

# VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA SPECIAL BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS

## January 4, 2023

The Village of Osceola Board met for a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at Village Hall, room 205. Village President, Jeromy Buberl called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Jeromy Buberl, Deb Rose, Bruce Gilliland, Van Burch, Brad Lutz, and Holly Walsh

Absent: Bill Chantelois IV

Staff present: Devin Swanberg, Carie Krentz, Ron Pedrys, and Todd Waters

Motion by Walsh and seconded by Burch to approve the agenda.

Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried.

### **Public Safety & Public Works Referendum**

Buberl started meeting with stating Admin & Finance Committee wanted to bring Board up to date on all possibilities regarding the referendum. Swanberg shared committee feels staffing as the most important need the Village is facing. Staffing needed are two (2) Public Works employees, three (3) Police Officers and a 20-hr part time police receptionist position. Other possible areas mentioned were for fire department & ambulance service at last meeting a referendum amount would be between \$600,000 and \$800,000. Burch went through his thoughts regarding what he felt was needed/not needed and agreed that staff is needed but other items he mentioned were; ambulance services of \$40,000, however, Fire Department amount of \$50,000 not be included. A discussion took place on why those two items are listed as options and how they would be taken out of general levy and put into referendum levy to help with current 2023 budget shortfalls. More discussion took place regarding adding additional items to referendum – concern that this is a weary referendum town – do not want to add too much because most want it to be a successful referendum.

Gilliland created and discussed a spreadsheet regarding concerns going forward on how to continue to support current and new staff. If Village is going to move forward with a referendum, the 2023 budget shortfall needs to be considered along with how we can maintain current budget needs.

Pedrys talked with Fire Chief, Elfstrom, who was not able to attend due to workload, and they both feels it's important to keep Fire and EMS included in the referendum. This will help keep the support for these services taken care of in a budget even in cut years.

Waters went through Public Works needs and the reality to keep everything working and maintain. So many things under Public Works umbrella just to meet ordinance code. Discussed contracted services vs. having additional staff and gave an example that snow service was \$32,000 in December alone. State he is happy with capital plan but personnel is needed. He has had to put safety measures in place due to only have three current employees and tasks being too dangerous to do working alone.

A discussion took place that yes staffing is needed but cannot forget about all the support required for that increase in staff – uniforms, vests, vehicles, etc. Capital plan would account for some of that support. Board wants to be transparent to public with what is being asked of residences.

Initial values for referendum were: Rose & Gilliland – a minimum of \$600,000 but looks more like \$700,000 when looking at what is needed. Lutz – no in favor of referendum, Burch – at least \$800,000. Walsh started \$700,000 but after hearing all discussion is leaning closer to \$800,000.

Admin & Finance Committee is meeting Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am to look closer at all options discussed and hoping to have final resolution presented on January 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. There is still a little time after the 10<sup>th</sup> if more discussion is need but not much. All decisions need to be finalized by January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

### **Future agenda items and updates**

Walsh will not be rerunning for Village Trustee in April 2023.

President Buberl adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Carie A. Krentz  
Village Clerk