

**VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**(Official Minutes)**

**Finance Committee Budget Planning Meeting**

October 4, 2016

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Kenny at 6:01 pm on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

**Members Present:** Village President Pat Kenny, Jim Feeney, Karl Floody, Tom Marek, Duane Ratay, Mike Sheyker

**Member Absent:** Tom Freytag

**Also Present:** Fire & Rescue Dept. Captain Courtney Castelein, Clerk Theresa Loomer, Administrator Dennis Martin, Fire & Rescue Dept. Chief Wolfgang Nitsch, Trustee Rick Pappas, Fire & Rescue Dept. Assistant Chief Scott Petersen, Treasurer Scott Vilona

**General Business**

**Approve Minutes for Meeting Held August September 20, 2016**

Feeney/Marek 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted for the September 20, 2016 meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**2017 Budget Planning: Public Library, Police, Fire & Rescue, Park Commission, and Revenue**

Fire & Rescue Dept. Chief Wolfgang Nitsch stated the Protection Committee recommended a wage increase consistent to what the other non-union Village staff members receive as a yearly cost of living increase for the volunteer paid on call firefighters. Vilona went over the 2017 projected budget that includes an increase to the Training and Education Expense categories for the Fire Department. The Village Board voted after the bridge was completed to extend the 24/7 Paratech EMS coverage through the end of the year; however, the 2016 budget only included 24/7 Paratech coverage through May 2016. The projected budget for Professional Services Expense in 2017 to keep Paratech staffed 24-hours a days is \$422,000, an increase of \$215,000 from the 2016 budget. Nitsch proposed having the Village of Fontana hire six rescue squad employees to work full-time and hire three platoons of two people for an estimated cost of \$402,000 to \$404,000, which would be a proposed savings of \$18,000. If paramedic level staffing were obtained, it would create the opportunity to provide intercepts with nearby communities and the ability to bill an increased amount for each call that's responded to outside the district. Nitsch said the department has had a hard time securing fire and rescue department volunteers for all times of the day, even during the night shift when more residents are home from work. To combat the shortfalls, Nitsch proposed cross-training staff to be Paramedic/EMT/firefighters. He stated the only initial additional expense to hire full-time staff would be the cost of the drugs and some minor equipment. The committee discussed the long-term cost of hiring full-time fire department personnel including wages and benefits, equipment and maintaining overnight facilities. They also discussed the possibility of creating a fire district that includes multiple municipalities or taking the issue to referendum which may be the only way the Village would be able to exceed the Levy Limit to include additional fire service. Vilona went over the Library budget and the requirements set forth by the state statutes. Based on a calculation that takes into consideration equalized value, the Village must budget \$230,814 for the library in order to be exempt from a county imposed tax and also receive grant money from the county in the amount of \$33,715, which must also be allocated for library purposes. The 2017 Park Commission Budget includes \$59,500 for the landscape maintenance contract with Blackstone, \$17,000 for Northwind Perennial to maintain the Fontana Boulevard and Highway 67 medians, \$2,500 for a sand volleyball court at Duck Pond, and \$3,000 for work in the Native Prairies. Northwind Perennials was formerly the Village's biggest customer for mulch which offset the high cost of service, but last year they opted to not purchase mulch from the Village. Blackstone has given the Village a

quote for \$10,000 to maintain the medians, so there is room for that number to decrease. There is \$20,000 to be set aside for a proposed new bathroom in Pioneer Park, \$4,700 to replace the Reid Park baseball diamond backstop, and \$1,000 for holiday decorations. Although not shown in the budget, the Park Commission also agreed to consider an allocation to support the initial construction of the Lions Club Pavilion in Reid Park. The Village will be replacing the roof on the Lake Geneva Marine building owned by the Village for an estimated \$30,000. The Police Department salaries are currently in flux with possible changes in department staffing but they are currently projected for the same level as in 2016; and \$5,000 is proposed for the Capital Outlay Expense for roof patching at the Public Safety Building, and \$10,000 Technology Expense for BTO and ProPhoenix annual support services. The Equipment/Uniform Allowance budgeted amount was decreased based on the actual amount spent in past years. The proposed General Fund Budget increases the levy limit by 1.26 percent to \$3,546,821. The projected collected Room Tax in 2017 is \$400,000; however, due to new legislation that will be enacted in 2017, 70 percent of collected Room Tax that is collected from hotels, motels, and other short-term lodging rentals must be used solely for tourism promotion and development. The Village has the option to create its own commission or contract with a local tourism entity that meets specific requirements. The Building and Zoning Department exceeded their expected revenue this year by almost \$50,000 due to many large projects and building permits and the beach exceeded revenue projection due to a warmer than usual summer. The committee discussed additional revenue generating ideas such as increasing boat slip rental by 1.5 percent. Pappas brought up three budget items discussed at the Lakefront and Harbor Committee that were not included in the budget including a \$6,403 for rip-rap work on the south side of the Abbey Harbor channel, installation of fenders/bumpers under the lakefront bridge for \$4,812, and \$10,000 towards the construction of the new bathroom in Pioneer Park. The budget as presented is \$355,023.90 over the levy limit so that amount either needs to be cut from the budget or revenue needs to be increased by that amount. An additional committee workshop meeting will need to be scheduled in order for staff to finalize the numbers in the budget and look into what options are available to increase the funding for the rescue squad proposals without impacting the state imposed levy limit.

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

The next committee meeting date was scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2016 beginning at 4:30 pm, and the first meeting with the Village Board will be held Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

#### **Adjournment**

Feeney/Floody 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm, and the motion carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Theresa Loomer, Village Clerk

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Finance Committee, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: 10/07/16