

Village of Lakewood
Minutes of the Continued December 12, 2017
Village Board Meeting
December 18, 2017

The Continued December 12, 2017 Village Board Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. at Turnberry Country Club by President Serwatka. Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Stephan, moved to allow Trustee Ritchie to participate via telephone due to family issues. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahan, Odom, Rexroat, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried. Present were Trustees Davis, McMahan, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie via telephone, and Stephan. Also present were Chief Administration Officer Jeannine Smith; Village Clerk Janice Hansen; Village Attorney Gregg Barry; Chief of Police Michael Roth; Village Treasurer Jean Heckman; and many members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ryan Berman of 6615 Woodland Hills Drive commented that the December 12, 2017 Board Meeting was the first meeting that he has attended and thought that the Boards actions were unprofessional.

Cheryl Lockwood of 9517 Lenox Lane was disappointed with the Board attitude during the last Board Meeting. Georgetown Subdivision is in favor of lower taxes but not limiting services.

Walt Kalemba of 7801 Loch Glen Drive expressed disappointment of the Board wasting resident's time.

Sara Ryerson of 415 Hampshire Lane commented that residents need lower taxes and take control of Board issues. She is concerned with property values; cut taxes, not services. Also she believes that infrastructure is a big concern.

Andy Knapp of 7314 Fairway Drive commented that he doesn't like the tax cut; the Board needs to work better for the residents.

Gene Furey of 7012 Inverway commented that the Lakewood tax rate is not hurting residents; it's the school taxes. 10% of a resident's taxes go to the Village; school taxes increased this year. The Village has always administered taxes well in the past; there is a need for business tax revenue at Routes 47 and 176.

President Serwatka stated that he is aware that the school taxes take the lion's share of the resident's tax bill. The Village Board's responsibility is to levy only the amount of taxes necessary for Village operations. If efficiencies are created and savings are realized, those savings should be passed to the taxpayers accordingly. The Village needs to lead by example and reduce taxes when able.

President Serwatka stated that reducing the tax levy by 10% will not reduce services or staff. This property tax reduction effort is about a much bigger picture than just the Village of Lakewood, its about leading by example.

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East side stormwater and flooding issues will remain a priority. However, capital expenditure projects, such as stormwater and sewers are not the intended purpose of property tax revenues levied by the General Fund. The Village has separate enterprise funds dedicated for these types of capital expenditures.

Trustee Davis commented that he will not spend funds from the Village's reserves. There are funds set aside for flooding mitigation; the Board is waiting for Baxter & Woodman to assist in some of the east side flooding issues. Trustee Davis added that he is concerned with limiting the PTEL; lower levy this year affects future years.

Trustee McMahon is concerned with revenue decreases and the need for cash reserves to cover expenses.

Chief Administrative Officer Jeannine Smith commented that the Board needs to discuss 2018/2019 projects. She is confident that the proposed 10% levy reduction enables the Village to live within its means. She also proposed Plan B of a 5% tax decrease and 5% abatement of taxes addressing Trustee concerns while still giving the full 10% tax decrease to residents.

Trustee Stephan is confident that a straight 10% cut in the levy is in order but agrees that Chief Administrative Officer Smith's Plan B of a 5% tax decrease and 5% abatement of taxes is a great solution.

Trustee Davis stated that the 5% tax decrease and 5% abatement of taxes is a good solution; going through the budget process will confirm this.

Trustee Rexroat likes this alternate; it's a baby step to control the Village's taxes.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2017-39B – AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD, MCHENRY COUNTY ILLINOIS, FOR THE YEAR 2017:

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee McMahon, moved to approve Ordinance 2017-39. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, Stephan, Odom, Rexroat, McMahon, and Ritchie. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

With nothing further to discuss, Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee Rexroat, moved to adjourn the meeting. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Janice S. Hansen
Village Clerk

Approved: _____ January 9, 2018