VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

COUNCIL FINANCE (BUDGETARY HEARING)

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2020

PRESENT:

Johnnie Warren – Council President Brian Thompson- Finance Director

Elaine Gaither- Council at Large Gary Gottschalk-Mayor

Chris Callender – Ward 1 \*

Eloise Hardin – Ward 2

Patricia Rogers – Ward 4

Candace Williams – Ward 5

ABSENT:

Melanie Sanders-Ward 3

\* Arrived after roll call

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*Streets*

**Mayor**: Three streets have been cut from street repairs. **Thompson**: Weber Park Drive $24,000, Lincolnville Drive $40,000 and Whitetail $16,000 were cut. You have a revised listing. **Hardin** asked why they were cut. **Mayor**: The economy. **Thompson**: The exhibit outlines the revenues including the General Fund transfers in. We also have 202 Permissive and 203 State Highway funds. $814,468. $1,423,468 and the starting balance of $3,000 resulting in $1,425,516. Expenditures include the streets to be worked on; Buckthorn, County Routes, Broadway Ave with signaling and sidewalks, Columbus Road Richmond Road Railroad Crossing, and street striping. For the Oakwood Village Hall ADA project, we received 100% grant funds for the handicap ramp. **Mayor** explained the rendering of the front of Village Hall. **Gaither** asked about the County routes. **Thompson**: Those are to be done. The 2019 costs are due to be paid this year as well as 2020 to be done. **Rogers** asked about the entrance to Village Hall. **Warren**: The door is automatic with a 2.5-inch riser, meeting ADA standards. **Mayor**: We are getting $133,000 grant for that. **Rogers**: There will be a button to open the door then? **Mayor**: It is automatic.

*Engineering Fees*

**Thompson**: The amount is $116,493. **Warren**: The 2019 County routes and Broadway paving were appropriated last year, correct? **Thompson**: It was in the exhibit, but I didn’t make the expenditure until this year. **Warren**: The money was appropriated last year. **Thompson**: Correct, we weren’t formally invoiced until this year. **Rogers** asked about the County routes. **Mayor**: Richmond, Tryon, Pettibone, Alexander, and Forbes.

*Equipment*

**Thompson** explained $1,426.337 total budget. **Gaither** asked about 2019 appropriations but were not paid for out of 2019 budget. **Warren**: Why did we only have a carryover of $3048.53? Those funds should have already been in place. **Thompson**: That was ending balance in 2019. **Warren**: Did we overspend? We should have had $3,048.53 plus the funds not spent. **Thompson**: I will have to look at the end of year figures. **Warren**: Those funds should still be in there. **Thompson**: When we appropriated 2019, I lowered the appropriations to what we spent. I re-appropriated expenses. **Warren:** Why did you reduce that and where did you put that money? **Thompson**: It would have reverted to the same fund. It would have taken less transfers. **Warren**: Our starting number should reflect those numbers. **Thompson**: I don’t have the transition of 2019 here. **Warren**: The $366,500 should have been carried over from 2019 to 2020. It looks like we are adding this to the 2020 budget. Are you saying there was a shortfall and we overspent? **Thompson**: It was how the OPWC makes their direct disbursements. We didn’t use all the appropriations in that year. I would have to outline the actual expenses, but I see your point. I would have lowered the appropriations in the realignment of 2019. I had to come back and re-appropriate to make the expenditure. I need to go back to the detail. **Rogers**: Where did you put the money then? **Thompson**: If I appropriate $1 million but spend $500,000 by the end of 2019, I would have lowered the appropriation for that year, and something had to go up, what increased? **Thompson**: The general fund went up because we didn’t have to transfer as much. **Warren**: So, you are saying the SCMR is a negative spending fund? **Thompson**: Yes, we always supplement from the general fund just like the Senior, Recreation, Capital and Bond funds. **Warren**: On that $366,500, those funds are reimbursable? **Thompson**: Not so much money, but appropriations. **Warren**: Each of these projects are from grants. **Thompson**: Some are offset by grants. **Warren**: The 2019 are from grants. The total cost for Broadway was $281,491? **Thompson**: It was $600,000+. **Gaither**: We don’t have the general fund sheet. **Thompson**: Funds not needed would have stayed in the general fund in that current year. **Gaither**: It is confusing. **Thompson** will put together a sheet of what happened in 2019. **Williams**: We have asked for a summary of the realignment of the dollars in a report. Those funds are going to a different budgetary item; someone is over, and another is under? We want to see the comparison of what was under and what was over. Without that, it is more difficult when we review the next year’s budget. **Thompson**: I will have to show what was appropriated at the beginning of 2019 and show how the year ended with appropriations. **Williams**: To realign, someone was either over or under, correct? **Thompson**: Yes, but I kept the same amount in appropriations in the general fund I.E. the Police Chief may appropriate for full staffing but by the end of the year, I will realign, keeping the total general fund the same if I can. **Warren**: We don’t see the true expenditures vs appropriations prior to realignment. At the next meeting show us the appropriations for 2018 and 2019 and expenditures for those as well. It appears when those funds aren't spent, our budget for the next year should have increased. **Thompson**: It wasn’t a matter of overspending but getting the package from the Engineer. **Williams** asked to see the full realignment for 2019. **Thompson**: Yes. **Hardin** asked the Mayor for those streets you couldn’t complete; do you have a priority list for those which were dropped? Will they be added at some point? **Mayor**: Yes. It depends where we are in the third quarter this year. Otherwise, I will consider them for next year. **Hardin**: I have had conversations today with Brian. We need to have more budget meetings. **Mayor**: It is also contingent upon the Engineer’s recommendation of what needs more work. It also depends on cash flow. We will have a disruption in cash flow this year. We aren’t doing Winterberry in the Meadows this year. **Callender**: Okay. **Hardin**: Don’t let him off so easy. **Mayor**: We should have Finance meetings as least once a quarter.

*Sanitary Sewer Fund*

**Thompson** reviewed the receipts of $621,554 with a starting balance of $1,781. Projected costs for 2020 total $621,461 for Engineering fees, utilities/pump station with a balance of $1874 left in the fund. **Hardin** asked what pump stations. **Thompson:** This is the cost of the utilities for the pump stations. **Hardin** asked about repairs. **Thompson**: We had an unexpected one for a little under $40,000.

*Capital Improvements*

**Thompson**: We anticipate $280,000 for repairs and maintenance of the buildings. The Mayor gave Council a rendition for the Community Center. **Mayor**: Our Service Dept along with some residents, with that expertise, will do carpentry work. The Building was built in 1978. We are fixing up the inside and doing work on the outside for a better-looking building representing Oakwood. **Hardin** asked what he will do regarding upgrading the back. **Mayor**: We will work on that. **Hardin**: There is nothing in this document for that. **Mayor**: No, but I anticipate landscaping which wouldn’t cost much. Petitti is closing one of their operations and we will be getting quite a bit of material. **Hardin** asked about the closing of Levin. **Mayor**: The judge refused hearing Robert Levin’s request to repurchase Levin. It is still not determined as of today. Retail will undergo an incredible change. This Levin was doing fine, but some were clearly not doing well. We are the first community in Ohio to pass legislation not allowing warehouse distribution as a major activity. **Hardin**: The shopping area will be empty then. **Mayor**: I spoke with First Interstate today about the shopping center, I am available anytime for any incentivization for companies coming in. There will be a huge effect over the next 3-5 years. **Thompson**: On the Equipment line item, we anticipate upgrading servers, etc. We bought the phone system last year. I lowered it, because we paid that off. **Harin** asked about plans for Village Hall. **Thompson**: We have remodeled as much as we can on this building. **Mayor**: We are looking at the two issues passing and the Tartabini property. Those will dictate how we will proceed and anything else. **Warren**: We can’t do much with this building, it is masonry. We just maintain this building until we can build something else. **Hardin**: Can we all agree that we are going to replace this. **Mayor**: Absolutely. This building will be raised with the Police having their own facility behind the Fire dept. **Warren**: If we are building a new Village Hall and our funds are restricted, I think we should alter this for a temporary Police Dept. **Hardin** mentioned the property next door. **Mayor**: We have a lot more property than you think. It goes deep. We are looking at a gabled building with pillars. It would look like two stories but be one story with a lake. **Gaither**: We are looking for width. **Thompson**: I provided an exhibit at the last meeting, we bought police cars, cancer exhaust system for Fire, squads, power cots, ladder truck and Service equipment.

*Permanent Appropriations 2020-28*

**Thompson**: We have been fortunate to see our income tax going up but considering the current events, I kept the income tax the same as 2019. He reviewed the summary. It totals $9.7 million and the second page is the Special Revenue funds #402 to 408, which totals $7.2 million. All funds total $16 million. **Hardin** asked about #204 Recreation and #208 Senior Fund. Thompson: And #217 is our EMS, #401 is Capital Improvement. and #501 Special Assessments. **Hardin**: At each meeting will you show us the fund decreases? **Thompson**: I recommend in the upcoming meetings reflecting on the economy. We need to be mindful of Governor DeWine’s mandates as we go along, and we may adjust as we go. We will have $10.5 million for revenue sharing. **Hardin**: You will have $1,6 left. **Thompson**: Yes, for all funds. On RITA $7.3 million is what I collected in 2019. I kept it conservative. **Warren**: By the end of the second quarter, we should have a better idea of how the year is proceeding. **Mayor**: In two months we can alert you to what is coming in. **Thompson**: RITA gives us reports as well. **Hardin**: Are we ending each year at $1.6 million? **Thompson**: General Fund is usually $500,000 historically. With the anticipation of a lot of new projects, we may be in a better position, but I don’t want to overshoot. **Hardin** asked what is the balance now? **Thompson**: About $500,000. **Williams** asked if he has a minimum threshold. **Thompson**: There isn’t legislation for that. **Hardin**: What happened? **Thompson**: It is contingent upon the revenues and expenses, but the General Fund could move up to $700,000. **Warren**: I believe Eloise is looking for $1.4, but you are saying we have a carryover from one year to another but only have $500,000 ending balance, are there other funds to make up the $1 million or $1.4? **Thompson**: Our focus is on the General Fund. **Mayor**: We have a lot of medical research and technical companies which bring in payroll.

Exterior Maintenance Exterior Maintenance

**Thompson**: You wanted to discuss the maintenance for all wards. A lot of projects must happen for that to happen. **Mayor**: Let’s be clear, $80,000 was appropriated last year, we spent about $50,000. We will spend $30,000, the remainder from last year in 2020 until we have revenue coming in from the project which I expect in 2021. With passage of issue $14 and development of another site, it could support this type of program in other wards. That has been on the record. **Hardin**: We are submitting a budget. **Mayor**: It would be irresponsible appropriating that money for the rest of the Village. **Hardin**: Everyone is benefitting from all the projects. **Mayor**: Yes. **Hardin**: Every segment of this community is aging. There must be something in place and I commend you for coming up with that strategy. We must ensure there are dollars available either through the County or the Village. In the future. Everyone voted to make that happen. It is going to impact Ward 4 more than any other. We have an obligation to do it for all when you do it for one. **Mayor**: As we get more money coming in, we can. If we get a building at John’s Trailer or Tartabini, we can talk about it. **Hardin**: I want to go on record this is going to happen. **Warren**: This whole home maintenance was an incentive to get the cooperation of Ward 4. It wouldn't have passed without it. We understand that. We know everyone voted on it. In this case, Ward 4 was designated because they were impacted, the whole Village was not impacted. I completely understand we can have a goal to provide for other residents but right now, we are focusing on the original agreement. Some Wards have concrete streets while others have asphalt. Everyone can say everyone wants concrete. It doesn’t work that way. **Mayor**: I could say in 2022 this could make sense. **Hardin**: That is all I am saying. **Mayor**: How does this sound, in 2022, if we have the funding to put this into place. **Rogers**: It is five years in Ward 4. **Mayor**: We are talking about another project. **Warren**: Everything is based on revenue. We don’t know the impact the current situation will have until later in the year. **Hardin**: I am asking, as revenues come in, an exterior maintenance program would be set up for the entire Village. **Mayor**: We have a step forward and a step back. We have Nichols Company with a $2 million dollar payroll coming in not on May 1st but because they are so busy, it won’t be until July 1st. It is $50,000 annually not giving anything back until 2023. At the same time, Rock the House has been rocked from 18,000 venues to zero right now. It would seem it would be good them staying here. Fortunately, we are laden with a lot of technical and medical research companies maintaining payroll. Swift just hired two more people as well. When I visit the companies, I see women executives. **Hardin** asked about the production studio by Solon. **Mayor**: There is a downturn right now. Ohio passed the no-heartbeat-bill in addition they were considering rescinding the $4 million to attract studios here. That is on the sidelines and it is a coin toss whether that will happen. Investors are interested again. I should have a report on that within the next 30 days. **Hardin** thanked him. I ask you to make that priority.

Meeting adjourned 7:05pm

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Johnnie Warren, President Debra Hladky, Clerk of Council