

**Committee of the Whole**  
**March 21, 2011**  
7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Village of Lemont Committee of the Whole was held on Monday March 21, 2011 in the Board Room of the Village Hall at 418 Main Street in Lemont, Illinois.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Reaves called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the following were present:

Trustees Paul Chialdikas, Ron Stapleton, Cliff Miklos, Rick Sniegowski, Debbie Blatzer and Jeanette Virgilio.

Also present were Village staff members Ben Wehmeier, Ralph Pukula, Gerry Turrise, Randy Earnest, James Brown, Ed Buettner, Chief Kevin Shaughnessy, Mark LaChappell, George Schafer and Village Attorneys Dan Blondin and Jeffery Stein.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Discussion of Scout Request

Mr. Wehmeier brought up a request from the Boy Scout troop in Lemont with regard to bb- gun shooting in town. The scout group is working with the Lemont Township to do their shooting on township property, but there is nothing in the municipal code that allows for activity. Village Attorney Jeff Stein stated that there would need to be an amendment to the code to allow the activity, with some sort of permitting process to be approved by the Village through the Chief of Police. The Village Board did not see an issue with the request. The item would be up for approval at a future Board meeting.

Discussion of Tow Policy

The Police Department recently opened up opportunities for a number of businesses to gain the towing business for the Lemont Police Department. In the past, Reed's has done a majority of the tows due to their close proximity to the town. Chief Shaughnessy stated that there are approximately 300 cars towed every year from the Police Department. 2 firms submitted requests to provide towing in the Village, and the police department will be working with both firms. There were some questions about offering residents a reduced tow in extreme circumstances such as during parades or snow events. Chief Shaughnessy stated that Reed's would typically provide a free re-location of a vehicle at a village event, so the resident wouldn't have to pay a high tow charge. However, if a car has to be towed due to blocking traffic or another hazard, Reed's will charge the Village, and the village passes the charge onto the responsible party. There was little additional discussion on the topic.

## Discussion of FY 2011-2012 Budget

Mr. Wehmeier gave a presentation on the FY 2011-2012 operating and capital budget. This year's budget was particularly difficult with state shared revenue in the decline and other unknowns from the state level. The budget the departments have submitted is primarily based on focusing dollars on basic core service functions.

Mr. Wehmeier began by going over the various revenue figures in the budget including stabilization in sales tax and decrease in expected income tax, use tax, and fines. License and permits is expected to increase due to 2012 being a vehicle sticker year.

On the expenditure side, no major change in the Mayor and Village Board. The Board agreed that the Village would continue not being a member of the DuPage Mayor and Manager's council of government, as the value of being in the organization does not equal the annual cost.

In the administrative and finance budget, regular salaries reduced due to reduction in force, and consulting line items were moved to admin and finance. In the Public Works budget, a mini sweeper, 2 mowers, and a couple utility trailers were put in to replace equipment. In the vehicle maintenance budget there is a slight increase due primarily to cost of fuel. There was a further discussion on the fuel costs. At this point it is a bit of a wild card with \$4 a gallon gas looming in the future. In the police department, special note was given to costs for accreditation, grant expenses, and 2 new squad cars. Nothing new in the building department, relatively flat with a slight increase due to building activity. In the Planning & Economic Development Dept, consulting was put in the budget for the comprehensive plan update. Building and Grounds budget was increased slightly due to deferred maintenance issues at Village Hall. LEMA's budget was increased slightly due to the replacement of four radios and a new tornado siren. The General Account budget increased due to health care increases primarily.

In the project funds, the Downtown TIF is showing an increase in real estate taxes. Along with debt service, the projects include façade grant program, and the resurfacing of the Lemont/Canal Street lot, Stephen street lot, and engineering for Illinois Street reconstruction. In the Water and Sewer fund, major projects include water meter and valve replacement program continuation, and 50k for the replacement of pickup vehicles. Sewer expenses were included for the ongoing CSO monitoring and long term compliance with MWRD requirements for overflows. Major projects include the Warner Ave storm sewer separation and Stephen street water main project. Also, the village will serve as a conduit for a developer financed water main extension on Bell Road. In the water and sewer capital fund the remainder of the bond funds will be used for the Houston St water tower rehab, Houston Street and State Street water system rehab, Houston St Water Main replacement, New Ave water main replacement, and Kim/Kip/Keepataw water main replacement. In the Canal TIF fund, the only projects include the remainder of the developer financed I&M canal landscape project, and the LED light parking garage conversion project. The winning contractor for LED project that was bid out previously will be honoring its bid for the project. In the Gateway TIF fund, it will be collecting revenues for the first full fiscal year. Staff is recommending using the funds to partially abate the SSA payment. In the road improvement fund, the major project will be the McCarthy Road project to include engineering, construction and land acquisition. 70% of the project funding will come from a state grant.

There were some other general comments on the budget and state of the Village finances. The entire budget will be in front of the Village Board at the April 11<sup>th</sup> Village Board Meeting, for a May 1 implementation. Along with the budget, the authorized positions ordinance will be presented to the Board.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

No Audience Participation

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Reaves adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM