

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OSWEGO VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OSWEGO VILLAGE HALL
100 PARKERS MILL, OSWEGO, ILLINOIS
May 26, 2020**

Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-07 signed by Governor Pritzker and Guidance Provided by Legal Counsel, the Village of Oswego may conduct all or portions of this meeting by use of telephonic or electronic means. Instructions on public access to this meeting are available through the link within the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

President Troy Parlier called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Physically Present: President Troy Parlier and Trustees James Marter, Terry Olson, Luis Perez and Brian Thomas.

Board Members Attended Electronically: Trustees Pam Parr, Judy Sollinger

Staff Physically Present: Dan Di Santo, Village Administrator; Tina Touchette, Village Clerk; Jeff Burgner, Police Chief; Jenette Sturges, Community Engagement Coordinator, Marketing; and Joe Renzetti, IT/GIS Director.

Staff Attended Electronically: Christina Burns, Asst. Village Administrator; Jennifer Hughes, Public Works Director; Rod Zenner, Community Development Director; Corinna Cole, Economic Development Director; Mark Horton, Finance Director; and Karl Ottosen, Village Attorney.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public Forum was opened at 6:06 p.m. All comments received via email will be read during the Public Forum section at the Village Board meeting. There was no one who requested to speak; the Public Forum was closed at 6:06 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

G.1 COVID-19 Small Business Assistance and Downstate Stabilization Grant

Director Cole addressed the Board regarding an update on the status of the small business crisis assistance and the Downstate Stabilization Grant (DSG). All loans have been paid out to applicants that have gone through the small business assistance process. There are two remaining applicants that are still in the question/answer stage but have not responded to recent questions.

Downstate Stabilization Grant

Applications were published two weeks ago and the local deadline for submission is tomorrow at noon. Four applications have been received but hope to receive several additional applications. The following is the timeline for the process:

- Village published DSG application on May 15th
- Interested businesses must submit their DSG application to the Village by noon on May 27th
- Director Cole will work with businesses to correct and complete applications by June 4th
- On June 4th, the Village will submit a notice of public hearing to the newspaper for publication on June 11th
- The period between June 11th and June 22nd fulfills the seven-day notice period required as part of the grant
- At the June 23rd Village Board meeting, the Village will hold the required public hearing for all applicants and the Board will be asked to vote on a resolution of support for each applicant's business
- Staff anticipates submitting applications by Friday, June 26th

The DSG requires repayment of the grant should the benefiting business not open within the prescribed time period or closes permanently within 12 months of award. Because the Village is the actual grant recipient, it means that the Village would have to repay the state from its' own funds. To mitigate this risk and encourage all eligible Oswego businesses to apply, the Kendall County Economic Development Commission agreed to terms granting Oswego a forgivable loan from the County's revolving loan fund in an amount up to \$400,000. The loan's sole purpose is to reimburse Oswego for any business that may default against the grant. Staff is still refining the terms of the loan, but fully expect to bring a resolution, to enter that agreement, at the June 9th Village Board meeting.

Board and staff discussion focused on total amount of loans given is around \$25,000-\$35,000; how many that already received loans also applied for DSG; one has applied for both; which businesses received the microloans; how close is the Village with an agreement with the County; agreement should be ready by June 9th; much better today than two weeks ago. There was no further discussion.

G.2 Discuss Reducing the Water Rate

The Village Board agreed to discuss the elimination of the \$0.10 water rate increase which was effective May 1, 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The water rate decrease would provide some relief to residents and businesses during this crisis. The Village Board reduced water rate by \$0.20 in September 2019. The estimated reduction in FY20 revenue calculated to \$147,367 due to the rate decrease. The effect of the reduced water rates through FY23 calculated a total revenue reduction of \$785,244. It has been proposed to reduce the water rate by \$0.10 beginning with the July 15, 2020 utility billing. This would reduce the FY21 estimated total by \$91,192. FY22 and FY23 would realize an estimated revenue reduction of \$106,313 compared to the estimated revenue based on the scheduled water rates before the FY21 water rate reduction. The total cumulative revenue reduction from the two water rate reductions is estimated at \$1,089,061 through FY23. The revenue loss will not influence normal operating costs but will reduce the amount of money able to be transferred annually to the Water and Sewer Capital Fund to support the costs of all the improvements needed to maintain the distribution system. Budgeted capital projects over the next three years would remain funded even after the reduction. However, accumulation of funds for the un-funded alternative water source project, Wolfs Crossing water main project, and Minkler Road water main project would be reduced by more than \$1.0 million.

Board and staff discussion focused on reduction in rates; other communities are doing a small credit back to the customer; providing a \$20 credit; needing guidance on how to apply the credit or who to give it to; short term to help out; up to Finance for the parameters; bring back to the Board at the next meeting; effects on unfunded water capital projects; sensitive to water needs; manage so we can measure; still had projects covered after the first water rate cut was passed; big projects are not going to be covered by an increase in water rates; appreciate being fiscal hawks; not talking about large numbers; revenue impact included in staff's memo to the Board; could have counted for it in the past; \$20 temporary credit in lieu of a rate reduction; whether there is a problem with giving extra money to senior citizens and unemployed people; wanting to help; cause and effect; wanting to help more; don't want to be taken out of context; opportunity to give back. All Board members agreed to move forward with the \$20 credit. There was no further discussion.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Tina Touchette
Village Clerk