

DRAFT MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL
November 12, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the November 12, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:02 pm in the Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Trustee Jozwiak moved, seconded by Trustee Crosby, to allow remote attendance by Trustee Pierce via telephone. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Jozwiak, Poulos, Dominiak, Crosby and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSTAIN: 1: Pierce.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Pierce (via telephone), Jozwiak, Poulos, Dominiak, Crosby and Johnson. Also present were Attorney Long, Administrator Keim and Clerk Folbrick.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Dominiak moved, seconded by Trustee Jozwiak, to approve the October 15, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Pierce, Jozwiak, Poulos, Dominiak, Crosby and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

Budget Discussion – Administrator Keim apologized that Finance Director McCarthy could not attend the meeting. The budget is an item for discussion as a result of the recently failed referendum to levy taxes to provide ambulance services. He explained that the budget for this fiscal year does not include any revenues had the referendum passed, which required the omission of capital expenses that will need to be funded in the future. He thanked the Trustees that approached him in order to provide input and work toward a resolution. Administrator Keim stated that the current budget is relatively balanced, however, staff looked at potential cost savings for future budgets in order to fund capital projects. He indicated that each department submitted items to him in order to try and provide savings and commended their efforts. He asked The Board to provide input and make suggestions in how they would like to move forward. He also presented the referendum question that passed in Wadsworth raising the sales tax by 1%.

Trustee Jozwiak wants staff recommendations on budget cuts in order to provide ambulance services. Administrator Keim asked Chief Nixon to explain how ambulance services will be affected December 1. Chief Nixon said the impact of the referendum is that there will be funding cuts in salaries in the fire department, and as of December 1, 3 positions will be eliminated equaling \$398,700 annualized and shared with the district. That is the result of closing Fire Station #3. He stated that the Village share is \$199,000 annualized. The 3 shifts eliminated will affect approximately 18 people on staff. Chief Nixon further stated that an immediate moratorium on the cost for training and equipment has been implemented, and they have frozen all discretionary funding, and are only expending money for repairs. Station #3 will no longer have EMS or

DRAFT MINUTES

firefighters, and has already been determined a necessary cut by the fire district. Those present discussed the staffing history at the 3 fire stations and different service levels. Plan "C" proposed by Trustee Crosby is to fund an 8-hour shift or a 12-hour shift and find cuts elsewhere. They further discussed mutual aid from other communities, however, Chief Nixon said that they cannot ask neighbors to be their 3rd ambulance. Total EMS costs with Station #1 and Station #2 are approximately \$769,000 after closing station #3. Collections for ambulance services are at 38% after actual data and the payer mix were discovered. The fire district is paying 50% of costs associated with EMS. Chief Nixon stated that the fire district is currently obligated, and continues to pay for a portion of EMS at stations #1 & #2.

Fire district Trustee Tabar indicated that the district will have to go to referendum again in April, and if the vote is no again, they will no longer be able to provide ambulance services. He opined that the results from the first election indicated that voters don't want to pay extra taxes. He thinks a second "no" vote will indicate that they don't want ambulance services.

Trustee Crosby expressed concern with the affect of services on a Village resident if there is a response to a call in the township. Between now and April there will be a shared responsibility for EMS in the Village and Township. Trustee Poulos expressed concern with the fire district and village paying the cost for township services without the township funding anything. Those present discussed the need for the number of vehicles and equipment responding to calls, and Chief Nixon referred those present to the fire district website which has a video explaining the need for those responses.

Administrator Keim distributed a list of annualized expenses that may be reduced based on Village Board approval. He indicated that the board will have to advise on how much capital they would like to fund moving forward in order to determine how much will be needed in reductions. The Village Board will have to decide what level of service they would like moving forward. Some cost reduction measures include moving senior expenses from the General Fund to the Dolly Spiering Fund, which could limit the time the senior center would remain open. Those present discussed services provided to the seniors by both the village and township, the township levy to provide senior services, and management of those services moving forward.

Additional options discussed were charging outside organizations for their use of village property and/or resources. Trustee Dominiak discussed fringe benefits and asked to look at insurances as well as fees/fines that could be enforced or assessed. Trustees further discussed potential revenue sources, including increasing ambulance fees. Administrator Keim provided an overview of the situation and the possible decisions to be determined by the board. More detail on those options will be provided.

Trustee Poulos asked to table the strategic plan update and asked Trustees to compare budget reductions with the strategic plan. Those present discussed employee benefits, the possibility of federal government funding, the costs of work comp and liability, and the possibility of making changes for new hires moving forward. Staff will review and present more detail on the options provided to the board for the first December meeting.

Strategic Plan Update – This item will be presented at a future meeting.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Fire District Trustee Tabar said it was the recommendation of the public safety committee to place a referendum question on the next ballot in April. He advised for the need to reach out and educate more people. Filing for the April election must be done by January 5.

Trustee Poulos thanked Township Trustee Shaughnessy for his involvement. Mayor Hanson and Trustee Dominiak echoed Trustee Poulos' comments.

Trustee Pierce expressed concern that there was no participation from the village at the Veteran's Day event at VFW. He asked that the Village have better representation at future events.

DRAFT MINUTES

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel and Pending Litigation, Lease of Village Property, Collective Bargaining –

The Mayor and Board of Trustees did not go into executive session.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Folbrick, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk