

CALL TO ORDER

President Miller calls to order the Village of East Dundee Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Trustees Gorman, Lynam, Selep, Hall and President Miller. Trustees Skillicorn and Wood were absent.

Also in attendance Village Administrator Bob Skurla, Chief of Police Terry Mee, Village Attorney Kathleen Field Orr, Village Engineer Joe Heinz, Director of Public Works Jim Kelly, Sewer Superintendent Adam Peters, Economic Development Director Doug Bergren, Finance Director Zaida Torres, Promotion & Marketing Manager Cathy Domagalski, Village Clerk/Deputy Village Administrator Heather Maieritsch and Deputy Village Clerk Katherine Holt.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items only): None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Water and Sewer Rates

Administrator Skurla stated that Trotter and Associates did a water and sewer rate study two years ago where they looked at the cost of operating, replacing parts and replacing systems over the next 20 years. Mr. Trotter recommended that all true operations of the water and sewer systems be charged to the users. He suggested an initial rate increase of 6.7%, then an annual 8.7% increase up through 2024 and then a 3% annual increase thereafter. Skurla noted that water rates have not been raised since 2007 and sewer rates have not been raised since 2010. He said both funds have been heavily subsidized with home-rule sales tax (\$322,000 last fiscal year) and tax increment financing throughout most of the recession. He said in truly getting to the day-to-day operations for water and sewer, the Village needs to eliminate the \$322,000 of subsidy by home-rule sales tax. He said a 25 percent increase would raise \$322,000 annually and for the average user, that amounts to less than \$9 a month.

Trustee Gorman said things to review when considering a rate increase are the number of units being billed for, the costs for water and sewer, income, deficit and revenue. He said with the wastewater plant loan being paid off February 2017, if the rates were raised by a third (this number would balance the budget), next year \$300,000 would begin to go into the depreciation budget. He reiterated that the water rate has not been raised since 2007 and sewer since 2010. He added that East Dundee is one of the few municipalities in the state that does not charge for garbage collection. He also noted that property taxes have not been raised in four years. He said that for the majority of residents, raising water and sewer rates at 33% would cost between 50 cents to \$1 a day more. He recommended reviewing rates annually and adjusting them accordingly if needed so that operating expenses are always being paid for.

Trustee Wood said having a water and sewer system that pays for itself is a strong plan and it doesn't mean 10 years from now it can't be relooked at and lower the rate. She said there needs to be an understanding that things cost more money and, therefore, you're going to have to pay more money. She is fine with a 25-33% increase as long as it is communicated clearly and effectively to the residents. Trustee Skillicorn said he would like to see a compromise at a 12.5% increase. Trustee Selep is agreeable to a 33% increase. Trustee Lynam commented that the Village has been running a deficit for far too long and a rate increase is understandable. President Miller said the Village has to be fiscally responsible to the residents and to continue to subsidize and lose money while costs increase is not an effective way to do business. He would like to see a plan where the Village is self-sustainable in 10 years.

Attorney Orr recommended that the rate increase align with the new fiscal year beginning May 1, 2016. Administrator Skurla and Finance Director Torres will gather additional data together to share with the Board for further discussion and consideration.

B. LED Window Lighting

Trustee Lynam said he has been seeing several businesses with LED lights outlining window frames and feels it is too bright and non-appealing. He said he would like to make a policy prohibiting this type of window light display. Attorney Orr said it could be prohibited for aesthetic purposes. She said the lights already displayed can be grandfathered in for a reasonable number of years before they must be removed. She said the objectionable lighting language will need to be defined and described clearly. Trustee Lynam requested that a clause be added that the LED lighting must be turned off after business hours. President Miller suggested that Attorney Orr draft language for a future agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Non Agenda Items): None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No

Motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 7:52 pm by Skillicorn/Wood. Meeting adjourns by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Holt

Attest: Katherine Holt
Deputy Village Clerk, Katherine Holt

By:

Lael Miller
Village President, Lael Miller