

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD  
COUNCIL BUDGETARY HEARING MINUTES  
October 27, 2020

ATTENDED

Elaine Gaither- Council at Large

Brian Thompson-Finance

Eloise Hardin-Ward 2

Melanie Sanders – Ward 3

Patricia Rogers – Ward 4

Candace Williams – Ward 5

ABSENT:

Johnnie Warren – Council President

Gary Gottschalk-Mayor

\*=Late Arrival

Chris Callender – Ward 1\*

Meeting opened at 6:07 by Thompson.

*Finance Summary Report*

**Thompson:** Through nine months we should be at 75% collections and expenses. We projected \$9.8 million for the year with \$6.4 million received through September, or about .66%. The major impact in withholding is in the attached report.

*General Fund Categories*

**Thompson** addressed categories over the .75% threshold as Misc. Contractual-Utility which we are keeping a close eye on with a protentional line item adjustment. **Hardin** asked why it is up. **Thompson:** We had a surge in bills, and we are waiting for credit to come back to us. **Hardin** asked if we got all our money back from ATT. **Thompson:** Yes. Building Dept is over. IT improvements were made to that department. They lost an employee. Rubbish Disposal is up a bit. Additional charges may be due to the dumpster. **Hardin:** The Building Dept. would be way over budget if it were not for losing wages due to the one person not being here any longer. **Thompson:** Yes. It will be out of ratio. **Hardin:** We have not done their budget yet. **Thompson:** No, not yet. **Hardin:** I understand IT issues were corrected as were the phones. Are you aware of any other expenditures for them? **Thompson:** They are looking for furniture. Mr. Marinucci will be advertising for the job opening. **Hardin:** He knows where he is in this budget. **Thompson:** Yes. **Williams** asked if any of the other items highlighted in yellow will be overbudget at year's end. **Thompson:** No. The overall budget is at .67% which is under .75%. The H/B Operational is where the CARES money will be documented. That will level out by year's end. **Williams:** So, Building Dept. should be the only budget over? **Thompson:** Yes. **Gaither** asked about transfers out. **Thompson:** Those are the subsidy accounting moves; Senior and Recreation always need transfers.

*Special Revenues*

**Thompson** explained a lot of the programs did not happen this year. We scaled back in some of our street projects.

*Revenue Comparison 2019-2020*

**Thompson:** We lost about \$464,000 from a few of our large companies; Northern Haserot was down by \$255,000, Sam's Real Estate Trust and Oakwood Labs. Just an FYI, Pinecrest gave up their property to the bank. **Mayor:** That encompasses 58 acres with 400,000 sq ft of high-end retail, apartments, restaurants, and a movie theater. The developer had to bail or be sued. The Hampton here in Oakwood is doing well. They are looking to build another in northeast Ohio. Many are shutting down. I will entice a company coming to Oakwood with the availability of the hotel and offer a discount for those coming to their facility. It depends on who is running the hotel as to how well it is doing; that is very important. **Thompson:** Oakwood Labs was servicing hospitals but with Covid, it was impacted. We lost Universal Windows a year ago. Maines Paper and Food got hit hard. **Mayor:** Maines lost the Wendy's account in the Midwest and east coast. They were bought out by Linear Logistics. We lost in the short term, but not in the long term. Most other cities

have lost much more than Oakwood. We have to diligently watch monthly. We have been fortunate in the companies we have here in the Village. We will have \$3/4 million loss, but it has stabilized in the last two months.

#### *Community Center*

**Hardin** asked about opening the Community Center. **Mayor:** We are looking into that. The House of Rose operates this, but they want to double their fees. I want to discuss this with Council. We serve one day a week. We are currently paying them \$11,500 and we pay additional wages of \$7,000 for the lady who manages it. House of Rose wants an additional \$12,000. They are only delivering food to 30 people four days a week. **Hardin:** How can they justify that? **Mayor:** You can't but that is government entity in action. We will work with UH. We already have a temperature gauge at the Center when people enter. We will most likely do virus testing twice a month. **Hardin** asked who will pay for that. **Mayor:** We get Covid funds from the government. They are asking for a 100% raise and are doing almost nothing. It doesn't make sense. **Hardin** asked how long we have been with them. **Mayor:** We are locked in with Rose. It was originally the Golden Age Centers which the House of Rose took over. They cut back and we took one of the days. Our day is the most successful. They don't plan to open any centers anytime soon. **Hardin:** You don't have a choice. **Mayor:** You do have a choice. Seniors come into the Center. We started with 8-10, then went to 11-20, now we are up to 30-40 with three to a table. **Hardin** asked about sterilization. **Mayor:** Our Service Dept. does that. We aren't spending hardly anything at all for solvents. You have to see the seniors. They want to get out of their house, it isn't healthy being inside all the time. They are suffering with depression and anxiety. The Fire Chief is writing a letter to give to the accountants. These three areas of Oakwood, Glenwillow and Walton Hills have three-four suicides every month since March. You don't hear any of this from the media. **Gaither:** Is the lady running the Center still here? **Mayor:** Cynthia, yes. **Hardin** asked how her salary is affected by the cut. **Mayor:** It hasn't changed she was making so little anyway. She is making about \$19,000 a year/five days a week. She's been here 20 years. **Hardin:** She has new furniture. **Mayor:** We obviously aren't doing that this year.

#### *Other Revenue*

**Thompson:** Court fines were down for the year. We are down \$521,000 over nine months. **Sanders** asked how much is left in the CARES funds. **Thompson:** In October we got another \$130,000 so we have \$180,000. **Sanders** asked about a deadline. **Thompson:** I filed the report last Friday. The additional fund reporting is due by year's end. **Sanders** asked the stipulations. **Thompson:** I already reported we encumbered the dollars. **Hardin** asked about Health insurance Stop Loss. **Thompson:** That shows we were reimbursed \$19,000. We haven't had a lot of people reach that threshold yet, we haven't had a lot of large claims. **Hardin** asked about last year. **Thompson:** The report shows a smaller amount because we had a lower reimbursement this year. **Williams** asked about microphones for the Community Center. **Thompson:** We will look into that.

#### *Senior Budget*

**Mayor:** Wages only involve Cynthia. Miscellaneous Contractual is \$5,000. **Gaither:** Is that being raised? **Mayor:** No. **Sanders:** Do you have the appropriations for these? **Mayor:** We cut some line items by 100%, 50%. That is legitimate to ask but this is not a regular year. I didn't include those since none of the expenditures met the initial budget appropriations. We cut my budgets substantially. **Williams:** It just helps us see where we are in the budget. **Mayor:** Understand this isn't a typical year. We will have that for you. Rose Center for Aging is asking for \$23,000. I put it in here, but I wasn't as inclined to take on this burden, but I think now, we can for less. We have time to review that. They are only serving 35 people in Oakwood. **Hardin** asked how many days a week. **Mayor:** Four. Even at \$3 a meal, it comes to \$16,000. **Hardin** asked about a residential caterer. **Mayor:** We could do that. **Williams:** You just put this in the budget, but you aren't considering this. **Mayor:** Correct. **Williams:** It would be hard to have a 50% increase in this budget and yet not have any employee increases. **Mayor:** In principle it isn't right when we have people here in the Village who could provide the service. Lunches should read \$13,750, not \$20,000. Senior Enrichment includes proposed items; once a month to the movies, casino once a month, bingo once a week. All this is up in the air. Botanical Gardens in March, Cleveland Orchestra twice a year, National Veterans Memorial, Cruise and BBQ in Chautauqua, Amish tour twice \$31,500 total. This is just proposed. This year we only spent \$3-4,000 for the senior trips. **Williams** asked for an updated report with the correct numbers. **Mayor:** We want to include these, but we may cut these depending on Covid. **Hardin** asked about the Amish Country cheese. **Mayor:** We will be doing that for Thanksgiving. If they are disabled and by themselves, they will get 1# honey roasted turkey or 1# off the bone ham, ½# baby swiss or Colby, ½ gal. apple cider and from Miles Market a portion of green beans almandine, and a pie (apple, sweet potato, pumpkin, cherry or patty LaBelle peach). **Hardin:** You will deliver all this? **Mayor:** Yes. For those who will have 3-5 people, they could choose a 14# turkey, cider and pie.

Santa Delivery will take place in December. Elves will take the gifts via a wagon and put them on the resident's sidewalk. Very few communities do this. **Hardin:** This should state 2021. **Mayor:** Yes, it should be 2021. **Sanders:** Is the cost of running the Community Center under this budget? **Gaither:** It's in this budget. **Mayor:** We do it Wednesdays you will see Miles Market and Sam's Club. **Mayor** asked Council if they would like to look into the cost for providing the lunches instead of the House of Rose to see if this will be a better option for our residents. No objections were voiced.

*Wellness and Education*

**Mayor:** We propose spending \$6,500 in 2021. Only \$2,650 was spent in 2020. We won't know until next year. We haven't planned anything in January or February. Chagrin Valley Little Theater hasn't scheduled anything for next year and neither has the Cleveland Orchestra. We could be in June before we do anything. I put events in the budget which we did not do in 2020. **Williams** asked about maintenance. **Mayor:** That is for the use of the van. **Williams** asked about repairs. **Mayor:** We hope to finally upgrade the exterior of the Community Center with a canopy, roofing and outdoor lighting. We have put off three years. **Williams** asked what the \$3,000 was spent on. **Mayor:** The men's room and the ladies room as well as the big room. Most of the inside is done. **Hardin** asked about computer instruction. **Mayor:** We haven't done that this year. I do see seniors having music. **Hardin:** We want to know what is happening and when. **Williams:** I would like to see it consistent with the name of the person and the service they provide. **Mayor:** We can provide that. **Williams** asked for Other Expense line item for each budget. **Thompson** will provide that. **Mayor** suggested covering Recreation at the next budgetary hearing. I don't know if we will have a 10-week camp or 5-week. We will promote it utilizing the school. We will know more next year. Contact my office if you have any questions.

*Next Finance Meeting*

**Council** discussed and decided to cancel the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Budgetary Hearing and just holding it the following Tuesday on the 10<sup>th</sup>. **Mayor** will provide the handouts prior to the meeting. **Hardin:** We will not hold the HRLMC meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>, it will be budgets instead. **Thompson:** Ok.

Adjourned 6:58pm

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

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Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

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Johnnie Warren, Council President