



VILLAGE OF BARTLETT
COMMITTEE MINUTES (SPECIAL)
August 15, 2017

President Wallace called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Camerer, Carbonaro, Deyne, Gabrenya, Hopkins, Reinke, and President Wallace

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Village Administrator Paula Schumacher, Assistant to the Village Administrator Scott Skrycki, Finance Director Todd Dowden, Community Development Director Jim Plonczynski, Director of Public Works Dan Dinges, Public Works Engineer Bob Allen, Building Director Brian Goralski, Human Resources Director Janelle Terrance, Assistant Golf Professional Paul Galvan, Police Chief Patrick Ullrich, Deputy Chief Geoff Pretkelis, Deputy Chief Chuck Snider, Village Attorney Bryan Mraz and Village Clerk Lorna Giles.

LICENSE & ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Strategic Plan Review

Administrator Schumacher stated that they put together a series of nine focus groups to interview various parts of the community. They consisted of residents, business owners, civic group members, staff members, commission members. Greg Kuhn from Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies interviewed the focus groups and Village staff did not participate in the interview process.

Mr. Kuhn presented the attached slide show to assist with the strategic planning process. He stated that these focus groups have provided insight to what people are thinking across these different groups.

Trustee Reinke asked if they suggest a communitywide survey.

Mr. Kuhn stated that the best well-run communities do it on a reciprocal basis and he thought they were valuable. He stated that you have to appreciate what the data represents. Some data is better than none. If you can't go all the way in and do a statistically valid survey where you have personal interviewers that are verifying it's a cross-section of the community and you hit all the demographics, etc. than asking questions from a web page is better than no data. Another thing about a survey is that it is an investment. If you do one at that level it won't be cheap. It also gives you a way to track things over time. The question is going to be the same every time. You probably have a good core of seven questions that you can track over time. He thought that we live in an age of data-driven decision-making.



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President Wallace stated that we should see how much it costs.

Administrator Schumacher stated that when they did it 10 years ago it was about \$3,000.

Trustee Carbonaro stated that he was not sure why they would spend more money without considering we spent a whole year putting together the TOD Plan which is kind of the same situation with resident input.

Mr. Kuhn stated that “downtown” means something to all of us. It is the identity, the place where people gather, a business hub, a meeting place. It’s the Norman Rockwell idea – downtown’s are in every municipal strategic plan.

Trustee Deyne moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting and that motion was seconded by Trustee Carbonaro.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN

AYES: Trustees Camerer, Carbonaro, Deyne, Gabrenya, Hopkins, Reinke

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Lorna Giless
Village Clerk

Preliminary Summary of Key Themes

~Exploratory Focus Group Environmental
Scanning Sessions~

Village of Bartlett

April/May 2017



Summary of Stakeholder Key Themes Presentation

Mission and Vision Review
Identified Strategic Issue Areas

Village of Bartlett



Mission Statement Review

The Village of Bartlett is committed to preserving the high quality of life enjoyed by our residents, providing fiscally sound, responsive municipal services, and delivering those services in a professional manner with a high degree of integrity.

Village Vision Statement Review

Bartlett is a community all are proud to call home. We are a Village that values our past, cherishes our present and works together to thoughtfully plan for the future.

Stakeholder Visioning Results

General Themes

- We envision a future in which:
 - *The downtown is vibrant and bustling with a variety of dining, retail, and entertainment options.*
 - *There is more commercial and residential development while maintaining the small-town feel.*
 - *Traffic patterns and congestion are improved attracting more people to the downtown area.*
 - *Our open space, forest preserves, and outdoor activities are maintained.*
 - *Our community still looks fresh and updated.*
 - *Village services remain high-quality and residents have access to Village officials.*
 - *The Village is a family-friendly and safe community to raise a family.*

Focus Group Data Gathering Framework

- 9 focus groups were conducted from late April to early June
- Focus groups are a highly interactive approach that allows a robust cross-section of information to be gathered from multiple insights of stakeholders across the community. Focus groups generally included 8-12 participants during each session.
- The focus group sessions conducted include the following:
 - Residents – Invited
 - Residents – Open Call
 - Business Groups (2)
 - Village Staff (2 Groups)
 - Advisory Committee Member Group
 - Civic/Community Organization Group
 - Other Governmental Agency Group

Focus Group Data Gathering Framework

- All focus groups were greeted by a senior member of the Village staff on behalf of the Board. The staff member departed and all groups/participants were asked the same set of 6 questions by the facilitators:
 1. How would you describe Bartlett to a stranger or someone who doesn't live or work here?
 2. If you left Bartlett tomorrow, and didn't return for 15-20 years, what do you think you would see, or what do you hope would see, when you return?
 3. What do you like best about Bartlett? Related to that, what are the strengths/greatest assets of Bartlett?
 4. Can you identify areas or topics in need of attention or improvement? Related to that, what are the weaknesses/greatest needs in Bartlett? Challenges?
 5. What are/should be the top priorities for the Village over the next 3-5 years?
 6. If you could change, initiate or complete one key item in the next 6-12 months in the Village, what would it be?
- The data analysis methodology is to review and code the qualitative data in the aggregate in order to identify themes and/or outliers within questions, and across all of the data gathered.

Process Introduction

Exploratory Group Discussions 2017

- The information that follows presents an overview and summary of key themes and topics that emerged during the exploratory focus group/community engagement process. These stakeholder input sessions serve as a *primer* for the environmental scanning component of strategic planning process.
- The information is designed to add *exploratory & thematic information* for the Board and Senior Leadership Teams to consider during the upcoming strategic planning workshop sessions.

Key Themes & Data Analysis Highlights Across All Questions

- **The Village of Bartlett is ...**
 - A great place to raise a family
 - A small-town with historic character
 - A friendly, family-oriented and safe community
 - A connected community with familiarity of residents and businesses
 - Strategically located with access to major highways and Metra train station
 - Filled with strong and vibrant civic organizations
 - Bustling with a variety of community events
 - Clean with plentiful open spaces and access to numerous forest preserves
 - Committed to nature and maintaining high-quality parks

Key Themes & Data Analysis Highlights Across All Questions

- **The Village of Bartlett offers...**
 - “The Bartlett Way” – high level of caring for the community and putting residents first
 - Stable leadership
 - Connection to transportation via highways, tollways, and Metra trains
 - Access to O’Hare International Airport without being too close
 - Excellent schools
 - Outdoor recreational activities, bike trails, parks, and forest preserves
 - Active civic organizations providing a variety of community events
 - Affordable housing and a good mix of housing options
 - Unique neighborhoods and community identity
 - High-quality services provided by qualified staff

Key Themes & Data Analysis Highlights Across All Questions

- **The Village of Bartlett strives towards ...**
 - Maintaining quality of life and uniqueness
 - Economic growth while maintaining small-town character
 - Attracting retail and commercial redevelopment
 - Revitalizing the downtown with increased entertainment options (dining, shopping, gathering places, etc.)
 - Increasing housing options including multi-use housing, condos, and apartments downtown
 - Improving and updating organizational processes and governance approaches
 - Reviewing regulations and ordinances

Key Themes & Data Analysis Highlights Across All Questions

- **The Village of Bartlett's future expectations are to ...**
 - Strengthen economic and business development
 - Maintain our quality of life and small-town character
 - Be more welcoming to businesses
 - Attract new residents
 - Redevelop the downtown
 - Become a destination
 - Unify the train platform
 - Reconfigure traffic patterns to reduce traffic congestion
 - Implement safety improvements for major intersections
 - Be more open to change

Key Themes & Data Analysis Highlights Across All Questions

- **The Village of Bartlett's short-term priorities should include ...**
 - Managing and fostering desirable growth
 - Fostering economic development
 - Creating and implementing a Downtown Improvement Plan
 - Rejuvenating/exploring the downtown TIF
 - Becoming a destination
 - Offering more variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment options
 - Improving or enhancing our processes, regulations and governance
 - Addressing traffic flow and safety problems

Frequency of Words/Phrases At a Glance...

Phrase/Term(s) Overall	Frequency*
Downtown	67
Businesses/Small Businesses/Business Relations	51
Location/Metra/Train Station	46
Open Space/Parks/Forest Preserves/Nature	37
Sense of Community/Community Events and Involvement/Community-oriented	35
Traffic/Traffic Congestion/Traffic flow/Traffic Lights	25
Safe/Feeling Safe/Recognized Safety Rating/Low Crime Rate	25
Small Town Feel/Hometown/Bedroom Community	24
Housing/Mixed Housing/Affordable Housing/Multi-use Housing	19
Family/Family-oriented/Good Neighborhoods	19
Economic Development/Growth	14
Parking	12
Schools/School District	10

* note: all frequencies are approximate, based on qualitative data analysis method employed

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-1

- **Question 1: “How would you describe the Village of Bartlett to a stranger or someone who doesn’t live or work here?”**
 - **Sense of community**/strong community involvement and events/friendly/diverse/familiarity between residents and organizations/**connectivity** (32)
 - **Family-friendly/excellent place to raise children**/good schools/affordable and mixed housing/friendly and unique neighborhoods (28)
 - **Home town feel**/bedroom community/historical/Mayberry-esque/unique/**great place to live** (22)
 - **Strategic location**/access to Metra train station/**proximity to Chicago and major highways**/close to O’Hare/near to bigger town’s amenities (15)
 - **Quaint downtown**/well-managed growth/**small town with big town options**/business opportunities (15)
 - **Well-maintained community/spaces**/strong code enforcement; a high-quality park district/**open space** /access to forest preserves (15)

Frequent Themes/Phrase Q-1 cont'd

- **Question 1-Cont'd: “How would you describe the Village of Bartlett to a stranger or someone who doesn’t live or work here?”**
 - Safe community/low crime rate/recognized for safety rating/community-oriented police department (13)
 - More entertainment and retail options/increased growth/enhance downtown (8)
 - Responsive government/resident and community-oriented/outstanding services and programs (5)
 - Fiscally sound/conservative/hyper-sensitivity approach to taxes (4)
 - Connect the school district with the community/work with school district to improve Bartlett schools’ reputation (4)
 - Congestion/traffic/train platform (3)

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-2.

- **Question 2: “If you left Bartlett tomorrow, and didn’t return for 15-20 years, what do you think you’ll see, or what do you hope you’ll see, when you return?”**
 - **Economic development/business diversification/ more commercial and retail options/attract and support businesses (45)**
 - **Revitalized downtown/ downtown becomes a destination/gathering place/more entertainment and dining options/increased foot traffic/enhanced downtown parking/downtown promotion and branding (37)**
 - **Reduced traffic congestion/infrastructure and road improvements/traffic safety/increased signage/improved parking/unified platform (26)**
 - **Connected roads/paths to downtown area/bike path connectivity/pedestrian pathways to downtown/bus service (19)**
 - **Diversified housing options/mixed-use housing/more downtown housing/lower rental costs (17)**

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-2 cont'd.

- **Question 2 Cont'd: “If you left Bartlett tomorrow, and didn’t return for 15-20 years, what do you think you’ll see, or what do you hope you’ll see, when you return?”**
 - Hope parts of the Village are slow to change/stay a bedroom community/maintain small-town feel/same size (14)
 - Maintain code enforcement/fresh and updated/clean up vacant buildings/maintain historic sites/commitment to parks and space/look (13)
 - Change in demographics and population/increased diversity/social inclusivity (5)
 - Built-out/no more open space for development (4)

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-3

- **Question 3: “What do you like best about Bartlett? Related to that, what are the strengths/greatest assets of Bartlett?”**
 - **Stable political and administrative leadership/responsiveness/the Bartlett Way/resident-oriented/fiscally sound/high quality services/strong institutions (35)**
 - **Open space/neighborhood parks/bike paths/a clean well maintained community/access to nature/proximity to forest preservers/sports-oriented/outdoor activities (25)**
 - **Strategic location/access to major highways/Metra station/proximity to downtown Chicago and O’Hare airport (19)**
 - **Safe community/low crime (18)**
 - **Family-oriented/home town feel/friendly/sense of community/connectivity/diversity/unique neighborhoods (17)**

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-3 cont'd.

- **Question 3 Cont'd: “What do you like best about Bartlett? Related to that, what are the strengths/greatest assets of Bartlett?”**
 - Land for development/small businesses are supported/have the foundation for a great downtown/strong working relationship between business owners/job availability/business destination (9)
 - Strong civic organizations and involvement/community events (6)
 - Mixed housing options/affordable housing/senior living housing options (4)
 - Good local schools/school district (4)

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-4

- **Question 4: “Can you identify areas or topics in need of attention or improvement? Related to that, what are the weaknesses/greatest needs in Bartlett? Challenges?”**
 - Reduced costs have helped to manage the economic downturn, **but can adversely impact services and capital repairs-replacements**/look to shift focus beyond budget cuts/taxes to what’s needed/desired and best approach(24)
 - **Economic development**/more focus on Rt. 59 businesses/**business diversity**/lack of economic programs and TIF/**better relations with business owners and developers**/workforce skill gap (22)
 - More shopping and dining opportunities/greater mix of grocery stores/**lack of entertainment options**/limited activities downtown/enhance gathering places (21)
 - Infrastructure and road improvements/**improve traffic flow and safety**/reconfigure traffic patterns/**improve timing of lights**/parking (13)
 - **Improve communications/increased clarity and consistency on information regarding policies and codes**/enhance online presence/offer online transactions (12)
 - Board follow-through/**align Board decisions with vision and goals**/enhance Board’s responsiveness to and awareness of the long-term for community (11)

Frequent Themes/Phrase Q-4 cont'd.

- **Question 4 Cont'd: “Can you identify areas or topics in need of attention or improvement? Related to that, what are the weaknesses/greatest needs in Bartlett? Challenges?”**
 - Some **property maintenance items-code enforcement items/vacancies/abandoned properties/dilapidated buildings/standardize fencing/bike path continuity (10)**
 - **Apathy/lack of community participation/local resistance to change (10)**
 - **Housing mix/further diversify housing stock (6)**
 - **Re-analyze fee and cost structure/review organizational chart and job descriptions/enhance staff knowledge/review ordinances, codes and regulations (6)**
 - **School district (3)**
 - **Increased celebration of diversity/inclusiveness (3)**

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-5

- **Question 5: “What are/should be the top priorities for the Village over the next 3-5 years?”**
 - **Economic growth/attract and diversify businesses/downtown redevelopment plan/downtown housing/restart a TIF/lower taxes/encourage small business growth (24)**
 - **Board consensus/follow-through and action planning/more open to change/willing to take risks/be pro-active (23)**
 - **Variety of dining options/more grocery stores/more opportunities for entertainment/enhanced community events and participation/become a destination (13)**
 - **Unified train platform/solve downtown traffic problem/improve traffic pattern/safety improvements for intersections/timing of lights (13)**
 - **Downtown redevelopment plan/maintain and centralize downtown/improve downtown roads and parking/residential apartments downtown/promote downtown (10)**

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-5 cont'd.

- **Question 5 Cont'd: “What are/should be the top priorities for the Village over the next 3-5 years?”**
 - **Revisit organizational chart/staffing and structures department-wide/determine service levels/standardize procedures/re-evaluate building codes and regulations/review facilities (9)**
 - **Code enforcement/address blighted properties (6)**
 - **Improve efficiency/online permitting and processing/credit card payment system (5)**
 - **Infrastructure improvements/develop a long-term infrastructure and capital plan/Lake Michigan water connection/maintain underground utilities (5)**
 - **Continued growth and quality of the parks/expanded bike paths and connectivity/collaborate with forest preserves and park dist. (3)**

Frequent Themes/Phrases Q-6

- **Question 6: “If you could change, initiate or complete one key item or thing about the Village, what would it be?”**
 - **Revitalized downtown/enhance downtown nightlife/increase dining and shopping options/establish gathering places (26)**
 - **Traffic pattern/thru-traffic connections/congestion for public safety/improve traffic flow/unified train platform/street lights/bus service/some intersections and street names are too confusing (18)**
 - **Economic development /restart Downtown TIF/attract diverse businesses/redevelop commercial vacancies/TOD plan implemented/support local businesses/mixed housing (17)**
 - **Assess Village’s needs/review Village’s policies and procedures/improve communications/increase collaboration/prepare for future changes/foster innovation (11)**
 - **Board encouragement for businesses/Board follow-through and diversification of ideas(5)**
 - **Lower taxes/prepare for property tax freeze/reduce costs (4)**
 - **Community events funding/advertise community events/encourage more Village and resident participation (4)**

Overall Summary

Strengths

- Family-friendly community
- Strong sense of community
- Safe
- Fiscally sound
- Strategic location with access to major highways, tollways, and Metra train station
- High quality services delivered by qualified staff
- Strong and stable leadership
- Commitment to nature, open space, and parks
- Solid foundation for developing a vibrant downtown
- Good schools

Opportunities for improvement

- Economic development
- Growth
- Business diversification
- Revitalize the downtown with increased shopping, dining, and entertainment options
- Attracting future residents
- Mixed housing options
- Become a destination
- Long-term infrastructure and capital planning
- Review policies, ordinances, codes, and regulations
- Stronger code enforcement

Study Team



- **Greg Kuhn, Ph.D.**, *Assistant Director of Public Management and Training at Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies*

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August 15, 2017**

President Wallace called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 8:32 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Camerer, Carbonaro, Deyne, Gabrenya, Hopkins, Reinke, and President Wallace

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Village Administrator Paula Schumacher, Assistant to the Village Administrator Scott Skrycki, Finance Director Todd Dowden, Community Development Director Jim Plonczynski, Director of Public Works Dan Dinges, Public Works Engineer Bob Allen, Building Director Brian Goralski, Human Resources Director Janelle Terrance, Assistant Golf Professional Paul Galvan, Police Chief Patrick Ullrich, Deputy Chief Geoff Pretkelis, Deputy Chief Chuck Snider, Village Attorney Bryan Mraz and Village Clerk Lorna Giles.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

1. Home Depot Resubdivision of Lot 1

Chairman Hopkins presented the Home Depot Resubdivision of Lot 1.

Community Development Director Jim Plonczynski stated that this is a resubdivision of a subdivided lot that was proposed a couple of years ago for a bank. It is the front of the Home Depot lot and will be a nice commercial retail building. The site will be approximately 8,200 square feet and will be subdivided into four units. They are asking for a preliminary/final resubdivision of lot 1, second site plan amendment for lot 1, site plan for lot 2 as well as special use permits to allow a drive through establishment and outdoor seating. There are also requests for variations to the side yards, rear yard and reductions in the required number of parking stalls. If this is approved, the parking spaces will go from 458 parking spaces down to 399 spaces.

Trustee Reinke stated that as a general concept he was supportive of this. Parking is going to be an issue and for him it could be a dispositive issue. He stated that he was very familiar with this property but he thought they would come up short on parking.

Trustee Hopkins agreed and stated that he was there quite often himself. He didn't think parking would be such an issue if they did not have their seasonal items outside.

President Wallace stated that he has never had an issue with the parking there.

Trustee Camerer agreed.



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Trustee Gabrenya stated that there is traffic congestion when you're trying to go back to Stearns to go east from Home Depot. She asked if there was any consideration for this.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they will have to provide a traffic analysis. This intersection is going to have a complete renovation and part of that is to allow a better turn into the site. The design for this intersection is intended to make better access for the shopping center.

Trustee Camerer asked if the petitioner has talked to the State about a right in/right out on Route 59?

Mr. Plonczynski stated that there would be no access from Route 59. They will look into it.

Attorney Mraz stated there was a Chase Bank proposed for this outlot and extensive traffic surveys as well as conditions of cross access.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that perhaps the road improvements at Stearns and Route 59 will alleviate any issues.

Trustee Deyne asked if this will be forwarded to the Plan Commission for review.

Trustee Gabrenya stated that she would not be comfortable sending this to the Plan Commission without a traffic study.

Trustee Hopkins stated that our traffic consultant should look at what their traffic consultant suggested and give us feedback.

Trustee Reinke suggested moving this on to the Plan Commission.

2. Rana Meal Solutions Plant 2

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they have Sal Trupiano on behalf of Rana Meal Solutions in the audience. He stated that they are hoping to build out the rest of their campus on the property they own. They are proposing a large 300,000+ square foot building and asking for preliminary PUD plan for construction. They are asking for special uses for the PUD which include a fence height variation in the front yard and reductions in the number of parking spaces. It is going to be the corporate headquarters as well as manufacturing for the production of a lasagna line – this will be their tenth line of production.



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President Wallace suggested that this return to the Board after it is seen by the Plan Commission.

3. 802 E. Devon Addition

Mr. Plonczynski stated that they might remember this as the Main Steel building. He stated that the petitioner, Dimitri Pouloukefalos, was there to answer questions. The last time they were before the Board they asked for a 6B incentive from Cook County in which they received. He is taking that building and asking for a third site plan amendment which will turn this into a multi-tenant building. They want to add 67,735 square feet and make some masonry elevations as well as adding exterior docks. They are asking for a parking variation for the reduction of spaces from 140 to 95. They are mitigating a small wetland and are asking for a special use to mitigate. They are also asking to move forward to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board for the Public Hearings.

President Wallace stated that there is no space for parking and that is a big building for 90 spaces. He asked if there were any alternative solutions.

Trustee Deyne suggested forwarding to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board to get their feedback.

Mr. Plonczynski stated that you could get a warehouse facility in there that does not need that much parking. Any kind of intense manufacturing might have some issues with the parking.

FINANCE & GOLF COMMITTEE

1. Home-Rule Sales Tax

Trustee Deyne presented the home-rule sales tax and stated that it was discussed at the July meeting. A 0.50% home sales tax would generate about \$800,000 of additional income. He asked the finance director to explain.

Finance Director Todd Dowden stated that the 2017-18 budget was passed using about \$400,000 in General Fund money. They are looking into revenue options that would fill this gap. In the meantime, the State has changed the income tax sharing which reduced their income tax revenues by approximately \$400,000. The 0.50% increase would fill the gap of where they are right now. It would not fill any of the positions that are open.



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He talked about the charts below:

Tax Rate Comparisons

	Bartlett	Elgin	Hanover Park	Streamwood	Carol Stream	West Chicago	Bloomingtondale
Home-Rule Sales Tax	0%	1.25%	0.75%	1%	0.75%	0.75%	0.50%
Elec Use Tax/kWh	.074¢	.628¢	.628¢	.462¢	.581¢	.572¢	0¢
Gas Use Tax/therm	2.5¢	3.0¢	1.5¢	3.25¢	2.5¢	2.5¢	0¢
Gas Sales Tax	0%	5.15%	0%	5.15%	0%	0%	0%

Estimated Revenue

Home-Rule Tax	0.25%	0.50%	0.75%	1.00%	1.25%
Estimated Revenue	\$400,000	\$800,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,600,000	\$2,000,000

Utility Tax Rate History

Bartlett History	Date	Rate	Avg/Yr	Date	Rate	Avg/Yr	Date	Rate	Avg/Yr
Gas Use Tax	6/1/12	5.0¢/therm	\$55	No	Change		5/1/16	\$2.50/therm	\$27.50
Electric Use Tax	6/1/12	.294¢/kWh	\$30	5/1/15	.146¢/kWh	\$15	5/1/16	.074¢/kWh	\$7.50

Mr. Dowden stated that they want to implement a home rule sales tax and are looking to the Board as to what the rate should be.

Trustee Deyne stated that any tax to the residents is not taken lightly. We don't have any control over what the State does. He asked if services would be jeopardized.

Mr. Dowden stated that they are already holding several positions open. This includes the building inspector, code enforcement officer, police officer, other positions in the police department, etc. Going forward, they need more revenue sources to keep up with cost increases. They have not increased property taxes for a number of years. When the utility tax was originally implemented, that was in place of raising property taxes. When the utility taxes were reduced, we continued to not increase property taxes.

Administrator Schumacher stated that the City of Elgin is having the same conversations. They are concerned about dipping into their reserves to balance their budget and have been hit from the State as well. One of the things reported which applies to us also is the cost of those services is not going down. The cost of salt is not



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going down or the cost of what we purchase to provide services is not going down. We can do the best we can by shopping and cutting costs as well as holding positions open. Like anything else, there are some things we don't have control over.

Trustee Deyne recalled the discussions they had over cutting the utility tax and now we are coming back and saying that we are potentially going to have a home rule sales tax. We took tax and eliminated it and now we are replacing it with another tax.

Mr. Dowden stated that there are different advantages to different types of taxes. The home rule sales tax is just on retail purchases and if you don't buy a lot of stuff you don't pay as much tax.

Trustee Deyne stated that he wants nothing to do with a property tax increase.

Ms. Schumacher stated that with the home rule sales tax, the pool of people that we collect the tax from is not limited to just our residents, it is diversified.

Trustee Reinke stated that we have this perception issue where Cook County has the beverage tax and the Fire District is coming back with another referendum, as well as the school district who he's sure will find another way to raise their taxes. He would like to see, if we had to cut this \$400,000, what is it going to look like? He wanted to take a very hard look.

Ms. Schumacher stated that it is going to look like the following types of cuts: hold off on capital projects; major capital purchases and equipment will just get older. When you're talking numbers like that, it's people or equipment. We won't be buying the dump truck or we will push off replacing a sidewalk, fixing a bike path (unless there is a grant). Things will just take longer to repair.

Trustee Hopkins asked about efficiencies.

Ms. Schumacher stated that she thought they did a very good job at being efficient. A number of things implemented this year have increased the efficiency. A lot of the automations have improved our efficiency so we can work with a leaner staff. Providing credit card acceptance has opened up the door to doing more things online. We are moving toward those greater efficiencies so we can operate and do more with the staff that we have.

Trustee Camerer stated that, like the other Trustees, he takes this tax increase very seriously. He was not sure that they exhausted all the possible ways to fill that gap. In previous years they have talked about the employee insurance and about self-funding. He thought it was a discussion that they should talk about again.



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Ms. Schumacher stated that they are preparing to have that discussion in September and to talk about some of the different options available. She stated that they can certainly look at self-funding again.

Trustee Camerer stated that he thought they could lower some expenses with self-funding if it is done carefully. He stated that his inclination is to Table this for further discussion at another time.

Trustee Deyne stated that they have a timeline on this which is October 1st.

President Wallace stated that this Board has to be extremely cautious of nickel-and-diming our staff. He has been around for a long time now and felt that staff has already been as efficient and strapped as possible. If you start nickel-and-diming staff and don't trust the fact that they are being efficient, we will start running into situations where you have accidents, morale problems, etc. We need to make sure that we are very cautious about that. When you are questioning whether or not we had to use \$400,000 of the General Fund (which we did) and \$400,000 is taken away by the State, this is not a hard problem. We have an \$800,000 hole next year and they are trying to fix it. He cautioned the Board to not nickel-and-dime the staff.

Trustee Camerer stated that he thought the staff was doing a good job but they can't continue to put tax increases on the public. He has reservations about any other tax increase if we can do things to get by.

President Wallace stated that he challenged the Board to try to dig into the budget and see if they can find appropriate cuts.

Trustee Camerer stated that the insurance was an area where they could save some money. If we are self-funded or partially self-funded he has heard estimates of \$100,000 to \$200,000 that could be potentially saved.

Trustee Gabrenya stated that a lot of our businesses already have the challenge of competing with other communities. Even though some of the other communities have a home rule sales tax, the perception is that we need to go outside of Bartlett to do our shopping and purchasing. This is a challenge to our local businesses and to add a tax, even if it is small and spread among non-residents, is not a good idea.

Trustee Carbonaro stated that people are well aware, and don't shop at Caputo's because there is a three percent food tax, so they do come to Bartlett. We are below all the surrounding communities. He does not want to compare our rates with other towns, we have to take care of our town. There is a reason why we have not increased the tax levy for the last ten years and that is because we want to boast that. Now we put ourselves in a position where we have to do something because of the State situation.



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Maybe this year we don't fix the bike path and let's not impose this tax until we get a better idea next year. If we can cut some things from the budget then do so. To just jump on the bandwagon to throw another tax out there, after we reduced another one, the perception does not look too good. He didn't think we needed to do this. If we are short, we need to hold off on something and re-evaluate in next year's budget.

Administrator Schumacher stated that the Board requested the sales tax figures to see what our neighbors are charging. We can look at this again when we go through the budget review process. One of the things that she personally finds frustrating is that the Village has done the hard work and made it a priority to keep our levy down when everyone else's levy goes up. We get the complaint phone calls from residents and it's nice to be able to say, "not our 9% of your tax bill". It's very frustrating that we put in the hard work and cut, cut, cut, and the perception doesn't get out to the community as much as they would like it to.

Trustee Carbonaro stated that their taxes have been pretty level for the last twelve years.

Administrator Schumacher stated that they will begin the review of the health insurance and start putting together the budget in October. They will certainly give the Board the six-month review which will answer some of the questions about how we are doing, where we are cutting, how we are fitting into the budget.

Trustee Hopkins wanted to know how it would affect our average resident if we cut our budget by \$800,000. Is there sidewalk not going to get fixed?; is it going to take longer to get a building permit? Is it going to take longer to get a business permit or renewal?

President Wallace stated that in the real world of business, it's not what happens to the average resident the minute that you cut that tax. It's what happens to the Village as a whole when you nickel-and-dime over time. He hears what the Board is saying, nobody wants to raise taxes. He has one hundred percent trust in the staff being very efficient and when they are coming to the Board to find a way to shore up this \$800,000 that should be our only concern. There should not be question as to whether or not they need it. It should be shoring up the \$800,000 that they need.

Trustee Carbonaro stated that if they institute a sales tax they will have to share that tax with the State of Illinois because they have a processing fee, find another way - he does not want to give them a dime.

President Wallace asked staff to come back with a little more information at the next Committee meeting. Perhaps they can come up with a consensus of a better direction.



**VILLAGE OF BARTLETT
COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 15, 2017**

Trustee Hopkins moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting and that motion was seconded by Trustee Hopkins.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN

AYES: Trustees Camerer, Carbonaro, Deyne, Gabrenya, Hopkins, Reinke

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Lorna Giles
Village Clerk