

Village of Seville
Finance Committee Meeting
February 1, 2010

Mrs. Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM.

Present: Mayor Carter, Barbara Schwartz, Rick Stallard, Kathy Rhoads, Jim Lovejoy, Roger Kilgore, Richard Barbera, Fiscal Officer Jim Carrick

Mrs. Schwartz read the minutes from the January 4, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting. Kathy Rhoads made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim Lovejoy. All votes aye.

Minutes from the Finance Committee Workshop on January 27, 2010 were passed out to all members for review with approval set for a later date.

Ordinance 2010-01 was discussed and the importance of approving a budget for the year 2010 was addressed at great length. All budgets have been addressed and cuts have been made. The only budget that still needs attention is the Police budget. The 30-mile limit is being lifted. It was discussed how to be more visible without actually using more fuel. Mrs. Schwartz suggested looking into solar panels as a means to save on battery life and fuel. The panels would power communications and laptops.

Mr. Pipa, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Carter along with Sgt. Milton discussed cost saving measures.

Double coverage was discussed and if we can afford it.

Mrs. Schwartz stated that this was a \$20,000.00 issue that has grown over several years of non-attention into a 6-figure problem.

The expenditures for the month of January 2010 were \$230,000.00. The carryover from 2009 was \$180,000.00. Although we had additional revenue come in January 2010.

Police overtime was discussed. \$563,000.00 of the police budget is salaries and benefits.

The health insurance plan was discussed. Longevity was discussed as an optional cut.

The ¼% tax increase from 2007 increased Village revenue by approximately \$40,000.00. There was \$40,000.00 in raises given out to 13 employees in July of 2008.

Residents and businesses had to start paying the kilowatt-hour tax in 2007. The same year income tax was raised by ¼% retroactively.

Mrs. Schwartz stated she wanted a fund established for a police cruiser so we are not in this position next year. At least the value of half a car will be set aside or \$15,000.00.

Clothing and uniform allowances were adjusted to \$3500.00 or \$500.00 per officer. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The possibility of a police levy was discussed. If we do put a levy on the ballot and it passes we would not collect until 2011. Mrs. Schwartz was opposed to pursuing a levy until we prove to the residents we are being fiscally responsible with the funds we already have.

Mr. Pipa encouraged having a town hall meeting sometime this year to inform the residents of the status of Village finances.

Mayor Carter expressed her frustration with the police budget. Mrs. Schwartz advised the committee the police budget was an issue. She also stated that increasing visibility should not necessarily equate to \$15,000.00 more in fuel costs.

Mr. Barbera questioned if any police officers wanted to retire. Mr. Lovejoy discussed employees taking home village vehicles.

Mayor Carter advised the committee that Chief Burson structured the department to have 3 sergeants so each of the patrolmen would have a sergeant on duty to advise them what to do.

Longevity pay for the crossing guard was removed from the budget.

Sgt. Milton felt the police need a vehicle this year, not necessarily a new one. He also discussed funding for training and weapons. Mrs. Schwartz felt it valuable to speak with every officer, as their information was valuable to the process.

Mr. Carrick advised that laying off an officer would save the budget \$72,900.00 with salary and benefits. He was not advocating a layoff, just presenting the numbers. It was also discussed cutting the police department hours by 8 per day per officer. No determination was made.

Mrs. Schwartz advised that funds needed to be established to save not only for vehicles, but also vests, so we do not get into this position of lack of funds again. She advised that only 3 out of the 7 officers had cell phones. We will look into the cell phone plans, to see if we can acquire a cell phone for each officer for the same amount of money.

Mr. Barbera questioned whether we had to pay any unemployment benefits. Mrs. Schwartz advised that the possibility existed our unemployment premiums may go up.

Mr. Stallard and Mrs. Rhoads want the benefit programs looked at. There was brief discussion about the coverage and premiums.

The committee agreed that laying off an officer would be their last choice.

Ordinance 2010-08 Kilowatt-hour transfer; by doing this once it will save the Village approximately \$600.00.

Ordinance 2010-09 amending the appropriation ordinance. Standard transfer ordinance for operating funds.

No fiscal officer report.

Unfinished business. None

New business. None

Privilege of the floor; none.

Mrs. Schwartz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Barbera.

All votes aye.

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Barbara Schwartz
Finance Committee Chair

