

July 29, 2014

State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney

A Special Session of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney was called to order by Mayor Deborah Morelli on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 7:19 P.M. for the purpose of a Special Meeting in the Stickney Village Hall, 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:
Trustees De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos, Sleigher and White

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to pass and approve Ordinance 2014-06, "An Ordinance for the Annual Budget and Appropriations for the Village of Stickney, Cook County, Illinois for Fiscal Year, beginning May 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015."

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Sleigher, to pass and approve Ordinance 2014-06, "An Ordinance for the Annual Budget and Appropriations for the Village of Stickney, Cook County, Illinois for Fiscal Year, beginning May 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015."

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Lazansky and Sleigher
Nays: Trustee De Leshe, Gomez, Savopoulos and White
Mayor Morelli declared the motion failed.

PRIOR TO THE VOTE THESE ARE THE COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Trustee DeLeshe mentioned that he added up \$150,000 that could be removed or trimmed from the proposed budget to not pass on an increase in the garbage rates and water rates to our residents. He thought that we should sit down again and hammer it out to come up with a little bit better numbers. Trustee White injected the reduction of \$15,000 of the proposed budget for the proposed fest.

Treasurer Kasnicka reminded the trustee that by statute you are required to pass a budget within the first three months of your fiscal year. There was a lot of discussion tonight. The trustees have had the budget worksheets since June 9. The proposed budget was given to the trustees on July 1. He is in agreement that there are things that we could look at, to target and not spend the money. This is a budget. This is not the actual. He recommends to pass it and come back and amend it.

Trustee Savopoulos said he has been asking for 1 ½ years to make cuts. And, you come back with increases. The treasurer said they are just

the normal increases. He continued to say that if you have cuts you would like to suggest you are able to come in to talk to the mayor or himself. Trustee White reminded the treasurer that he did the whole budget. Yes, the treasurer said, I put it together and said you can come in and nobody came in to talk about it until yesterday.

Trustee Savopoulos stated that the treasurer wasn't here the week before. Trustee Lazansky injected that you had it for six weeks. He discussed things with Kurt Kasnicka and we got it down. Why didn't anyone else come in and take time? The man deserves a vacation and he had it scheduled. The treasurer said whether he went on vacation last week is not the issue.

Trustee Savopoulos again said that it has been over a year that he was asking for cuts on the budget. There have been no cuts made. Trustee Lazansky asked Trustee Savopoulos if he has brought up any cuts that could be made. Trustee Savopoulos suggested that they cut 10% across the board. The Mayor asked, "Across from what?" He replied, "Whatever, You tell me where you want to cut." The Mayor suggested that he should come in to say something about what his ideas are. Trustee Savopoulos enforced that if you don't make small cuts now you will be making bigger cuts later that are going to hurt. That you are going to have to get rid of the fire department. He went on to say, take a look around. . . .Forest View. Look what is happening in Forest View, Lyons. . .Trustee Lazansky said that Riverside is looking to go privatized. Trustee Savopoulos continued to say that they are getting rid of departments completely, the whole department. He repeated, that's fine, you want to get rid of these departments. The Mayor responded, "We are not talking about that." "Nobody said that, Sam." "The Mayor responded, "We are not talking about that." "Nobody said that, Sam." "You don't know that." "You have something to say, and you have suggestions on what should be cut, come and say something about it." "Why don't you see Kurt." Trustee Savopoulos injected that they should go to the department heads and see what can be cut. The Mayor reminded Trustee Savopoulos that we go to the meetings and there certainly isn't any big over spending going with that. Trustee Savopoulos' final word was that maybe Forest View could come and put out our fires. The Mayor responded with, "Sam!" "Come on!"

Attorney Donald Kreger commented that where the cuts could possibly be made is with the tax levy. He wants to bring before us the underwriter from George K. Baum. He informed us that $\frac{1}{4}$ of our tax levy is going to pay debt service going on the bonds just over 24%. You can't do anything about it unless you refinance. He thought we should see if George K. Baum has some recommendations in refinancing and lowering the debt service. He thought we could lower that debt service hopefully between \$150,000 and \$200,000 per year. It is 770,000 some thousand dollars per year. And, it is going to be 800,000 thousand as we go along. The plan was initially great as we provide for an increase every year. For a while the assessed

evaluation was going up, but, that didn't happen, it went the other way. Mr. Kreger announced that he wants to put something on the

agenda. Under the new law they can't just make recommendations, they have to sign an engagement letter otherwise they are in violation of their license. What I am going to do is have you sign something that isn't binding. It is not going to cost you money. It just means that you have asked him for advice. Where the big argument is going to be is the levy ordinance. . . whether we can keep down the levy. Because there is \$100,000 in this thing that you didn't spend alone. He himself doesn't get \$5,000 per month and you have \$200,000 in there. (that would be the budget for the lawyers) He keeps saying that it is not a budget. A budget is really what you think you should spend and where you could cut. It is an appropriation in case you have to spend it. Every line item is high. Hopefully you don't spend and every line item you should be under. It should be a limit. If your limit is every line item, you are not going to hit your limit on all those line items. And, hopefully it is going to be as good as last year in terms of spending.

Treasurer Kasnicka remarked that in terms of spending we are going to look at everything, Sam (Trustee Savopoulos). The treasurer asked Trustee Savopoulos if he has some suggestions about what he wants cut, to come to the Mayor or himself the treasurer. He reminded us that he is not the village manager, he is the treasurer.

Trustee Sleighter announced that we are in the service business. . . . for sanitation and safety. We do nothing but serve the community. If you want your garbage picked up twice a month rather than once a week. . . we can do that. If you want to cut ten police officers and have your houses robbed and have things happen in the community. . . we can do that. If you want dirty water because your mains are breaking and we can't fix them. . . we can do that. We can do anything you want Sam (Trustee Savopoulos).

Trustee Savopoulos again enforced that we have to watch the spending. If we don't watch the spending now, we will be sorry later.

Treasurer Kasnicka said that we have watched the spending and he felt we have to continue to do that. He told Trustee Savopoulos that he will work with him with anything he wants to look at.

Trustee Sleighter injected that if we don't increase our revenue we are going to have to cut services anyway. The costs of services are going up.

Trustee White said that this budget has "Fluff". The attorney said that the "Fluff" is in the budget but not in the tax levy. Attorney Kreger went on to say that we are limited to your revenue. He is sure you are not going to allow a tax levy that is greater than what you had in previous years.

Treasurer Kasnicka reminded us that one of the things we are counting on in taking some of these line items and we don't want to expend certain things. We can target certain line items and we could get up

to a nice amount. When we are short on revenues that is why we are able to be in positive territory this last year.

Trustee De Leshe pointed out that the treasurer is right, the council is right, Sam you are right and Pat (Sleighter) is right. We are just finding out tonight that they need a truck. The chief mentioned several meetings ago that they need air packs. Those cost tens of thousands of dollars. How do you take \$175,000 for capital funds, could we get away with \$100,000. We need stuff, they need stuff. Nowhere does it say what they need. So how do you plan for something? And, we don't have any idea what we have to spend.

Trustee White injected that the truck they need for public works is \$50,000.

Trustee De Leshe finished saying that if we could look at these numbers better and we could get them the truck, let's get it, or the air packs, or if our chief need squad cars, let's get them. Nowhere is it listed anywhere in these documents what they need. Or, what we are spending it on or where the money is going. I think we need to get a better handle on that and try to get them all their stuff. I want to cut too, but I want to appropriate some of this money. Here, is \$6,000 for park guards that is virtually going bye bye. Why can't we put that towards their truck? Or, appropriate the money or "Fluff" for lack of better words. Or how about the \$60,000 for disposal fees that you said we don't use but it is there. So that is \$60,000 that is his truck. Why aren't we putting it here there and all over the place? Why don't we have a plan? Let's go and get the equipment so these people could go and do their jobs.

There being no further business, Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Gomez, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which, said Board of Trustees adopted the motion unanimously at 7:34 p.m. and Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams
Village Clerk

Approved by me this 6th day of August, 2014.

Deborah Morelli, Mayor