

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – APRIL 27, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President Kolosh called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

President Kolosh led the pledge to the flag, followed with a moment of silence for our public servants, military, and recently deceased or ill residents of Thornton.

ROLL CALL

Present at Roll Call: President Kolosh, Trustees Kaye, Hudson, Ehlers, Pisarzewski, Kolosh, Atkinson; Public Works Superintendent Oberman; Police Chief G. Beckman; Fire Chief Habecker; Recreation Director Dunlop.

Also in attendance: Administrator D. Beckman, Attorney S. Dillner.

President Kolosh would like to thank Administrator Beckman, Budget Chairman Trustee Kaye, Public Works Superintendent Oberman; Police Chief Beckman; Fire Chief Habecker; Recreation Director Dunlop and Collector Pisarzewski for presenting such a great and exciting budget to the Village officials for approval this evening. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget will bring about a continuation of water and sewer infrastructure replacement, a Public Works building, and many other smaller yet important projects that will benefit Thornton and its residents. President Kolosh is extremely proud of the entire administration for this fantastic balanced budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Kolosh asked for public comment specifically regarding the Fiscal Year 2016 operating budget. There was no comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FY '16 Annual Operating Budget – Trustee Kaye asked for any questions or comments from each of the Board members. He also thanked everyone for all the hard work that was put into this budget.

Trustee Hudson commented that it was nice to have the opportunity to speak with Administrator Beckman before this meeting concerning the budget. He believed this is a very well-balanced budget.

Trustee Ehlers wished to echo these sentiments. He appreciates the administrator's communication and openness, and the department heads for their work on the budget. Administrator Beckman has answered any questions he had.

Trustee Pisarzewski thought everyone did a fantastic job as far as administration and department heads. He wanted to thank them all.

Trustee Kolosh commented this is a great budget. He thinks the residents will be happy with it.

Trustee Atkinson stated there are a lot of good things in the budget. She wasn't too sure about combining the water and sewer accounts; but since they are done by the same personnel, it does make sense, as long as expenses are kept separately so as to identify where taxpayer money is being spent.

Trustee Atkinson also suggested a couple of other consolidations; specifically, the TEMA budget into the Fire Department budget. Administrator Beckman commented he has made that change. He will review the changes he made to the budget before the vote. Trustee Atkinson stated she has a different opinion from the administrator regarding the capital account expenditures. She believes vehicles for the Police and Fire Departments are day-to-day operations; therefore, lease payment figures currently listed in the capital funds should be budgeted in the department funds.

Administrator Beckman commented there are capital improvements and capital purchases. The Village staff tries to abide by what the auditors regulate as capital based on the audit. The Village currently has no policy regulating this. The Board is welcome to recommend such a policy going forward.

Administrator Beckman reviewed some of the changes he made to the budget after his conversations with some of the trustees. The TEMA budget was moved into the Fire Department account. So on the summary page, TEMA is zeroed out but all their expenses are now part of the Fire Department. In Public Works, under contractual agreements, there was an increase of \$21,500. After speaking with Public Works Superintendent Oberman, that amount was not part of his budget. So that line item went down to \$11,500; but Administrator Beckman transferred \$10,000 to Buildings, Maintenance and Grounds to take on projects the previous superintendent didn't complete this fiscal year, plus the projects that need to be done next year.

In the Rec Center budget, Director Dunlop is trying to get some new blinds for the pre-k room and the gym. The lowest bid came in \$500 more than was budgeted; so Administrator Beckman moved \$500 from her uniform line and placed it in her equipment purchase line item for the blinds. Also, part of the capital proposal was to get new vehicles for the PD and Public Works. She had \$3,500 budgeted for vehicle maintenance because her current vehicle is in such bad shape. If one of these vehicles is approved, she will get a newer car and won't need that much money for vehicle maintenance; so he reduced this line by \$2,000.

Trustee Hudson thanked Trustee Kaye for all the time he's put in to creating this budget.

Motion by Trustee Kaye, seconded by Trustee Hudson, to adopt the Fiscal Year '16 budget as presented.

Trustee Atkinson asked how the surplus from this year was calculated. Administrator Beckman stated he calculated it on how short the Village was currently in revenues, what the Village is projected to receive in revenues yet this fiscal year; where the Village is currently at with expenditures, and what expenditures are expected for this fiscal year. Obviously, if that number doesn't materialize, the purchases with the capital account funds will be prioritized.

Trustee Atkinson asked if that number was adjusted for the increase in the operating expenses for the fund balance policy. Administrator Beckman stated he has been told by the treasurer the fund balance policy is very healthy. Trustee Atkinson also commented the difference in property taxes between last year and this year is 13 percent, yet the Board only increased taxes 3.95

percent. She would like to know how that is calculated. Administrator Beckman responded it is calculated by the treasurer, who is currently on vacation. Trustee Atkinson felt it would be beneficial to have the treasurer present to answer these questions before the budget is passed.

Trustee Ehlers asked, on page 49, under building improvements, the beginning balance was \$200,000, and after discussion with the treasurer, used was \$417,000. Administrator Beckman explained the only revenue put in the current capital fund is from the bond. She did not put in the surplus from the previous fiscal year. So that is why the beginning balance increased. President Kolosh is confident in Treasurer Frye's projections; and commends her for all her hard work.

Ayes – Trustee Kaye, Hudson, Ehlers, Pisarzewski, Kolosh.

Nays – None.

Abstain – Trustee Atkinson.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Beckman informed those attending the Thornton Reservoir Tour, we are meeting at Gate D; and he asked if everyone could be there by 12:20 p.m. on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the good and welfare of the Village, a motion was made by Trustee Kolosh, seconded by Trustee Pisarzewski, to adjourn the Meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

President Kolosh adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Robert Kolosh, President

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Village Clerk