

**SPECIAL RULES MEETING/BUDGET REVIEW OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST COOK AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**

(This meeting was not open to the public due to restrictions of the COVID-19 virus; However, it was broadcast/recorded on the local cable access channels and streamed live/archived on the Village website.)

Village Hall

6:00 p.m.

May 11, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt; Trustees: Tiffani Graham, Theresa Settles, Maya Hardy, Joseph A. Woods, via phone conference Trustees: Candyce Herron, Glenna Hennessy

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Village Manager Tom Mick, Director of Finance/Deputy Village Manager Mark Pries, Director of Community Development Larrie Kerestes, Executive Housing Director Tiffany Perry, Police Chief Christopher Mannino, Deputy Chief Paul Winfrey; Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok

Document Reviewed: Village of Park Forest, Illinois 2020/2021 Budget

Mayor Vanderbilt called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., and the roll was called.

Village Manager Mick gave an overview of the upcoming budget meetings and gave a brief explanation of the budget book to the new trustees. Mr. Mick talked about the difficult year the Mayor and Board of Trustees have had with vacancies, passing of Trustee and COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Finance/Deputy Village Manager Mark Pries began his Financial Summary by further explaining the budget book; referring to it as a communication device, policy document and financial planner. He clarified that the budget is an authority to spend money and not a mandate to spend money. Mr. Pries explained the transmittal letter is a requirement by the Government Finance Officers Association in order to receive the GFOA award.

Mr. Pries began his review of the Overview- Financial (pages XVI-XVIII) and talked about COVID-19 pandemic and that the Village of Park Forest is not reliant on sales taxes, the Village's largest source of revenue is from property taxes and income taxes. He mentioned a handout that was given out at the meeting and it states only 6% of renters have missed a rent payment since the pandemic started and the percentage is lower for homeowners. Board members have concerns about raising any rates for residents. There is discussion to keep water and sewer rates the same as this year for fiscal year 2021. Other financial savings will come from Capital Projects being put on hold and vacant positions will not be filled until the Village tracks financial stability.

Both Mr. Pries and Mr. Mick reviewed Financial Summary (sect. 2-1 - 2-55). Mr. Pries said Invest in Cook and RTA projects will be done since they are 95% grant funded.

Break from 7:32 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok began the Fire Department Summary by explaining how the Fire Department approaches their budget and hold off on a lot of spending until later in the fiscal year. He further discussed that a large part of their budget goes towards training. Some items he would like to get done this year is repairs to the training site and some tablets need to be replaced. As with other departments, some items will be on hold and some might be able to be taken care of with the current budget.

Police Chief Christopher Mannino began the Police Department summary by reviewing their mission and providing an overview of the various staff positions that keep the department operating. He explained mid-2019 there was a staffing change which reduced the number of sworn officers by 1 and added a civilian position, Community Engagement Coordinator. He said the department is frequently understaffed due to injuries or training.

The following sections were reviewed: Police Calls for Service (sect. 4-15), Traffic Crash Data (sect. 4-18), Citizen Complaints (sect. 4-19), and Mandatory Training (sect. 4-21), which is difficult since all in person training has been canceled due to COVID-19. There has been an increase in domestic, neighbor and noise complaints.

Director of Community Development Larrie Kerestes reviewed Grant Overview (sect. 9-2, 9-3), Building Department Performance Measures (sect. 9-7) and Housing Voucher Program Data (sect. 20-2). Mr. Kerestes said the Village of Park Forest is not seeing the housing crisis that some of the country is. In 2019, there were 868 permits in the village, the most in 1 year since the 50's & 60's.

Mr. Mick closed the meeting by reminding the Board of upcoming dates related to the budget: May 13 and May 14.

Trustee Tiffany Graham motioned to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.; second by Trustee Woods.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Thurston, Recorder