

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE KIMBERLY VILLAGE BOARD**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

Chairman Kuen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present for roll call were Trustees Gaffney, Hammen, Hruzek, Opsteen, Weber and Chairman Kuen. Absent and excused was Trustee Trentlage. Also present were Street Commissioner Vander Velden, Community Enrichment Director Schaefer, Complex Supt. Brouillard and one citizen.

President Kuen started the budget review by noting the letter covering the budget process from Administrator Hermus, and the hurdles we face as a community. The revenues were reviewed first, noting several reductions including interest earning, shared revenues, transportation aids and court fines. A question was addressed regarding short term borrowing being done to offset the levy increase. Administrator Hermus noted that this is not considered appropriate, but was done for the 1984 budget. The Village almost lost their bond rating due to that experience.

The question was raised regarding the impact the 3% increase for wages has on the Street Department budget. Administrator Hermus will calculate the impact. Street Commissioner Vander Velden estimated it at \$15,000.

The health insurance premium issue was discussed. As we have two plans, and the state has the 105% rule (we cannot pay more than 105% of the lowest cost plan) members taking the United policy will be paying over 8.5% of the premiums in 2010 (from \$73 to about \$150). Other than this, we must remain within the rules of the State of Wisconsin to maintain their health plan. To get out of the plan was investigated about two years ago, and they were found to be either non-compatible, or carriers would not quote due to our size. An effort to seek quotes as a group (Kimberly, Kaukauna, Little Chute and Combined Locks) failed.

The issue of "maintenance of effort" guidelines was discussed. We already have MOE for the library, and now the state has instituted MOE for all safety services (Police & Fire). Based on this, the Board would not want to increase their budgets past the minimum amount for fear we have "raised the bar" that we must now maintain into the future.

Several issues within the budget details were discussed, with staff supplying information and clarification.

After the review, the Board addressed two questions of Administrator Hermus, being an increase of taxes over the 3% target, or bonding for capital projects. The Board did not want to increase taxes more than the 3% target, and felt bonding would only complicate future years' budgets by postponing the inevitable.

The complex usage information shared by Complex Supt. Brouillard was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Brouillard is not recommending any increases in fees. He was asked by Administrator Hermus to prepare documentation of the building usage and rates for the Boards

review. Many of the civic groups include non-residents, but are either based in town, or have members from town (Legion, Knights of Columbus, TOPS, etc.) Also, the fees for building usage are relatively low for the facilities and service they receive.

The Electronic Dog Fence issue was discussed, along with Chief Misselt's comments, which includes recommended language that would prohibit an animal from "molesting passersby", and requiring fences to be 3 or 4 feet from the sidewalk. Trustee Hruzek agreed with the language changes, and making the setback at 5 feet, and signage. The retroactive nature of the language was noted as a concern due to the new "wireless" systems, and the difficult nature of tracking. After much discussion, it was agreed to send this information to Chief Misselt for further review, knowing the intent of the Board's discussion.

Administrator Hermus noted that the approval process for the Riverview Pond is not going well. The DNR is denying all in-line ponds, and asking communities for alternatives. The alternatives will include condemning homes and building ponds on residential property. We were also told that the October 1 date may be artificial, and there may be some leeway regarding the approval process.

Community Enrichment Director Schaefer noted that the Sunset Overlook, which was destroyed by arson last week, is currently under police control as a crime scene. Once the scene is released, we will have Vandehey Landscaping come in and take a look at the structure to order materials to rebuild. It will probably not be rebuilt until next spring. The insurance carrier has been notified. There is a \$5,000 deductible, with over \$96,000 in the Self Insurance Retention Fund.

Trustee Hammen moved, Gaffney seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

Rick J. Hermus  
Administrator/Clerk