

TOWN OF CORTLAND
Town Hall
59 S. Somonauk Road
Cortland, IL 60112
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Business Meeting
April 25, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Mayor Seyller called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Roll call was taken by Clerk Cheryl Aldis. Shown as present were Mayor Seyller and Trustees Sandra Barzso, Randy Reiter, Chuck Lanning, Brad Stone, and Mike Siewierski. Shown as absent was Trustee Doug Corson. Quorum was present. Other officials present were Administrator Walter Magdziarz, Treasurer Mike Lamz, and Police Chief Dennis Medema.

Agenda

Trustee Siewierski moved and Trustee Barzso seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Public Wishing to Speak

Visitor Christian Maurer addressed the Board with his opinion regarding taxation without representation.

Consent Agenda

Clerk Cheryl Aldis read the Consent Agenda into the record.

Approve Town Board Minutes of March 28, and April 11 and April 18, 2011

Approve Treasurer's Report of March 2011

Approve Expenditure Report of March 2011

Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Stone seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Siewierski, Reiter, Barzso, Stone and Lanning

Nays: None

Absent: Trustees Corson.

5-yea; 0-nay; 1-absent; motion carried.

Town Administrator's Report

Contractor is working on water tower issue, albeit slowly. There has been a development at wastewater plant. The Town's engineer is searching for people to give suitable advice regarding a bubble in the liner. The department has taken delivery of platform – floating surface from which to work in the lagoons. When questioned about the bubble Mr. Magdziarz replied that a bubble in the liner appeared in cell 3 (it is under the liner) as water level is lowered it was observed.

New Business

Approve FY12 Town of Cortland Budget and Wage and Benefit Scale and Approve the FY12 Cortland Community Library Budget

Approved: June 27, 2011

Attest:

Trustee Reiter moved and Trustee Lanning seconded a motion to approve the FY12 Budget with the removal of the Wage & Benefit Scale, inclusion of the suggested changes in the budget summary report and elimination of the Organizational Chart.

Roll call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Siewierski, Stone, Reiter, Lanning and Barzso

Nays: None

Absent: Trustees Corson.

5-yea; 0-nay; 1-absent; motion carried.

Discussion:

Trustee Reiter stated he was not able to attend the last meeting due to a conflict. He made the following comments page by page:

Introduction (page 2) great to see 3.5% decrease. Questioned the statement of expectation in the published document – decreased legal fees. We don't really know that will be true?

Mr. Magdziarz said it reflects what is proposed.

Treasurer Lamz stated there was \$200,000 in litigation fees in the current fiscal year.–Next year should be half the cost.

Page 3 – Budget Document and Format, 3rd sentence – “Prior budget documents solely represented the numbers associated with the Town’s operations” is not a necessary comment and creates a negative situation. Work was done in the past as it is currently.

Mr. Magdziarz stated he did not think the words diminished what was done in the past.

Mr. Reiter stated it was an unnecessary comment in the least – he thinks it is a negative comment and should be corrected.

Page 4 – Budget Process Overview – last sentence – “In the past the Town has regarded the budget as a mandate to spend.” is a 100% false statement. “The FY 2012 will begin the transition of recognizing the authority to spend within appropriate revenue matching limits or below.” ...Trustee Reiter stated the he could not think of one manager that ever thought they could just spend. He states he would like to see this stricken from the document.

Mr. Magdziarz response – what he is trying to call attention to is the perception. We have an approved budget, let's spend it. Like it or not that is the approach, or attitude of some of the staff, seen prior to this position. The Town has staff trying to figure out how to make purchases before the budget is approved. The biggest problem is cash flow at the present time.

Mr. Reiter – anything that has been purchased in the past ten years – what I've seen is that department heads have tried the best that they can to be as economical as possible. At the same time, if they are looking at it before the budget, discussion could be that they are looking, not purchasing prior to budget.

Mr. Magdziarz in clarification; attempting to spend before the dollars are available.

Yes, we have a budget; everyone works within the parameters of the budget. Cash flow is the issue. Items approved in the budget are approved, but when the cash is available.

Mr. Reiter -A false assumption is being made that the department heads don't understand this process; the Mayor had to approve the expenditures or purchases would not have been authorized.
Mr. Reiter stated he still thinks it is a false statement and asks that it be stricken from the record.

Chuck Lanning asked for clarification, no budgeted dollars will be rolled to the next fiscal year if not spent.

Mayor Seyller replied, yes.

Treasurer Lamz stated he had been asked during this budget year, if I don't spend will it be moved to next year? In financing, the answer is no. "It is in my line, so I should find a way to spend it." The treasurer's belief is that is where the statement is coming from.

Page 6 – last sentence, second paragraph – doesn't make sense. Is this a typographical error – yes.

Page 7 – 4th paragraph; Mr. Reiter stated he understands what it is say but needs extra explanation if it is to stay in the document. We have spoken about litigation during the past two years. Suggested that explaining why this has happened would make a better paragraph.

Walter Magdziarz agreed with the suggestion.

Streets and maintenance should be Operations and Maintenance.

Page 8 – Police Department – 2nd paragraph; we might wish to put staffing changes, add the year for clarity, effective date, not discussion date.

Page 11 – last sentence – "While not a factor for the 2010 fiscal year, in coming years we will likely see Real Estate Taxes decline as Equalized Assessed Valuations decline from the depressed market." The EAV notation is only true if the board chooses to change the levy. Mr. Reiter asked that the last sentence be stricken from the document. Mr. Magdziarz agreed.

Page 12 – 2nd paragraph 1st sentence; "we request..." suggested changing "We" to "I" because it is Walter's statement. Agreed.

Page 13 – reflective of any statement – Operations & Maintenance should be changed and made accurate. Remodeling costs loan – reflected in the budget.

Page 13 - 2nd paragraph last sentence; "Presently, department managers are struggling with basic financial management as opposed to attempting to spend every last dollar." Mr. Reiter stated he was not sure what Walter was really trying to say, however, his interpretation would be an insult to the department heads.

Mr. Magdziarz said it is a statement of fact that everyone is struggling to stay within their budgets. The clarifying statement is "as opposed to..." Mr. Reiter conceded he was reading it incorrectly and retracted the comment.

Page 14 – Sewer Fund Summary - \$18,000 for ATV. Why did this get listed specifically when other departments were not singled out?

Treasurer Lamz said it gives the total capital expenditures; it needs to be in there to make the total.

Mr. Stone suggested it be changed to equipment instead of the piece of equipment. – Agreed.
End of the summary.

Budget

Page 16 – list of officers; Mr. Reiter stated that because he is voting on this document should not his name be listed on the document?

Mr. Magdziarz – yes – apologies.

Mr. Reiter stated that the Town has no finance department, in actuality that is something we would have to create.

Mr. Magdziarz concurred.

Randy Reiter, so in actuality it cannot be named on this document. He stated he wants the Board to be consistent and legal as to what is already on record.

Change Finance department – delete and move under Administration (Mike Lamz)

Change Streets Maintenance to Operation & Maintenance [Clerk's note: these changes were not made in the final document.]

Page 17 – Organizational Chart; Mr. Reiter questioned its composition.

Residents and Merchants – merchants does not belong there.

Mr. Magdziarz, we don't supply services?

Mr. Reiter, voters are the ones that tell the elected officials, taxpayers expect services.

Mr. Magdziarz asked why not recognize the merchants, they pay property tax and expect services.

Mr. Reiter, I'm looking at the dictatorial statement of this document. It is a very incorrect statement at the top of this chart. We start with the voters; we are responsible to the electorate. We are responsible to do a responsible service to the business. You are saying that the merchants are equally responsible for the operation of the town.

Mr. Lanning asked why not take the document to committee for further discussion. He stated he had other concerns with the document, i.e., the Board of trustees is over the office of Town Clerk, etc. it is not over any of those groups.

The use of dictatorship was further discussed. Mr. Reiter stated his opinion that this is a level of dictatorship – where it starts and finishes. The word dictator is not relative – this document should not be a part of the budget.

Page 10 of General Fund Budget – Total Capital Outlay – Interfund Transfers

2011 – What is the \$49,180 for?

\$50,000 transferred to Restricted Asset Funds as collateral for the Operations & Maintenance building.

Page 20 Sewer Department, Page 24 Water Department

Consulting fees - \$17,500(pg 20) & \$40,800(pg 24) what are these fees?

Allocation of costs for a full-time person and additional help. The Clerk's office is currently performing the duties of the Billing Clerk.

Is it a proper way of showing the cost? Total personnel services- why not call it what it is?

Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Siewierski seconded a motion to Approve an Agreement Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of De Kalb (Somonauk Road Sidewalks and Bike Paths).

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Trustees Reiter, Lanning, Siewierski, Barzso, and Stone

Nays: None

Absent: Trustees Corson.

5-yea; 0-nay; 1-absent; motion carried.

A2011-01

Walter Magdziarz stated the county approached the town several years ago; this only applies to sidewalks that are in the county's right-of-way. The county does not allow pedestrian facilities in its rights-of-way but wishes the town to be able to provide same. This document has nothing to do with the existing sidewalk in front of Orville Olson's property.

There will be no formal document with Orville Olson regarding the installation of a path on his property abutting Somonauk Road.

The Whereas clauses do not specifically allow others to be responsible. Mr. Magdziarz said that the County does not wish to have a third party involved.

Adopt a Resolution Opposing Changes to the Local Government Distributive Fund.

Trustee Stone moved and Trustee Lanning seconded a motion to Adopt a Resolution Opposing Reduction of State Collected Revenues Due Municipalities.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Trustees Lanning, Siewierski, Reiter, Barzso, and Stone

Nays: None

Absent: Trustees Corson.

5-yea; 0-nay; 1-absent; motion carried.

R2011-05

Currently the state collects the town's portion of income tax for the town and is to be distributed to the town of Cortland. This resolution defines what those monies are used for specific to the Town of Cortland.

Liaison Reports

Festival/Parade – Mr. Stone stated they will be meeting Tuesday, April 26. He asked if the committee could go ahead and plan a full year of events; 2 movie nights, summer fest and festival not to exceed \$20,000. An affirmative answer was given.

Planning Commission – Chairman Brad Lawson

Next Meeting: May 2, 2011

President's Report

Mayor Seyller reported that he had attended ILM Legislative Day April 13. He noted that he was invited in with the Clerks to the Governor's Office for the presentation of the Proclamation of Municipal Clerk's Week. Mayor Seyller invited the governor to come and visit Cortland and look at the Sanitary Sewer Treatment Plant. The Mayor reminded all that this is the weekend for the garage sales.

Town Board
April 25, 2011

Concerns / Comments

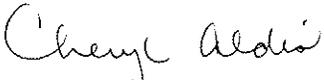
Mr. Siewierski stated that development of a comprehensive sidewalk plan is essential.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment Mayor Seyller thanked Randy Reiter for his time and commitment for filling a vacancy. The thank you was echoed by all present.

Trustee Stone moved and Trustee Barzso seconded a motion for adjournment. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Aldis
Town Clerk

WEB ACCESSSED