

VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD
Purpose of Hearing, Certification of Publication and Presentation of the Village's
2022 Appropriation Ordinance and Budget Materials

MINUTES
March 16, 2022 – 5:45 p.m.
2nd Floor - Board Room

Call to Order

The Public Hearing meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bellwood was called to order by Mayor Harvey at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Andre' Harvey, Clerk Janel Moreland, Trustees Ciavattone, Boston, Holman, Robinson, Delgado and Nightengale.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Village Board and others in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Harvey.

Purpose of this Public Hearing

Mayor Harvey stated the purpose of this Public Hearing, Certification of Publication for the 2022 Budget. The mayor turned it over to Attorney Castaldo.

Attorney Castaldo: The Publication for the circulation has been out there for the correct amount of time. A copy of the appropriation is available in the Finance Director's Office and the Village Clerk downstairs. The Village is proposing a balance budget for the upcoming 2022 calendar fiscal year. Any highlights I'll ask the Finance Director to give any highlights.

Finance Director Willie Norfleet: The highlights are very few but very good. The best thing is we're bringing in a balanced budget. The General Fund has increased 2.5 percent over last year. Overall, the entire funds are pretty much the same as the year before, the only difference is we have a little more revenue in the TIF area and some in utilities where we did not budget to spend all the revenue that was gathered. As far as the expenditures are concerned \$46 million dollars for the year and the revenue is \$48 million, which is about a \$2 million difference. You will have some money left over that hasn't been budget. We have some additional capital.

Attorney Castaldo – Once again mayor, we're on the path of adopting a zero real estate tax levy.

Economic Developer Peter Tsiolis – I guess I can chime in on that – We are going into the following year with a zero percent tax levy, which will be the mayor sixth consecutive year.

Mayor – We are proud of the team we have here on our fifth consecutive balanced budget. Thanks everyone for your hard work. Sixth year for not raising property taxes. There are sixteen taxing bodies on your taxes the village happens to be one. There are two taxing bodies that have not raised taxes and that is the village of Bellwood and the Bellwood Library. We know that our residents can't afford any higher taxes.

New Business:

None.

Unfinished Business:

None.

Public Comment:

Madeline McGhee – Mr. Norfleet, you said that everything is good, and the budget is being balanced. In order to make the budget balance are you moving from one line item and put into another line item? How is it being balanced? Because it seems like you're spending a lot of money.

Willie Norfleet – I think you're talking about two different things. I think you're talking about the supplemental appropriations, but the regular appropriations are looking at the request for each of the funds for each of the departments and seeing how much revenue we have to cover each of the individual departments with their particular programs and activities that they're going to do. The level of service is the same as last year except for some purchases and capital but the revenue we have coming in we cover the proposed expenditures that we have listed there.

McGhee – I know in the County we moved stuff around to help budget. Is any of that happening?
Willie Norfleet – You can if there is a particular overage, but you have to find a shortage some place to cover it. As long as you have more revenue than anticipated, that helps to offset it but tarding off with its balanced means we have enough revenue to cover the expenditures that we’re proposing indicated we have about \$2million overall in TIF and other funds where we have not appropriated anything into it, so we have some flexibility.

Mayor – Is the question is, if you have a line item that says police overtime and we have a catastrophe in the village and we spend \$100,000 more on overtime, now that line item is minus \$100,000 can you use police automobile line item to balance to make sure we stay revenue? **McGhee** – No. **Mayor** – When you say we’re moving money from here to here? **McGhee** – Sometimes when you have line items that are not active, you move money around to make it budget. **Mayor** – gave another example using police depart.
Peter Tsiolis – I do want to answer that if I may. I know what question you’re asking. It happens in a lot of governments when they move from one pot to another a lot of games the county play, some games some not games. If you look at the villages overall budget for the past ten years, specially the last five years, the village did spend less money in the general fund than 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 so if you look at the history, there was a period of time the mayor and former comptroller where those games were being played. Those games are not happening today, there is a real surplus, these are audited numbers, there was an audited surplus last year, we received certificate of achievement awards. We’ve never had them before, so we don’t have to move money to make items look good. I think what the finance director is saying to you is that theoretically we’re not in the practice of balancing the budget by moving funds from one pot to another. It was happening here in around 2009, 2010.

Adjournment

Mayor Harvey requested a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing meeting. Trustee Holman moved, seconded by Trustee Boston to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Harvey declared the meeting adjourned, with no further business to come before the Board, this meeting stands adjourned at 5:55p.m. That concludes the Public Hearing. There is a Board Meeting that starts at 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janel Moreland
Village Clerk