

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL FINANCE (BUDGETARY HEARING)
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2020

PRESENT:

Johnnie Warren – Council President
Elaine Gaither- Council at Large
Chris Callender – Ward 1
Eloise Hardin – Ward 2
Melanie Sanders-Ward 3
Patricia Rogers – Ward 4
Candace Williams – Ward 5

Jim Climer-Law Director
Gary Gottschalk-Mayor
Tom Haba-Service
Mark Garratt-Police Chief
Brian Thompson- Finance Director

ABSENT:

* Arrived after roll call

Thompson opened meeting at 6:11p
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Covid-19 Effects on 2020 Budget

Thompson: We are up by \$20,000 which is 1%. We compared the first quarter collections of 2019 to 2020 collections. **Williams** asked if he could extract March 2020 compared to March 2019. **Thompson:** It is down \$37,000 for March. March 2019 was \$496,905 and March 2020 was \$460,894. **Warren:** It is starting to show the down trend.. **Williams** asked if the shut-down covered two weeks in March. **Thompson:** Yes. RITA anticipates Oakwood being down \$500,000 for the year. **Warren:** Overall? **Thompson:** Yes. We started cutting expenses for 2020 which is shown in the exhibit, showing cuts in events cancelled. **Williams** asked about the cuts. **Thompson:** The Mayor's events and infrastructure cuts amount to \$500,000 in lost revenue this year. We anticipated upgrading the Community Center for \$38,000, which is being put off. **Williams** asked about the remodel, **Mayor:** It hasn't been done since the early 1980's. I cut \$42,000; \$38,000 from capital improvement and \$5,000 from the Community Center funding. **Williams** Is the Mayor's office cuts directly related to Recreation as well? **Mayor:** It is just Mayors office. We are also cutting \$91,000 for the first five weeks of camp. We will go forward with the second half. We can do that remotely. That will save us another \$30,000. We are the only community in the county holding camp with recorded lessons. **Warren:** Transportation will be cut as well. It should be more than 30% cut in the camp expenses. **Mayor:** The \$91,000 is the first part with another \$101,000 the second half. **Warren:** It would reflect more than this in cuts. **Mayor:** There could be more, but I am not sure yet. We will maintain the enrichment portion or the second half of camp. **Rogers** asked about concerts. **Mayor:** I eliminated all of July. The others might be cut too. We will know more in a month. **Warren:** The virus will spike. The aggressive testing hasn't taken place yet. **Mayor:** We will know more in another 30-45 days. **Warren:** We will have to make sure protective gear is available if we move forward with concerts. We have to follow CDC guidelines. If we don't implement those things, we can be held liable, ask the Law Director. **Rogers:** That isn't going to happen. **Warren:** If that doesn't happen, these events won't happen. **Williams:** Does any cut include personnel? **Thompson:** No personnel at this point. **Mayor:** Brian will review the infrastructure cuts. No cuts will involve layoffs or furloughs. **Thompson:** We talked about cutting Weber Park, Lincolnville, Winterberry in the Meadows, Buckthorn, and reducing street striping from \$25,000 to \$20,000. County roads will be cut as well as Broadway Avenue. All together we are cutting \$538,000 infrastructure, Recreation and Mayor events. **Williams:**

Why was Weber Park cut, I will get questions from residents. **Mayor:** We will have to wait until next year. We only have 35 employees, not counting Fire. We don't have a lot of wiggle room. It comes down to infrastructure. **Williams:** It was cut before the virus. **Mayor:** If there was no virus, we won't have cut it. **Williams:** Was there criteria? **Mayor:** It would have cost \$24,000. **Thompson:** That was cut before the appropriations were approved. **Mayor:** It should be on for next year, but not this year. I hate to cut the Community Center, but I couldn't justify keeping it in 2020. We cut most, if not all the infrastructure. We support streets via transfers from the general fund. We are looking at \$1/4 million for infrastructure projects. **Rogers** asked about Bedford Schools. **Mayor:** The Superintendents are talking about a rotation with students. We just gave the schools \$250 for pictures of all the seniors, which will line Broadway recognizing Oakwood Village seniors. Each community is doing that. The pictures will be 1.5' with their name. The signs will be posted in alphabetical order from Wendy's to the end of Hawthorne Valley Shopping Center. Originally the schools were going to place them at the high school. I thought it would be neat to have them in the communities. **Callender** suggested giving the pictures to the students after they are displayed for two weeks. **Clerk** asked about the Youth Council. We normally have a big celebration for them each year. That isn't going to happen. What could we do instead. We have five Youth Council students graduating this year. I have the pen sets for them. I requested resolutions from each of the communities for their individual students. I am looking for input. **Callender:** You could do a virtual ceremony, get the Bedford football stadium. **Warren:** Post their picture on our website with additional congratulations. **Clerk:** Great ideas. Those who are graduating have been in the program 4-5 years. **Williams** suggested pulling them back for a second chance at celebrating next year. **Clerk:** Thank you. **Rogers** asked about activities listed that may go forward; what is the total cost of those? **Mayor:** That was part of the total. **Williams** asked what the cost would be for the second half of camp. **Thompson** will look into that. **Williams:** The Ward 4 Exterior Maintenance Program was to continue, because we still had funds. Dan Marinucci previously asked if we could pause the program. Do you know the reasoning. **Thompson:** I do not know. The balance was \$26,000. **Rogers:** He is postponing the Heritage Home Program, not Ward 4. I spoke to him myself. I followed up with him on that.

Premier

Thompson: I distributed reports to Council. I sent the email from Premier picking up the costs of rolling the note; \$105,000 for three years. I received correspondence from Premier Senior Vice President, Kevin Callahan, they would pick up the cost for closing the deal.

Finance Reports

Warren: Is there a reason why it takes so long to get the Finance reports? **Thompson:** No real reason. I will try to close out April. I am committed to the time line I put out for the Finance meetings this year to have the information to Council Friday prior to the meetings. **Warren:** You can distance your Finance personnel. **Thompson:** I am going to move the conference table in the Council conference room to put some of my team there. **Warren:** Even now when we postponed the last Finance Committee meeting, there is no reason we should get part of the reporting today and part of it Friday. We should have this in a comfortable time frame prior to the meeting. Staffing shouldn't be an issue. With due diligence it should be set up like any other community, to make sure you are complying with the state and federal guidelines for safe distancing There is no reason those people should be in the same office. That should have been addressed early on. **Thompson:** The RITA information was just released today. Nonetheless, I concur with the time lines and will work more diligently to follow the schedule of meetings.

Timely Budget Completion

Williams: We haven't hit the target yet, but we have asked to be able to approve the budget timely. It should be done by December or January. We haven't hit that goal yet. **Thompson:** It is noted. **Warren:** You have less money to count now. **Thompson:** We will watch the funds coming in closely. We cut the \$500,000 in anticipation of the loss in 2020. We may make additional changes.

Reserve Balance

Williams asked about the GFOA advice. When can you put a plan together and when can it be achieved?

Thompson: The advice given was to maintain \$1.6 million and we are usually \$400-\$450,000. I will need to make huge cuts to accomplish that or rely on the new revenue from new businesses. Once that takes place, we can do that. **Williams:** Are you thinking within 2-4 years to be implemented? **Thompson:** Yes. **Rogers** asked about it. **Thompson:** I went to the Government Finance Officers Association for a recommendation on maintaining a reserve balance. It was recommended by the GFOA to maintain two months income as a reserve. It isn't mandated, but it is recommended. The \$1.6 figure reflects \$9.8 million in annual anticipation of funds.

Next Finance Meeting

Thompson asked if May 26th is a good date for our next Finance meeting.

Ward 4 Exterior Maintenance Grant Extension

Rogers: In regard to the Ward 4 maintenance grant, we had an end date of May 15th. I don't expect many applications this year. Could the application deadline be extended? Dan Marinucci thought it would be a good idea. **Warren** suggested extending it by two months. **Rogers:** Okay. The extension will be moved to July 15th.

Meeting adjourned 6:55pm

Approved: _____

Johnnie Warren, President

Debra Hladky, Clerk of Council