



**VILLAGE OF BARTLETT
COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 6, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

President Wallace called the regular meeting of April 6, 2021 of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Bartlett to order on the above date at 7:00 p.m. and NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act as set forth in Senate Bill 2135 signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker on June 12, 2020, making it effective upon said signing ("SB 2135"), that the regular meeting of the Village President and Board of Village Trustees of the Village of Bartlett (the "Village Board") scheduled to be held on April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bartlett Municipal Building, 228 South Main Street, Bartlett, Illinois, may be conducted by audio or video conference without a physical quorum of the members of the Village Board present because an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to a disaster, that being COVID-19 pandemic and the applicable restrictions imposed under various laws rules, restrictions, Executive Orders and/or announcements issued by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker and/or Ngozi O. Ezike MD, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, including without limitation "Restore Illinois: A Public Health Approach to Safely Reopen Our State", which currently limits gatherings to the lesser of 50 people or 50% of the capacity of the meeting room as a public health measure.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustees Carbonaro, Deyne, Gandsey, Hopkins, Reinke, Suwanski and President Wallace

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Village Administrator Paula Schumacher, Assistant Village Administrator Scott Skrycki, Sr. Management Analyst Sam Hughes, Management Analyst Joey Dienberg, Finance Director Todd Dowden, Director of Public Works Dan Dinges, Assistant Public Works Director Tyler Isham, Planning & Development Director Roberta Grill, Building Director Brian Goralski, Head Golf Professional Phi Lenz, Chief Patrick Ullrich, Deputy Chief Geoff Pretkelis, Deputy Chief Jim Durbin, Village Attorney Bryan Mraz and Village Clerk Lorna Giles.

FINANCE & GOLF, CHAIRMAN DEYNE
Water/Sewer Rate Review

Finance Director Todd Dowden stated that every year we review the water sewer rate in the budget process. We are not proposing to raise rates in fiscal year 2022. This is a look forward three years to see what we are going to be doing. The Stearns Road Pump Station was put off this year and we did not paint the Oneida Water Tower since it is potentially coming down, so those savings will go towards funding this next years capital projects. Capital projects include the Water Main Replacement Program, removing old



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infrastructure and beginning the lead service line replacement program. We are projecting a cash balance for at the end of April, 2021 of \$4,931,000 which is above the maximum policy. Our balance is estimated to be \$3,776,000 at the end of FY 2022 which is \$138,000 over the maximum. We have some big programs coming up including the meter replacement program, continued infrastructure removal and Water Tower Painting. To fund those projects, we are estimating a 5% increase in the 2022-2023 year and a 5% increase in the 2023-2024 year. As far as sewer charges go, we had a three-year program we started in FY 2019, increasing the rates mainly to fund the Devon Lift Station Force Main Project and additionally for the wastewater treatment plant remodel. This year we will be funding projects through fund balance and bond proceeds for the Devon lift station force main and we are expecting to get IEPA loans for the wastewater treatment plant. With the Cook County rates, the third year of increases was divided in half over 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. That will bring the revenue up to cover bond payments for the lift station force main. The IEPA loans for the treatment plant are estimated at \$37,000,000. That is a preliminary number, but in order to qualify for that loan, we need to have rates that would cover that amount. The debt service will be about \$2,000,000 a year so DuPage County rates would need to be increased about 13% in 2022-23 and 19% in 2023-24. Our cash balance in the sewer fund is estimated for April 30, 2021 to be \$2,266,000. That is over the minimum balance by \$779,000. Since we will be using fund balance, at the end of this coming year, April 30, 2022, we are estimated to have a balance of \$1,724,000 which is a \$541,000 decrease from where we currently are and over the minimum balance by \$182,000.

In the memo staff included estimated rates. Currently, an estimated balance for \$6,000 in Cook County is \$24.50 and \$43.24 in DuPage. If all of these projected increases are incurred, Cook County will go up to \$28.53 per month and DuPage County will increase to \$58.25 per month. Staff included a rate sheet, but we noticed these were the old rates that were projected last year, so if you look at the memo, Cook County is currently at \$24.53, right between Kane and DuPage, right now. DuPage is currently at \$43.24, near the Glen Ellyn/Elmhurst range. The operating is everything but the Devon Ave. project, Bittersweet Plant and 2014 bonds. Those are taken out and allocated to the counties they are in. The rest of the operating includes the rehabilitation programs, lift station rehabilitation, etc. is divided \$28% for Cook County and 73% for DuPage. The big thing we are going towards is the payment of the IEPA loans which will be starting in the fall of 2023. This increase is driven by our capital projects.

Mr. Dowden stated the IEPA loan is in process. At some point we will have to approve the rates and be official, even though they wouldn't be effective until 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The reason DuPage Counties increase is higher the second year is because we are not expecting the full \$37,000,000 of the bond limit to be used, so the second year is not expected to increase that much.

Chairman Gandsey asked what will happen in 2024-2025 as far as increases.



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Mr. Dowden stated it should even out after these increases.

Chairman Hopkins stated that he thinks it's important to realize that if you live in Cook County Bartlett your sewer rates are almost double what they are in Cook County, Hanover Park and almost every other community in Cook County. If we looked at any other part of our budget and it was more than double that of any other community we would raise red flags, as a board. If our police departments budget was double what Streamwood's was, we would be questioned on it. He understands we have infrastructure projects we are funding, but why do we have to fund those projects in the first place. He wants staff to look into why we have an excess flow plant and it would help us determine why our rates are double what our neighboring communities' rates are. We need to bring the fees that we charge our Cook County residents, in line with our neighboring communities.

President Wallace stated that was a good point.

Chairman Suwanski asked why DuPage's rates are so much higher than the other counties.

Mr. Dowden stated that in DuPage County we collect and treat our wastewater. In the Cook County side, we just collect it and it goes to MWRD for treatment. In Cook County you have MWRD on your property taxes and you are also paying for the collection of it, to the village.

Chairman Reinke stated from a resident's perspective, water and sewer rates are sky rocketing. On the water side, it is because of the capital investment from the Lake Michigan project, but he thought over time our rates would start to come down.

Mr. Dowden stated we should be set for a while as far as infrastructure goes. The problem with the wastewater plant was EPA restrictions. He thought it should level off as far as water goes, but we still have the main replacement program and old water towers.

Chairman Reinke stated he remembered there were a lot of things we were no longer going to have to do anymore so it would cost money upfront to decommission the wells, but then we wouldn't have to maintain them so overtime we are saving money. He stated its hard to explain that to residents that are not engrossed with it for 16 hours at board meetings.

Chairman Hopkins stated it might be good to break the capital costs down on the water bill so residents can see our costs. If you are a resident and see your sky rocketing rate, at least you know in 15-20 years when that loan is paid off that fee will go away. He knows



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there will be other capital projects that come along, but the transition to Lake Michigan water is a huge portion of that water bill.

President Wallace stated that wouldn't be too difficult to do. That way they will see right on their bill that they are getting something for the money they are spending. He thought it was a great idea.

Chairman Deyne moved to adjourn the meeting and that motion was seconded by Chairman Gandsey.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

AYES: Chairman Carbonaro, Deyne, Gandsey, Hopkins, Reinke, Suwanski

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Sam Hughes
Deputy Village Clerk