each decide if their offices should or should not be open on election day. Village Employee Handbook allows for employees to have 2 hours of time to vote.
- **Community Improvements – Murals, Sculptures, Artwork, Other Ideas** – Mayor Nugent asked for ideas from the committee to continue to improve the downtown area. Mayor Nugent, Ms. Marion and Mr. LaRocque met with a sculptor.
- **Square on Second Greenspace Use** – Mayor Nugent asked for ideas for the greenspace area.
- **Tennis Courts at Theis Park** – Trustee Martin stated that he had played pickle ball at Theis Park on the tennis courts. The courts are not in good condition. Trustee Martin asked if the courts could be turned into pickle ball courts.

Mayor Nugent stated that the older parks need to be updated also as equipment, lighting, trash cans, etc. are showing wear. Trustee Boyce asked about the lights in Heritage Park. Mr. Hanley stated that the lights along the path in Heritage Park have frosted lenses, so they are not very bright. He will investigate replacing the lenses to allow for more light.

Mr. Hanley stated that he checked with a company about a tennis court rehab. They gave a quote of \$50,000 - \$75,000. Mayor Nugent stated a suggestion was given a few years ago about hiring landscaping firms to maintain the landscaping areas such as Phipps Garden and Memorial Park. Mayor Nugent would like to have a better maintenance plan put in place. Trustee Martin suggested that non-profit groups could use the parks as a service area. Trustee Gesky suggested that landscaping firms could use these areas as a show piece on what they do.

- **South Park Update** – Mr. LaRocque stated that there are two legs to this project. One goes west out of Heritage Park and the other goes east and then south. Mr. Aggen is securing easements on the west leg. He has ordered title work. The owners that border the projected path area have given approval for the easements, just finishing the paperwork. Mr. Aggen gave a proposal for engineering cost of \$45,000 on the east leg. Mayor Nugent would like to see the project move forward so that construction could happen next year.
- **Main Street Berm** – There have been ideas proposed on the village should keep the berm, make the berm larger, remove the berm or build a fence. Mr. Hanley did submit an application for trees and plantings to the CN Railroad, but we were denied. Trustee Gesky suggested having Chris Tholen review the area. Mr. Tholen had assisted Mr. Rudin (a past trustee) when the berm and landscaping was first completed. Trustee Martin suggested that a landscape architect be hired to develop a plan. Trustee Martin will research names of potential landscape architects.
- **Berkot's TIF Façade & Sales Tax Sharing Agreement** – Mr. LaRocque was contacted by Berkot's concerning a TIF Façade agreement. They also would like to discuss a Sales Tax Sharing Agreement as they would like to make improvements to the inside of the store. Mr. LaRocque prepared a recap of their sales tax since April 2019. The average sales tax amount has increased post-pandemic. They are requesting a meeting to discuss the agreements.

Trustee Martin exited the meeting at 7:50 a.m.

- Month End Financials – Mr. LaRocque stated that the state revenues are better than initially predicted. All departments are in line for their budgets.

A motion by Mayor Nugent and seconded by Trustee Boyce to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 a.m. Voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted by Darla Hurley, Deputy Village Clerk