

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL BUDGETARY HEARING MINUTES
December 15, 2020

ATTENDED

Johnnie A Warren – Council President*

Brian Thompson-Finance

Elaine Gaither – Council-at-Large*

Eloise Hardin-Ward 2

Melanie Sanders – Ward 3

Patricia Rogers – Ward 4

Candace Williams – Ward 5

ABSENT

Mayor Gary Gottschalk

Meeting opened at 6:06 by Warren
Pledge of Allegiance recited

Thompson: We have the 2020 realignment and the 2021 budget to review. He explained the ratios should reflect 92% for collections and expenditures. I sent this report to Council at the last minute. With reductions this year, we are at .78 expenditures which is below ratio. **Hardin:** Revenue is down 12%. **Thompson:** Yes, through November 30th. **Hardin** asked if the budget was reduced by 12% in 2021. **Thompson:** It is scaled down from the projections from \$10.1 million to \$9.4 million. **Williams** mentioned items overbudget which continue to increase, and we have one more month in 2020. **Thompson:** The realignment will cover those costs. It didn't change the bottom-line appropriation. The Building Dept. discussed their upgrades and contract obligations. **Hardin:** With Crystal not here any longer, her salary didn't impact their budget? **Thompson:** It saved, but he had contractual obligations and software upgrades. **Williams:** Why are they off so much this year? **Thompson:** There was a big push to transition their department and bring it up to snuff. **Williams:** It was over last year as well. **Thompson:** I am confident that department will not be over in 2021. I hear what you are saying. **Sanders** asked about the Adobe program. **Thompson:** It was \$1,000. I anticipate a balanced budget this year. He reviewed the attached report. Health benefits was down.

Special Revenue

Thompson explained reductions due to less activity in 2020. An increase to bond obligations due to the major TIFs and increased revenue. **Williams** asked about expenses charged there. **Thompson:** The Mayor has the latitude to charge there for plants, flowers, retainer walls, etc. for TIF district improvements. We have eight or nine active TIFs now. **Williams:** If those funds are not used in a given year, do they roll over to the next? **Thompson:** Yes. **Williams:** That is 12% or \$700,000. **Thompson:** Yes. We have fluctuating net profits from companies. **Williams** asked if it needed to be reduced. **Thompson:** I didn't have to reduce that, we underspent by 14%. We are in good shape. I am confident the realignment will come in underspent. **Williams** asked by what percentage. **Thompson:** I do not know currently. **Warren:** By year's end he will have those figures.

2021 Budget

Thompson: The exhibit details the numbers. I also included a summary report. This budget projection is \$9,709,000 but last year the budget was \$10,178,837.87. The drop is about \$700,000 through RITA receipts. I will closely monitor the Mayor's budgets which dropped. **Hardin** asked what would happen if the RITA numbers are less than expected. **Thompson:** We would look at the expenses. We can submit an adjusted budget as many times as we need to each year to the County. **Williams** commented about restraints on the Building Dept. They are overbudget by \$65,000. **Thompson:** All departments are aware of the situation. We put a non-essential expenditures strategy in place. **Williams** asked if that is in writing. **Thompson:** Not yet. **Williams:** I will use the Building Dept. as an example; they are asking for new furniture, but they are in remote offices. What is your monitoring device? **Thompson:** The PO is a systematic tool in monitoring spending. I meet with Department Heads monthly, Police and Fire particularly. **Warren** suggested meeting with all the Department Heads monthly. Preapproval must be made prior to spending except for office supplies as pens, clips, contractual obligations, etc. I read an article the NLC which explained the greater impact won't be felt until 2021. We

need to set up safeguards. **Thompson:** We will see the biggest impact mid-year. We are always conservative. **Sanders** asked how he compensated for the \$700,000 loss. **Thompson:** We are in communication with RITA, but we will not get those funds back. **Warren:** Through expense reductions. **Thompson:** Yes. **Warren:** It is important to control what we can; expenses. We have no idea what the first quarter will look like until the second quarter. **Thompson:** I have stayed in budget the 14 years I have been here. I am committed to keeping a close watch on 2021 to keep everything in line. **Sanders** agreed with Warren. We need to keep the budgets as tight as we can. **Thompson:** Keep in mind our Directors have monthly meetings about acquisitions, necessities and anticipating expenses. **William** asked about the contingency budget and job descriptions as well as other healthcare options. **Thompson:** Bardon is the one our agent recommended. **Williams** asked for a comparison study of the seven key factors with different types of healthcare and contribution options. **Thompson** will get that info to Council. **Williams** asked what impact different employee contribution levels will look like to the Village as well as different deductibles. **Thompson** will reach out to the insurance agents. We will have legislation in January to reflect different plans for incoming employees. **Mayor** suggested passing 25% budget which will give us time to review this in January-February. We will see what the first quarter looks like. **Williams** agreed. She also expressed concern over departments running only with essentials, not purchasing furniture or other non-essential items. **Thompson:** Debbie has the 25% budget in her possession. **Hardin:** I am in favor of a 25% budget.

Meeting adjourned 7:04p

Motion to adjourn made by Gaither seconded by Rogers
SIX YES: Hardin, Sanders, Rogers, Williams
Adjourned 6:58pm

Adopted _____

Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

Johnnie Warren, Council President