

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MATTESON VILLAGE HALL
4900 VILLAGE COMMONS
ON THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2003

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

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

Also present were: Joseph Perozzi, Village Attorney; David Mekarski, Village Administrator; Hildy Kingma, Director of Community Development; Vince Laoang, Director of Public Works; Robert Park, Police Chief; Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Recreation; and Jan Dinnocenzo, Recording Secretary.

There was no public comment

OPPORTUNITY FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT

Trustee Green moved that the agenda order be changed placing Agenda Item Number 1, pertaining to the adoption of the Budget, after Item Number 5 and moving Items 2, 3, 4, and 5 up. This would allow the Board to consider the various ordinances affecting the budget prior to its adoption. Seconded by Trustee Brown.

OLD BUSINESS

- AYES: (6) Ashmore, Green, Motton, Maxwell
Johnson, and Brown
- NAYS:(0)
- ABSTAIN: (0)
- ABSENT: (0)

2) Mr. David Mekarski, Village Administrator, stated that the proposed ordinance would allow for the creation of a special revenue fund for depositing and allocating all municipal utility tax revenues.

CONSIDERATION OF AN
ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL
VILLAGE REVENUE FUND

Upon questioning from Trustee Motton, Administrator Mekarski noted that the Village Board had discussed the various utility taxes at several lengthy Board

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meetings and workshops which were all open to the public. He verified that without the proposed utility tax revenues, the Village's fund balance would be critically low in the event of an emergency and could jeopardize the Village's bond rating. It was also noted that many communities, as well as the State of Illinois, are facing the same financial challenges as the Village of Matteson.

Trustee Motton moved that the Board of Trustees adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 7, entitled Taxation of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Matteson, Cook County, Illinois, establishing a special Village revenue fund for depositing all utility tax revenues and allocating the use of said funds. Seconded by Trustee Maxwell.

Trustee Motton stated that he felt it would be a disservice to the community to vote against the various utility taxes at this time. He noted that because the Village is not a home rule community, there is nowhere else to go for the needed revenues to maintain Village services.

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

NAYS:(0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

3) Trustee Green, referencing the discussion held during the prior agenda item, moved that the Board adopt the ordinance amending Chapter 37, entitled "Taxation", of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Matteson, Cook County, Illinois, adopting a municipal utility tax on gas, being 5%. Seconded by Trustee Brown.

CONSIDERATION OF AN
ORDINANCE ADOPTING A
MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAX
ON GAS

Trustee Maxwell stated that the budget gap this year was well above last year's and noted that in addition to staff reduction, approximately \$2 million was cut from various budget line items. The adoption of the utility taxes was the last resort in order to provide the much needed services to the community.

Trustee Motton noted that the equivalent of 12 full time jobs were cut from the proposed budget and without the additional revenue, more jobs will have to be cut, affecting services to the community.

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

NAYS:(0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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ABSENT: (0)

4) Trustee Motton moved that the Board adopt the ordinance amending Chapter 37, entitled "Taxation", of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Matteson, Cook County, Illinois, adopting a municipal utility tax on electricity. Seconded by Trustee Brown.

CONSIDERATION OF AN
ORDINANCE ADOPTING A
MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAX
ON ELECTRICITY

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

NAYS:(0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

5) Trustee Motton moved that the Board adopt the ordinance amending Chapter 37, entitled "Taxation", of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Matteson, Cook County, Illinois, adopting a municipal utility tax on telecommunications. Seconded by Trustee Brown.

CONSIDERATION OF AN
ORDINANCE ADOPTING A
MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAX
ON TELECOMMUNICA-
TIONS

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

NAYS:(0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

1) Administrator Mekarski stated that the proposed budget, which had previously been made available to the public, was distributed this evening to members of the audience. He reiterated the fact that, like most communities, Matteson has realized a decrease in revenues, primarily in sales tax, and an increase in expenditures, noting the dramatic increase in health and benefit costs alone, which created a large gap. Administrator Mekarski reported that the proposed budget before the Board this evening is a balanced budget, providing additional revenues over expenditures to help ensure a healthy cash flow in preparation for contingencies for next year's budget in the event the economy does not recover.

CONSIDERATION OF AN
ORDINANCE ADOPTING
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2003-2004

Trustee Green thanked the staff and the Finance Committee for all their hard work, noting that this was the most difficult budget in all her years of service.

Trustee Green moved that the Board approve the ordinance adopting the budget for all corporate purposes of the Village of Matteson, Cook County, Illinois, for the fiscal year commencing the first day of May, 2003 and ending the thirtieth day of April, 2004. Seconded by Trustee Brown.

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Trustee Brown stated that one of the goals of the Board is to move towards broadening the tax base rather than restricting it. He noted that property taxes restrict the tax base to a certain group, namely the property owners. By the adoption of the various fee schedules and utility taxes, the Village is broadening the tax base, thereby allowing people outside of the Village who are serviced by the Village to contribute to the tax base as well. He added that the benefit of being a Home Rule community would provide for the broadening of the tax base – have many people pay a little bit rather than have one group, property owners, paying for the majority of services.

Trustee Motton stated that he was in receipt of a newspaper article listing many communities that are also dealing with financial difficulties and incorporating creative revenue enhancing methods. He requested that everyone present receive a copy of said article.

President Stricker advised that reform needs to be addressed in Springfield. He pointed out that only a small portion of property taxes collected are allocated to the Village.

AYES: (6) Ashmore, Green, Motton, Maxwell
Johnson, and Brown
NAYS:(0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (0)

6) Administrator Mekarski noted that the Village will be conducting an executive search for a new Finance Director. However, in the interim period, the retention of services of an independent contractor will assist in the completion of a series of projects necessary for the fiduciary management of the Village.

NEW BUSINESS

INTERIM FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CONTRACT

Upon questioning from Trustee Motton, Mr. Lafayette Lanier stated that he presently had no contracts, working agreements, or working relationships with any Board members.

On the request of Trustees Brown and Motton, Mr. Lanier summarized his experiences relating to government work and gave a brief synopsis of his resume.

Trustee Motton moved that the Board of Trustees authorize the Village Administrator to enter into a limited contractual services agreement with Mr. Lafayette Lanier, CPA to perform various duties and responsibilities necessary for the continuing operations of the Village's Finance Department. Seconded by

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Trustee Brown.

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

NAYS:(0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

Trustee Ashmore moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
at 8:19 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

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

NAYS:(0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Grisco, Village Clerk