MEETING MINUTES  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Monday, August 5, 2013  
7:30 p.m.  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Tendam, Holmes, Braithwaite, Fiske, Burrus

Members Absent: Ald. Grover

Staff Present: Joseph McRae, Chief Richard Eddington, Commander Diane Davis, Henry Ford, Bob Dornerker, Joe Dugan, Evonda Thomas-Smith,

Presiding Member: Ald. Holmes

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of June 3, 2013
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 3, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 4-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Review of Police Complaints
Commander Diane Davis, Office of Professional Standards, gave the Committee a mid-year stats update for 2012/2013. There was a decrease of citizens’ complaints which is attributed to immediate attention and follow-up by OPS, adherence to customer service policy, roll call reminders and roll call training. Ald. Braithwaite stated during a meeting with the City Manager it was noted there is a lack of customer’s service from some police officers; they are not treating the residents with respect. Ald. Braithwaite still hears complaints from residents and encourages them to submit a formal complaint at the police department. Ald. Burris and Tendam have only heard positives feedback from residents in their wards.

Citizens Comment:
Madelyn Ducre 1929 Foster St. wanted to know when a complaint is made against an officer is the outcome placed in the officer’s file and how long does it stays on his record.

Commander Davis replied yes, the complaints are placed in the officers records and those records are kept forever; the disciplinary actions are not disclosed to the public.
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2013 Agreement with Youth Job Center of Evanston Inc. for Building Career Pathways to Sustainable Employment initiative

Bob Dornecker Assistant Director for Parks, Recreation and Community Services gave a summary of the two year program which has been a collaborative effort with the City of Evanston Youth Staff, staff of Districts 65, 202 and the Youth Job Center.

A previous participant of the program Diamonique Ray told the Committee what this program has helped her accomplish thus far and stated the program is a great opportunity for young people; it has helped her a lot.

Sacella Smith, Youth Job Center’s Executive Director thanked the Committee for their support and summarized the programs attributes. 43 percent of the youth assisted were Evanston residents and had a criminal record and she felt the program has helped many thus far and hopes the Committee will approve the agreement.

It was moved and seconded to approve the 2013 Agreement with Youth Job Center of Evanston Inc. for Building Career Pathways to Sustainable Employment initiative. A voice vote was taken, approved 5-0.

Torrens Funding from Cook County for Housing with Lead Paint

Evonda Thomas-Smith Health Department Director stated the Torrens fund comes from Cook County Department of Public Health and the City of Evanston serves as a pass-through. When the State notifies the health department of a child in our jurisdiction with an unacceptable level of lead exposure the Health Department does an assessment of the home and solicits vendors for abatement. This request is asking if we can pay vendors who have done the remediation and abatement.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Torrens Funding from Cook County for Housing with Lead Paint. A voice vote was taken Funding approved 5-0.

Citizen Comments

Sabrina Edman 2510 Prairie Ave would like the Harley Clarke Mansion property to remain public

George P. Mitchell, NAACP, 1229 Emerson St. would like clarity on how the safe zone proposal would be enforce. He does not believe this agreement is needed.

Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent Evanston Township High School (ETHS) told the Committee the agreement has been approved by the District 202 School Board. He further stated safety is a big concern and as the superintendent of the district he is asking for help to keep the children safe by expanding the school safety zone.

Sam Petternio, ETHS Safety Director stated in previous years there has been incidents where suspects who they believe to be gang members from Chicago were seen hanging out across the street to cause trouble. This agreement would be a tool to assist the school and it would not impede on access to the sidewalk.
**Gretchen Livingston, ETHS President of District 202 School Board** supports the Agreement.

**Madelyn Ducre**, is not in favor of this agreement, she does not want or agree with the agreement.

**Dr. Murphy, Superintendent District 65**, stated his school Board has not yet voted on the expansion of the school safe zone. This ordinance would allow some control for the schools to push the buffer back so there is a wider safety net for the children and parents after school.

**Betty Ester 2031 Church St.** is not in favor of the Agreement for expansion of the safe school zone.

**Eva Holland-Switch** asked if there is any additional paperwork which have the guidelines for the accountability of paperwork at the Township. She also stated staff should be more sincere, show concern and be more responsible.

**Priscilla Giles, 1829 Ashland**, felt the entire City should be a safe zone, she does not approve of the agreement.

**Vernon Clarke, Associate Principal at ETHS**, strongly agrees with the proposal to expand the school safe zone. He begged the Committee to approve the ordinance.

**Pat Gregory, 1731 Leland** felt a community discussion is needed before this agreement can move forward.

**RESOLUTION 38-R-13 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Evanston Township High School District No. 202 for the Operation of a School Safe Zone**

Ald. Fiske and Burrus support the resolution; however, Ald. Burrus does not believe it is the sole responsibility of the police to keep children safe. Parents/guardian should be held responsible/accountable for their kid’s outrageous acts.

Ald. Burrus stated District 65 in past years has denied the City’s request for help in funding the crossing guards their reply has been “It’s not our responsibility”. Ald. Burrus said “if we are going to do this together we should do everything together, it is not a one way street”.

Ald. Braithwaite stated he supports whatever tools are needed to assist the schools; however, he felt it was irresponsible of the school districts to move a policy forward without doing any kind of outreach to the surrounding communities and to shove it on the residents without a conversation. Ald. Braithwaite spoke to a Board member a week prior and informed them he was not a part of the conversation regarding this policy change. He felt the community should have been a participant in the process so they would be better informed. Until the community is informed Ald. Braithwaite is unable to support this resolution.

Ald. Tendam supports the Resolution and would support District 65 resolution.

Ald. Holmes supports the schools; however, she cannot support this resolution. Stop and Frisk was supported by her ward; she cannot support the resolution because her ward does not support it.
Ald. Braithwaite suggested the school districts host their own meeting to discuss this issue on their grounds.

Ald. Fiske disagreed with Ald. Braithwaite that it is the districts responsibility to reach out to the community. It is her believe since the Resolution is being presented to the Committee it is up to the Aldermen to do outreach to their wards to get the community engaged and informed so they can come out to the City Council meeting.

Ald. Holmes felt the people who will attend the City Council meeting and comment on this Resolution would most likely be Caucasian and not of African American or people of color who have the same concerns as she does who have children who will be impacted by the passing of this Resolution. Ald. Holmes wanted to go on record as to her concerns.

*It was moved and seconded to forward to City Council RESOLUTION 38-R-13 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Evanston Township High School District No. 202 for the Operation of a School Safe Zone. Motion approved 3-2 (Ald. Holmes and Braithwaite)*

**Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Evanston and District 65 for a School Safe Zone**

**Assessor Bonnie Wilson’s report**
- The Board of Review 2013 Assessment of Appeals opened on August 5th and ends September 3rd.
- The Evanston Tax Seminar “How to file a property tax assessment appeals” will be held on August 21st at 6:30 at the main Library.
- The 2011 delinquent property tax sale started on August 6th all sold taxes must be paid through the Cook County Clerk’s office.
- The office assisted 63 tax payers this month on corrections on missed exemptions.

The Assessor highlighted the following from the budget of the Assessor’s office
- Request a 2.5% cost of living raise for staff; she encouraged the Committee to approve this request
- Stated the Township should not have to pay for the Novak Management Report invoice because the audit was requested by the City.
- The Township should have a Legal budget

She also asked about the next steps for the referendum to dissolve the Township.

**Citizen Comments**
Paul Seldon 1235 Maple is concerned on the Township elimination of funding for the Mental Health Board and the proposed new component of adding case management. It seems they are moving away from general assistance to case management and the proposed fringe is approximately 50% which is an enormous amount of money.

Kim Fisher, 1146 Elmwood, Vice-Chair of the Mental Health Board, seeks clarification on the Township’s commitment to fiscal year 2014 funding to the Community Purchase Services distributed by the Mental Health Board and she requested clarity on “The budget does not anticipate funding any Mental Health Board Purchase of Service contracts in the 2014-2015 budget” as stated in the Supervisors memo.
Seth Green 1236 Wesley Ave supports the Mental Health Board and agree with the comments of Ms. Fisher and Mr. Seldon.

Madelyn Ducre does not agree with the City Council being the Township Trustees and is curious as to how the Committee will vote regarding the consultant fee.

Betty Ester stated there has not been a public hearing on the Township budget, she suggested separating the agenda to show when the Committee will be acting as Township Trustee during the meeting. The budget has services that are not appropriate for the Township and is not listed in the Township Handbook as allowable services.

Ms. Pricilla Giles 1829 Ashland does not believe the City Council can be impartial as the Township Trustees, she made similar suggestions as Ms. Ester to separate the Township business from City business on the agenda.

Kristen Luna, Shore Community Services is concerned with the Township exclusion of funding the Mental Health Board in the proposed budget.

It was moved and seconded to allow the Township to pay their bills from generated from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013. A roll call was taken and the motion was passed 5-0.

Township of Evanston July 2013 Monthly Bills

It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston July 2013 monthly bills. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 5-0.

Township Budget

Clarification was given on the City of Evanston attorney’s also representing the Township of Evanston; it cannot be done.

Chair Holmes asked Township Supervisor Gaspard about the payment made to a new landlord Skyline, LLC; the dollar amount is larger than what is normally issued in rent payments. Supervisor Gaspard replied as followed:

- Ms. Wideman stated her title incorrectly she is not the Human Resource Manager
- He does not feel the Committee is a legitimate body to hear/advise the Township;
- The City’s legal counsel should check the laws before advising the Committee;
- The Mental Health Board is not at risk of losing their funds
- The new landlord Skyline’s payment was approved by a case worker for a client in need and he does not know why he had to answer the question.

Ald. Burrus stated the proposed budget presented is completely out-of-line, the MHB allocations should be made clearer, there are numerous clients who already perform case work and felt hiring case workers would be duplicative, the overheard on the salary line is outrageous; there is a fiscal problem in the community and to present this budget is an insult to the Committee, the Township Trustees, and the Not for Profits in the community.

The budget needs to be gutted and she suggested working with the not for profit agencies. Ald. Burrus cannot vote for the proposed budget as presented.
Supervisor Gaspard stated the Supervisor has the full and whole control of the GA funds and will use it where he deems it necessary to move the Township forward.

Supervisor Gaspard does not feel hiring case workers would be duplicating services; he would like the Township to do more than just sign check; he would like to help people to move forward; he would like to see the clients on a regular basis; and he would like the Township to be a resource center.

Ald. Tendam believes Supervisor Gaspard is still in campaign mode and he advised him to now assume the role as Supervisor and work with his staff to get a better understanding of their roles.

Supervisor Gaspard stated Ald. Holmes and Ald. Braithwaite met with him on Monday prior to the meeting, which he stated is not aligned with the Township law and was illegal. He stated the budget presented is the result of their calculations.

Ald. Holmes was noticeable upset by Supervisor Gaspard stance that the meeting which was held was illegal and the calculations were the result of the meeting. She told the Supervisor I will not allow you to “lie on me in public”. She further stated the Budget that was presented was embarrassing and they sat with him to assist him; however, he did not take any of their recommendations.

It was moved and seconded to Hold in Committee. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 5-0.

The Township agreement with Walgreens to fill prescription for their clients has been in negotiation for a year. The Township was using the Illinois Department of Public Aid payment scale which was incorrect. The $75,000 was the negotiated payment to Walgreens for past monies owed.

Ms. Wideman informed the committee Supervisor Gaspard would like medical insurance and to change the payroll dates which will be an added costs. The committee will discuss these issues at the next Trustees meeting.

Communications
Mrs. Thomas-Smith announced the Pink Heels Tour which is being held on Wednesday August 7th from 2-7p.m. at Dempster/Dodge plaza. This event is to raise awareness on women cancers free screening will be provided.

Ald Holmes announced National Night Out and invited the community to join her from 6-9p.m. at Church and Dodge

ADJOURNMENT
It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department