

VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2021

The Budget Workshop Meeting was called to order by President Stephan at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Present via Zoom were Trustees Alexander, Augustine, Berman, Eddy, Odom and Ulrich. Also present were Chief Administrative Officer Jeannine Smith, Deputy Village Clerk Karen Crowe, Village Attorney Michael Smoron, and many members of the public

Chief Administrative Officer Jeannine Smith commented that the Board could ask questions anytime during her presentation. Because of COVID, we were very conservative and anticipate that the Village is going to exceed expenditures by over \$200,000 for this current fiscal year. This will leave us with a healthy reserve balance of 65%.

Trustee Odom asked if the Trustees Elect microphones could be opened during this discussion. President Stephan replied the Budget Workshop is a preliminary presentation and he will be happy to open the microphones at the next meeting. There is nothing being decided at this Workshop, it's just a presentation by the CAO and Trustee discussion.

CAO Smith stated that there are two things that are important to note with the General Fund. The Village has received a Grant for COVID. This was very helpful with staffing specifically in the Police Department. We had overtime hours this year and weren't sure when the property tax revenue was coming in. We fared well on the taxes and ended up with 2.6 anticipated revenue versus 2.38. Building permits were up due to accessory structures in residents backyards. Currently there were 13 new home permits with anticipated 2 additional permits. \$100,000 in the General Fund is from Property Taxes. We budget approximately \$100,000 every year that goes into the Street Fund. The rest of the Street Fund comes from other revenue sources in the General Fund. There is a need to resurface the parking lot at Village Hall. The siding at Village Hall needs to be painted or replaced along with new windows at an estimated cost of \$90,000. The website needs to be redone at an estimate of \$7,000 to \$10,000. There is the second payment for the financial software is due in the upcoming fiscal year. There is a need to purchase new trucks and squads for Public Works and the Police Department at a cost of approximately \$100,000. The Police Department needs a live fingerprint scanner; the current fingerprint mechanism is out of service.

CAO Smith commented that there is discussion to have Public Works outsource mowing this year at a cost of \$25,000. Under Ground Maintenance and Repair there is a need for some tree replacement. We are fortunate that we have a significant supply of salt for snow and ice control. The salt vender has indicated there will not be an increase in pricing this year.

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CAO Smith continued with Road Projects. The Village continues to receive Rebuild Illinois Bond Funds. \$125,000 is anticipated for the end of the year. We anticipate two more payments in the next fiscal year. This will give the Village a healthy balance for the Haligus Road Project. The Village is anticipated to receive \$700,000 in Grant Funds for the Haligus Road Project. MFT funds will go toward resurfacing Warwick and Hampshire at an estimated cost of \$225,000. \$100,000 from MFT and \$125,000 from the General Fund.

CAO Smith stated that SSA#2 in Brighton Oaks will be billed for electricity for their street lights. SSA#5 The Reserves would like to use their funds to enhance entryway landscaping.

CAO Smith discussed the Lake Patrol Budget. The Village of Lakewood approves this budget and forwards it to the City of Crystal Lake for their approval. Last season it was difficult to find Boat Patrol Officers. Lakewood Officers filed in and this created overtime wages. It is suggested to increase the cost of boat decals by \$5 to cover the cost of overtime.

President Stephan asks if there are any questions. The Lake Patrol Budget will be approved at the Board Meeting at 7 p.m. so it can be forwarded to the City of Crystal Lake. The rest of the Budget will be discussed at the April 23, 2021 Board Meeting.

There was a question regarding the delay in voting on this budget. It was said that there is a legal obligation to follow from the Illinois Municipal Code. It is believed that the Illinois Code stated that the public has a right to see the budget for ten days prior to approval. It must have a public notice in the local newspaper. So, that saying, the Budget came out on Friday, this is not ten days from today. It is not legal to vote on the Budget tonight.

Attorney Smoron commented that he is not familiar with the notice that preceded the Lake Patrol Budget. If the Village has not published notice of this as part of the overall budget, if the Board takes action of this Budget tonight, they can ratify it when the entire Budget is passed. You can send a draft to Crystal Lake to notify them of the suggested fee increase.

Karen Crowe
Deputy Clerk