

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The special meeting of the Village Board was called to order by President Staton at 6:14 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2007.
2. **ROLLCALL.** Present: Jerry Bollig, Darlene Groenier, Phil Harms, Jon Lourigan, Eric Poole, Steve Staton and Randy Way. Also present: Village Administrator Mike Gracz, Finance Director Renee Hoeft, Public Works Director Mark Below, Library Director Vicki Cothroll and Clerk Georgia Johnson.
3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS.**
  - a) **Overview of 2008 Budget and Public Hearing on 2008 Budget.** Gracz stated as mentioned during the budget meetings the staff feels the 2008 budget allows the Village to continue to work on the major capital projects including the downtown renovation in 2008. This is all being done without increasing Village taxes. We would be increasing staffing as a result of the Village's growth with the addition of a Police Officer—which will be designated for crime prevention and traffic enforcement; an additional fulltime Fire/EMS position and a new part time deputy chief position in the Fire Department which will improve public safety capabilities; will be adding Library Sunday hours; increasing the starting pay range for the Sr. Center Assistant Director position; adding a Village planner/economic development position; implementing the new recycling program and purchasing new police squads which will allow us to get back on the rotation schedule. The budget also includes funding to begin the community process of identifying long and short term goals and objectives for the Village. Gracz stated this is maintaining a constant tax rate for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year—the Village's portion of the tax bill will remain the same. We are in compliance with the State mandated property tax cap; we continue the practice started in 2004 of not using fund balance to fund ongoing operations in the budget; will continue with installing the improvements in the Oregon Business Park which is part of TIF#2; there is funding to do some initial preparation for a possible TIF creation for the Southeast Business Park next year and will be doing that in conjunction with the DOT's work on Highway 14; complete the downtown intersection project in accordance with the TIF #3 plan under TE grant requirements; the Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting; have been talking about the 2008 downtown intersection project and it is anticipated finishing the rest of the downtown improvements as part of the TIF grant in 2009. It is hoped to finish the initial loop of the pedestrian bike path in Keller Alpine Meadows Park (was budgeted in 2007 but only got one bid so will be rebidding that); will continue the Village's support for the Youth Center—the budget provides for the use of the building rent free to the Center for another year along with a cash payment of \$9,000; will continue to fund the 2 student employees through the School District program and will be creating a permanent parttime position as well in that area; this will be the second year for the funding of the Historic Preservation Commission's activities. Gracz thanked the Board members and the Department Heads and the Finance Director for all the efforts put into preparing the 2008 budget and stated he recommends approval of the budget. Gracz asked Hoeft to go over the 2007 tax bill including the 2006 Department of Revenue error that was talked about last year at this time.

Hoeft referred to the tax letter that was mailed to all residents in 2006 regarding the error made by the Department of Revenue in the valuation in the Town of Oregon which resulted in the Village residents getting a smaller share of the School levy than it should have—about \$62.00 for a home valued at \$180,000—about \$122.00 for a home valued at \$360,000. This letter went out last December advising residents that they might want to save for the 2007 taxes because residents will see the \$62.00 credited last year plus the \$62.00 for this year. This means that for a \$180,000 home there will be a minimum increase of \$122.00—for a \$360,000 home there will be a \$244.00 increase before any increase by any of the taxing jurisdictions. The Village's portion of the tax bill for a \$180,000 home is going down \$.17. Hoeft stated that because the State budget was adopted so late we do not have key numbers that are needed to calculate the tax bills—the State credit for the schools (due out no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>) and the lottery credit—they try to have that out by this time but it is not and it is not known when it will come out. Hoeft stated Dane County prints

tax bills for 61 of the municipalities in the County and they have not started printing any tax bills yet because without these key numbers none of the municipalities are able to calculate their levy. Consequently it is not known when the tax bills will be coming out.

Staton thanked staff and department heads for the good work on the budget and the trustees. Staton advised that the Board did have three meetings in October focused only on the budget with each meeting being three hours or more going through the budget items item by item. He noted that is where the vast majority of the discussions on the budget take place.

Staton opened the public hearing at 6:22 p.m. on the 2008 budget. Aaron Tomlinson, 870 Dunn Avenue, expressed concerns he had with the process of preparing the budget and does not feel that that occurred and what the public is getting for its money. Staton closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m. Harms responded to Tomlinson's concerns stating that the Board has an opportunity to review the budget ahead of time and to make a decision based on what is presented to them, based on what has happened in the past and on what the Village's future needs are and that is his method of operation for approving the budget. There was some discussion.

- b) Discussion and Possible Action re: Approval of Resolution #07-22. Bollig moved to adopt Resolution #07-22, adopting the 2008 budget. Second by Poole. Way noted he would be abstaining from the vote. Roll call vote: Bollig – yes; Groenier – yes; Harms – yes; Lourigan – yes; Poole – yes; Staton – yes; Way – abstaining. Motion carried 6-0-1, with Way abstaining.
4. **DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**. Gracz stated one of the Board members cannot be at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and has asked that the Board make a recommendation on submitting the FEMA and DNR Grants at a special meeting. That has been scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion and it was agreed to hold the meeting at 5:00 p.m.
5. **REVIEW OF APPRAISAL PROCESS FOR DNR GRANT.**
- a) December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Submission of Proposals to the Village.
  - b) December 5<sup>th</sup> Board Hires Firm.
  - c) December 6<sup>th</sup> Appraisals begin and completed within 30 days.
  - d) January 15<sup>th</sup> DNR Grant due. Gracz stated it was requested that these go out last week and they did. These dates are for informational purposes.
6. **DISCUSSION OF HAVING ONE (1) BOARD MEMBER ATTEND MEETINGS WITH OREGON COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND INITIAL EMAIL TO OCSA.** Gracz stated the email suggests that the OCSA come back with a list of amendments they want and then they can be looked at one issue at a time. In a discussion with the Village Attorney this is similar to the approach that was used to settle the HVAC system problem at the Police Department and it is felt that is a good approach. Gracz asked if there is a Board member that would like to join staff in these discussions. Bollig nominated Trustee Harms if he would be willing. There was some discussion and it was agreed that Harms would attend the meetings with staff, the attorney and the OCSA.
7. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on motion by Bollig, second by Poole. Motion carried 7-0.

Submitted by  
Georgia Johnson, Village Clerk