

Present: Chairperson Belaustegui; Members: Merritt, Mooney and Piotrowicz

Absent: Fassett, Nowland and Roberts

Also Present: Council Member, Pfeifer

Belaustegui called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Merritt, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion passed (4 – 0).

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mooney, second by Merritt, that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on July 11, 2006 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (4 – 0).

DISCUSS AND CONFIRM FUTURE REVIEW PLANS: PUBLIC SAFETY, WATER & SEWERAGE, MAJOR & LOCAL ROADS

Belaustegui will address the Administration & Facilities category this evening and will report on the topics of Council & Community, Public Works, and Trash Collection & Disposal. The question was raised as to when the Committee proposes to conclude its fact gathering and written commentary portion of the process, considering that there will be a Council election in November. It was suggested that there be something in place to support the election in terms of available information and to provide relevant material to those who join the Council. There will be two Finance Committee meetings prior to the November election and one shortly after the election.

Members considered the amount of time that it will take to prepare key revenue and cost elements for the components of the plan dealing with the Public Safety Department, Water & Sewerage, and Major & Local Roads. There was agreement to cover as much of these areas as possible at the next meeting. Dennis Fassett is slated to work on the Public Safety commentary. It was noted that he will be out of action for another week or ten days due to an injury. Gary Piotrowicz is handling Roads. Belaustegui will work with John Mooney on the Water & Sewerage area.

Belaustegui proposed adding a column to the matrix for “2005/06 Actual” and “2006-07 Budget” in order to provide a complete picture of where we have been and where we are going. The committee will then start to look at the future, deciding what it thinks the big issues are and which areas should be studied first.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS COMMENTARY ON ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES, COUNCIL & COMMUNITY, PUBLIC WORKS, AND TRASH COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

Belaustegui reviewed a two-page narrative on Administration and Facilities and highlighted written commentaries on the topics of Council & Community, Public Works, and Trash Collection & Disposal. He identified reasonable efforts to control costs in each of these categories and noted reasons for any significant increases or decreases in expenditures. Copies of these reports were distributed to those present.

PUBLIC/COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Pfeifer referred to a discussion of Village parks at the July 11 meeting of the Finance Committee and added to information presented on the Douglas Evans nature preserve. She commented on the deed restrictions and mentioned the use of the property by Seaholm High School as an outdoor classroom.

Belaustegui related that former Planning Board member Bob Bliven has done research on the origin of Riverside Park. It has been determined that what people view as an area park is actually an accident of platting; the park is actually 5-6 plats and not a contiguous designated plat.

Merritt questioned whether certain elements of the report on parks would be followed up by the Village. Belaustegui responded that he has a “follow up” list of items that were discussed. It has been proposed to develop a long-term plan for regular maintenance of Beverly Park including its existing assets, which would lead to a Council policy and annual budgeting that would keep the park from deteriorating.

Mooney commented that he was disappointed by the way that Tom Nowland and Ed Roberts were treated by Council in that they were not reappointed to the Finance Committee based on their attendance record. He believes that basing their percentage of attendance on eight meetings held by a newly created body was unfair.

Piotrowicz had questions relative to the direction of the committee following compilation of the data for the financial plan study matrix.

Belaustegui responded that the committee will update some of the material and discuss any outstanding issues. It will have the facts and an understanding about how things work and will talk about where the Village is going in the future and how it will get there. The Finance Committee will come up with something strategic for Council to deal with in its next phase to address the issue of financial management of the Village. The Committee needs to look at the big picture in terms of where taxes and revenue are going, working back from the revenue stream to figure out where the deficiencies will be and what needs to be done. The Village will have to start looking towards the future and determine if it is as efficient as it needs to be in some areas. The Committee will wrestle with policy issues in terms of what it will recommend.

Members discussed the next phase of their work plan. The Finance Committee will aim at inputting to the next budget cycle and five-year plan. There was conversation on a number of topics including the budget processes, Village policies, and health care obligations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.