



JOINT ASSEMBLY OF
OAK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Minutes
Saturday, October 25, 2014
Brooks Middle School Commons
325 South Kenilworth Avenue, Oak Park
9:00 am-11:30 am

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Village President Anan Abu-Taleb.

Attendees:

Elementary School District 97 Board: Graham Brisben, Amy Felton, Jim Gates, Jim O'Connor, Bob Spatz, Peter Traczyk

Oak Park Library Board: Matt Baron, Janet Kelenson, David Sokol

Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 Board: Steve Gevinson, Ralph Lee, Jeff Weissglass

Oak Park Township Board: David Boulanger, Clarmarie Keenan, Jim Taglia

Park District of Oak Park Board: Paul Aeschleman, Jessica Bullock, Vic Guarino, Sandy Lentz, Dave Wick

Village of Oak Park Board: Anan Abu-Taleb, Peter Barber, Colette Lueck, Andrea Ott, Adam Salzman, Bob Tucker

Absent:

Elementary School District 97 Board: Denise Sacks

Oak Park Library Board: Win Fox, Matt Fruth, Lane Hart, Bruce Samuels

Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 Board: Tom Cofsky, Julie Moore, Sharon Patchak-Layman, John Phelan

Oak Park Township Board: Mary Cozzens, Ade Onayemi

Park District of Oak Park Board: None

Village of Oak Park Board: Glenn Brewer

Others Public Officials Attending:

Ali ElSaffar – Township Assessor

Teresa Powell – Village Clerk

Staff Members Attending:

Jan Arnold, Park District Executive Director

Tod Altenburg, District 200 CFO

Kyle Crary, Park District Director of Finance

Sheryl Marinier, District 97 Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Gavin Morgan, Township Manager

Jack Norton, Township Director of Finance

Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager

Albert Roberts, District 97 Superintendent

David Seleb, Library Executive Director

Welcome

Village President Anan Abu-Taleb welcomed those attending this Joint Assembly of local government boards and noted that it was good when every local government could break bread and talk taxes. He stated that they share a

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balance grew as a result of the phase in of the 2002 referendum as well as expense management and reached nearly 200% of the operating budget. Last year an ad hoc Finance Advisory Committee recommended that they phase down the fund balance to below 100% of operating expenses within two to four years and down to 40% in eight years, balancing significant capital investment needs and tax level. Plans are under consideration to reduce the levy again this year; this can only be done for two years because of school code rules. If no action is taken on the fund balance the fund balance would still have 120% of operating expenses in five years. Challenges include implementation of the strategic plan, educating students on knowledge, skills and character and pursuing excellence and equity.

Village of Oak Park

Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager of the Village of Oak Park, explained that as a home rule unit of local government under state law, the Village can take such actions provided they are not specifically prohibited for a city/village by state statute. The Village has more than thirty funds that fall into four categories. In addition to the general operating fund, enterprise funds cover all expenses through related revenues, such as user fees. Internal service funds cover special expenses such as debt service. Special revenue funds include categories such as community development block grants which must be tracked separately under federal requirements. When considering general revenue funds, the percent of property tax is about 50%. Expenses are shown by all funds, with wages and benefits less than 50%, and contractual services account for functions outsourced by the Village. Considering only the general operating fund, public safety services account for roughly 65% of expenses. The village board has in recent years approved the annual budget restricting expenditures at an amount less than projected revenue. The general fund balance policy is 10% to 20% of expenditures and while the village is not in compliance with this policy it is noteworthy that a \$10 million deficit in the parking fund offed to the general fund since 2008 will be paid off this fiscal year. She discussed various regulations which impact how services are delivered and which require varied expertise. Fifty-five percent of village employees are part of the village's 24/7 operation (police, fire and emergency medical service). Another significant financial impact to the village is police and fire pensions, which represent 30% of total the total tax levy received by the Village. For every dollar paid to a fire fighter another 55 cents is contributed to the fire pension fund. For police pension costs are 33 cents for every dollar of salary. These are set by state law but funded by the local property tax levy. She concluded by referencing the increased percentage of the property valuation in the village classified as residential over the past two decades which is indicative of the shifting tax burden.

Breakout sessions followed the presentations between the different entities at each table.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Spatz thanked the members of the Assembly planning committee.

It was moved by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Baron that the meeting that the meeting be adjourned at 11:25 a.m.


Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

November 20, 2014
Date


President
Board of Park Commissioners

November 20, 2014
Date