

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING  
**FISCAL YEAR 2002-03 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**  
 HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MATTESON VILLAGE HALL  
 4900 VILLAGE COMMONS  
 ON THIS 29TH DAY OF APRIL 2002

President Stricker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Clerk Grisco called the roll and the following Trustees answered present:

ROLL CALL

Shirley Green  
 Allan Johnson  
 Sam Brown  
 Andre' Ashmore  
 Nathaniel Motton Jr.  
 Allene Maxwell

Also present were: David Mekarski, Village Administrator; Joe Perozzi, Village Attorney; Mary Britton, Director of Finance; Robert Wilcox, Chief of the Fire Department; Bob Park, Acting Chief of Police; Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks and Recreation; Robin Kelly, Director of Community Affairs; Vince Laoang, Interim Public Works Director/Village Engineer; Mike Murray, Public Works Supervisor; Kathy Murray, Personnel and Operations Coordinator; Eileen Majda, Assistant to the Village Administrator; Cyndi Zeibert, Recording Secretary; and the Star Newspaper.

President Stricker stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow final input to the budget proposal for the fiscal year 2002-2003. This budget is to go into effect on May 1, 2002 for the ensuing year. The meeting was properly advertised in the Star Newspaper and the Southtown.

Administrator Mekarski and Mary Britton, Finance Director presented the budget and outlined the summary of the revenue and expenditures of cost centers. The budget focus was based on three premises: Enhance current service delivery in all departments; Achieve economic development objectives which build our sense of community and which create a sustainable revenue base; and sustain strong police and fire services to address homeland security.

PRESENTATION OF  
 PRELIMINARY FISCAL  
 YEAR 2002-03 BUDGET

Total revenues projected were \$20,765,542. The two largest sources of revenues are sales tax (51 %), and property tax (15 %).

Administrator Mekarski noted that our economy, while relatively healthy, is not

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truly at its potential, stating this community has one of the richest economies in the region. Matteson's average household income is \$76,000. He stressed the importance to try and keep a healthy economic development program to change that number to allow revenue growth to sustain more services.

Total Expenditures projects were \$20,124,840. \$15,000,000 making up the general fund, 30% (being shared costs, such as general operations, health insurance, liability insurance, and comprehensive insurance), 21% for the Police Department, and 16% for the Fire Department.

The recommendation for this budget is to create an investment into this community so our community can pull the dividends in the future by attracting business and retail that our community deserves and can afford.

Because of the total revenue decreases and expenditure increases, we come into the Fiscal year with a requirement for \$1,943,739 in additional revenue necessary to maintain service levels, and overcome revenue impacts resulting from the national recession; change of the state economy; and the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

Solutions included in the proposed budget were: 1) Budget cuts totaling \$883,000, 2) Financing Strategy for \$997,500 in expenditures for the IT Plan, fire and street maintenance vehicles and life support equipment, by setting up a 5-year plan of \$250,000 annually; 3) Create new revenue sources which could total \$1,894,515 by: non abatement of tax levy, add a utility tax of 5%, grants, and a water service charge.

In regards to the new revenue sources, the impact on a homeowner's tax bill in relation to the non-abatement of tax levy would range from \$59.00 to \$117.00 annually, for homes ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 in market value. The revenue increase would be around \$476,305. The revenue for 9 months by the addition of a 5% utility tax would be \$813,973, for 12 months it would be \$1,085,297. Administrator Mekarski noted that many of the surrounding communities have such utility tax presently in place in their communities, and he is recommending Matteson do the same. Revenue from grants, around \$304,237 and revenue from a water service charge, around \$300,000.

On a short range plan, these new revenues would allow Matteson to be able to expand community policing programs, strengthen economic development, install a new IT program to include GIS and SCADA systems, modify our community center to enhance accessibility and revitalize old Matteson. The long-range plan would include the construction of a new water reservoir, painting and repairing of water towers, and the expansion of street and sidewalk improvement programs.

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Some initiatives would be to:

- Implement new Finance software and preparation for GASB 34 mandates.
- The expansion of the Economic Development Program to include:
  - Local “Buy Matteson” Ad Campaign
  - Advertising Matteson in Trade Publications
  - Quarterly Newsletter and Breakfasts for Local Businesses
  - Create a Strategic Marketing Plan and Materials
- Implementation of G.R.E.A.T. Program, which will provide older school age children with positive direction and instruction regarding drugs and gangs.
- Diversity and non-harassment training for all employees.
- Enhance Fire Department’s EMS capabilities by placing in-service of an ALS Engine Company at Station No. 2.
- Place in service two additional Automatic External Defibrillators.
- Develop and implement a Geographical Information System for the Department.
- Provide an accurate and reliable data acquisition system for the Village’s water and wastewater infrastructure.
- New Teen Nights in all Matteson schools.
- Develop and implement new Athletic Programs.

President Stricker referred to Opportunity for Public Comment.

The following residents (Richard Smith-Woodgate Subdivision, Lois Blume, David Ullmer-5527 Mallard Drive, Cornell Brown-1303 Old Creek Road, Don Wilson-609 Goldenrod Circle, Johnny Taylor-4331 Thornwood, John Davis-620 Goldenrod Circle, Mr. Sussix-Butterfield, Marlon Woods-617 Primrose, Ethan Jones-Creekside Subdivision, Dorothy Howard-148 Huntingwood, Eric Lewis-Feathercreek Subdivision) spoke with comments regarding:

OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PUBLIC COMMENT

- Opposition to the utility tax;
- Concern over a lack of quality services from the Village;
- the increase in workmen’s compensation;
- whether the Staff/Board exhausted all avenues before the decision of the increase in tax revenue;
- whether there really is diversity in Matteson;
- what impact the reduction of capital expenditures will have on the community;
- desire for more enforcement of code violations;
- a belief that resident taxes are higher than in surrounding areas already.

There was considerable discussion relating to the above comments.

Trustee Motton and Trustee Maxwell commented they were also against this utility tax, and felt that the monies could come from within other line items of the budget.

Trustee Brown moved that the Board adjourn the Public Hearing Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 11:10 p.m. to a Special Board Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Green.

AYES: (6) Green, Johnson, Brown, Ashmore,  
Motton, and Maxwell

NAYS:(0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ADJOURNMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEARING

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dorothy Grisco, Village Clerk