

Minutes
Special Regular Board Meeting
Glen Ellyn Village Board of Trustees
Monday, November 12, 2013

Call to Order

Village President Demos called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Upon roll call by Village Clerk Galvin, Village President Demos and Trustees Clark, Elliott, Friedberg, Ladesic, McGinley and O'Shea answered "Present".

Pledge of Allegiance

President Demos asked Ed Pennington to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Village Recognition:

- A. The organizers for the Ben Franklin Pumpkin Festival sent an email of thanks to Jackie Chernesky of the Administration Department for her assistance in arranging for barricades which helped to ensure the Festival's huge success.
- B. Volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic Tom Sammons of the Fire Company received a thank you note from St. Mark's Preschool complimenting him for the exciting and fun fire safety lesson.

Audience Participation

Ms. Joyce Hothan, Chief Development Officer at Equity Sharing Partners, NFP received a Proclamation in recognition of Community Foundation Week. Ms. Hothan, a Glen Ellyn resident for 26 years thanked the Board and the Village.

Agenda Item 6 – 2013 Proposed Property Tax Levy for the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Finance Director Kevin Wachtel presented information concerning the 2013 proposed property tax levy for the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Glen Ellyn has imposed property tax caps since 1994 and stated that there is no levy for debt this year. The amount of the levy was discussed by Director Wachtel if it were to include \$870,000 to fund the Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company and if the GEVFC funding were not included.

A motion was made by Trustee Ladesic and seconded by Trustee McGinley to open the Public Hearing to receive comment on the proposed 2013 property tax levy for the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Upon roll call, Trustees Clark, Elliott, Friedberg, Ladesic, McGinley and O'Shea voted "Aye." Motion carried.

President Demos asked if there were any public comments pertaining to the proposed 2013 property tax levy. There were none.

A motion was made by Ladesic and seconded by Trustee Elliott to close the Public Hearing on the proposed 2013 property tax levy for the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Upon roll call, Trustees Clark, Elliott, Friedberg, Ladesic, McGinley and O'Shea voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Agenda Item 7 - Consent Agenda

The following items are considered routine business by the Village Board and will be approved in a single vote in the form listed below:

Motion to approve the following items including Payroll and Vouchers totaling \$1,599,841.64:

- A. Village Board Meeting Minutes:
 - 1. October 21, 2013 Regular Board Workshop
 - 2. October 28, 2013 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Total Expenditures (Payroll and Vouchers) - \$1,599,841.64.

The vouchers have been reviewed by Trustee Friedberg and by Manager Franz prior to this meeting, and are consistent with the Village's purchasing policy.

- C. Ordinance No. 6182-VC, An Ordinance to Amend (Liquor Control Code) Chapter 19 of Title 3, Section 11 (Classification of Licenses) of the Village Code by Creating a Class C-4 Liquor License Classification and to Amend Chapter 19 of Title 3, Section 3-19-11 (C) and (P) Section 3-19-12, Section 3-19-13.
- D. Ordinance No. 6183, An Ordinance Designating the Property at 253 Anthony Street as a Glen Ellyn Local Landmark.

- E. Ordinance No. 6184, An Ordinance Approving a Variation from the Lot Coverage Ratio Requirements of the Zoning Code to Allow the Construction of a One-Story Addition for Property at 558 Taylor Avenue.
- F. Motion to adopt the revised investment policy

A motion was made by Trustee Friedberg and seconded by Trustee Clark to approve the Consent Agenda.

Upon roll call, Trustees Clark, Elliott, Friedberg, Ladesic, McGinley and O'Shea voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Agenda Item 8 – Fire Company Funding

Village Manager Mark Franz and Fire Chief Jim Bodony presented information related to Fire Company Funding.

At the Village Board Workshop on September 16 and October 21, Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company (GEVFC) Fire Chief Bodony discussed concerns with the current funding structure of the Volunteer Fire Company. He presented some background on the Department and how operations have changed over the years and explained how funding is not keeping up with the costs and future needs, particularly capital replacement needs of the Fire Company. In addition, the donation program is no longer a fair and equitable approach to funding an essential service. The annual fund drive puts unnecessary pressure on a group of Volunteers to campaign for funds to meet critical needs of the community, and takes time away from simply providing that vital service on a volunteer basis.

In order to meet the \$870,000 necessary to meet the needs of the Fire Company, two alternatives are being considered. A property tax levy and a flat rate added to the water bill.

Trustee Elliott asked if any other municipality funds their Fire Department with a fee added to the water bill. Chief Bodony responded that there are none in DuPage County. Trustee McGinley asked if any other Fire Departments in DuPage County have a volunteer department. Chief Bodony responded no, but that one of the largest volunteer departments in Illinois is in Tinley Park.

Manager Franz clarified that the water bill is actually the Utility Services Bill. Trustee Elliott asked what the remedy is for non-payment of this bill. Manager Franz responded that the water is cut off for non-payment.

Trustee Friedberg asked if a fee is deductible. Manager Franz responded that the answer will require additional research.

Trustee McGinley commented that if there were to be a property tax levy homes would be paying more. Manager Franz replied that it depends on the value of the home.

Trustee Ladesic asked about an SSA. Manager Franz responded that residents in the SSA are exempt from the water bill.

Trustee McGinley commented on a flat fee vs. a levy. Manager Franz responded that the cost would be between \$90-110 any way you look at it. Regarding commercial property, there is a proposed 5 tier approach with \$150 being in the middle range, the commercial fee would be based on footage.

President Demos stated they need to determine which mode: a levy or a fee.

Trustee Elliott stated there is no question about it, the GEVFC needs to be funded; they are one of the crown jewel in Glen Ellyn. He stated he does not like a charge on the utility bill, if we do fund differently than every other municipality than there must be a compelling reason. Fees are a regressive tax that has a higher impact on lower income residents. The GEVFC is no different than any other Village Service and fire service has nothing to do with water delivery services. Trustee Elliott further commented that this Board has an obligation to keep the tax burden at the lowest possible point.

President Demos stated that they needed to ask for public comment.

Mr. James Honig, 796 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn approached the Board to express his support for a property tax levy to support the GEVFC. Mr. Honig moved to Glen Ellyn with his family 12 years ago from Naples, Florida. In Naples, over time, there was a great difference with some people living in gated communities, others in ghettos. He appreciated Glen Ellyn for the great sense of community and the ethnic, social and economic diversity. Mr. Honig is in favor of moving from donations to property taxes. His levy would not be more than his personal donation and a property tax levy is fairer than a fee.

Trustee McGinley wants to make sure the Fire Company is funded. She is not bothered that Glen Ellyn is the only Village not funding with a property tax levy. This gives future Boards an opportunity to look at the budget. The fee for a condo is based on a \$150,000 condo. According to Trustee McGinley, apartments and condos use the services more. Between the water bill and a levy: the water bill is a convenience. The tax burden is high enough. People are leaving Glen Ellyn because of the tax burden and Trustee McGinley opposes adding another tax which is already high.

Trustee O'Shea echoed Trustee McGinley's thoughts. This is a shared resource and needs an equitable way to fund. This was originally presented to replace the fund drive which only 24% of the residents contribute to. New residents have lost focus on what the Fire Company does; putting it on the water bill is the most equitable way without overburdening the commercial properties.

Trustee Ladesic echoed Trustee McGinley and Trustee O'Shea. Trustee Ladesic added that he thinks the hotel/motel tax is being used for something other than what it was designated for. There is a greater savings to homeowners if we adopted a fee.

Trustee Clark agreed with Trustee Elliott. A levy is equitable and will not drive business away. The tax rate is controlled with the levy.

Trustee Friedberg commented that he could go either way. The Fire Department is still in donation mode, the proposed levy would begin on January 1, and we would be abating. The timing suggests that the fee begin in May, beginning in the Fiscal Year. He has a problem with taxing on top of the fund drive; he is leaning towards a fee since this seems fairer, at least in the first year.

President Demos commented that the consensus is a fee. President Demos further commented that not every resident is a taxpayer; not every taxpayer is a resident. This is a transition. The move may be to a levy in the future.

Trustee Friedberg asked about residents with sprinklers per Village requirement and if they will have a rebate.

Trustee Friedberg asked if government buildings and churches would be exempt. Trustee McGinley pointed out that some of the churches were good contributors to the GEVFC. She also asked if the Community Grant Program could be eliminated to support the GEVFC.

President Demos responded that the Community Grant Program was already eliminated.

Agenda Item 9 – Property Tax Straw Poll

Finance Director Kevin Wachtel presented information on two versions of the Ordinance provided: one with \$870,000 in funding for the Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company, and one without. This first reading of the proposed property tax levy is a non-binding "straw vote" of the Village Board for the purpose of providing additional opportunity for public questions or comments about the Village and Library proposed property taxes for 2013.

A motion was made by Trustee O'Shea regarding the first reading of an Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes in the Amount of \$11,518,349 for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1,

2013 and Ending April 30, 2014, of the Village of Glen Ellyn. (Without Fire Funding). The motion was seconded by Trustee McGinley.

Upon roll call, Trustees Clark, Friedberg, Ladesic, McGinley and O'Shea voted "Aye."

Trustee Elliott voted "Nay".

Motion carried.

Agenda Item 10 - Downtown Parking Modifications

Police Chief Phil Norton presented information on Downtown Parking Modifications. Chief Norton stated that the goal is to keep commuters where they belong and the retailers on the fringes.

Trustee O'Shea inquired about enforcement of employee parking. Chief Norton responded that some merchants prefer leased parking spaces. Chief Norton further commented that the new parking lot on Duane will not be available to the public until after 6:00 p.m. but it will provide additional parking to the restaurants. Furthermore, the following Ordinance will result in a net increase of 96 parking spaces.

Trustee Clark made a motion to approve the following in a single vote:

- A. Ordinance No. 6185-VC, An Ordinance to Amend Section 9-2-12 (Municipal Permit Only Parking Lots) of the Village Code regarding Parking in the Municipal Parking Lot Located North and West of Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street.
- B. Ordinance No. 6186-VC, An Ordinance to Amend Section 9-5-19 (Schedule S; Customer Parking Only) of the Village Code regarding Customer Parking Only. (
- C. Ordinance No. 6187-VC, An Ordinance to Amend Section 9-2-11 (Leased Parking Rates) of the Village Code regarding Leased Parking in the Central Business District.

Trustee Clark's motion was seconded by Trustee O'Shea.

Upon roll call, Trustees Clark, Elliott, Friedberg, Ladesic, McGinley and O'Shea voted "Aye."
Motion carried.

Agenda Item 11 - Reminders:

- The next Village Board Workshop is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301 of the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.
- The next Village Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Galligan Board Room of the Glen Ellyn Civic Center

Adjournment

At 8:35 p.m. Trustee Clark moved and Trustee Elliott seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Galvin,
Village Clerk