

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of April 7, 2008**  
**Civic Center - Room 2402**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**ALDERMAN PRESENT:** S. Bernstein, D. Holmes  
L. Jean-Baptiste C. Tisdahl

A Quorum was present.

**NOT PRESENT:** Alderman Moran

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nicola Whyte, Elke Purze, Alisa Dean, Doug Gaynor, Evonda Thomas

**OTHERS PRESENT:** See attached list of attendees

**PRESIDING OFFICIAL:** Alderman Bernstein

**CALL TO ORDER**

Alderman Bernstein called the meeting to order at 7:31p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2008, MEETING**

Alderman Bernstein moved approval, Alderman Tisdahl seconded. The minutes of the March 3, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF MARCH 2008 EVANSTON TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BILLS**

Alderman Holmes moved approval, Alderman Jean-Baptiste seconded. The Evanston Township monthly bills were unanimously approved (3-0).

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 43-O-08 PROPOSED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR TOWN PURPOSES, FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2009**

Patricia Vance summarized the budget by stating it is comprised of the general assistance (raised by only 2%) and the Town fund, no increase this year. A catastrophic insurance policy was purchased to help with health claims. Last year the Township contributed to different organizations and will do the same this year with an additional \$15,000 to the 50/50 Summer Youth Employment Program, and \$5,000 to the Youth Summit.

Alderman Bernstein had a few questions for Sharon Eckersall, the Assessor regarding the budget: 1) *travel and education \$5000*; Ms. Eckersall stated her assistant needs to take classes that are not cheap and gas prices are high and she attends monthly meetings in Joliet. Alderman Bernstein recommended that she take only the two classes necessary to maintain her certification and a wanted a breakdown of the most recent trips. He commented on the report from Mr. Michael Ley, Partner at Virchow Krause & Company on the Assessors office and stated it showed Ms. Eckersall does not do a lot in that office and so he does not want to fund the Assessors office a lot of money.

2) *Legal \$3000*; Ms. Eckersall replied it is for a carry over of the bills not received from Hoover.

3) *Contingency \$1,000, mentioned not discussed.*

4) *Dues and Subscription \$2,500 which is \$1,941 increase from last years actual of \$559*; Ms. Eckersall offered to give him a breakdown. Alderman Bernstein felt that the Committee deserved a breakdown of each line item from her office.

5) *Equipment Purchase \$3,500*; Ms. Eckersall, they need new computers and software and they have not purchased any new equipment for the last 4 or 5 years, last year a printer was bought. Alderman Bernstein pointed out that there are three (3) computers in the office; Ms. Eckersall replied one is not working. Alderman Bernstein asked if the \$3500 is approved for equipment purchase; then the \$3,000 requested for equipment maintenance won't be necessary. Ms. Eckersall replied that she does not know. Alderman Jean-Baptiste suggested that the City of Evanston could extend their IS department to help with maintenance of the Assessors office equipment.

6) *Supplies \$5,500 actual of last year was \$2,473*; Ms. Eckersall replied because they have not bought any supplies in a long time like paper and computer ribbon.

7) *Postage- last year actual \$240, the budget this year is \$1000*; Ms. Eckersall, reassessment notices are no longer sent out and the office mail out kits that the residents bring in. Alderman Bernstein felt that the funds requested was large since postage is .41 cents.

8) *Printing and Duplicating*; Ms. Eckersall stated there were business cards coming in to get out, stationary, envelopes, and cards were redone because the fax number was incorrect.

9) *Contract Service \$2,500*; Ms. Eckersall, contracts for printers are being renewed, and security monitoring of the doors were added. Alderman Bernstein asked if she was requesting \$6,000 (equipment maintenance (\$3,500) and contract service (\$2,000)) to service new machines; Ms. Eckersall, yes. Alderman Bernstein felt that a reduction of \$20,000 is necessary and the final cuts will depend on what is in the detail summary. He also went on to state that money was spent on a survey because of the questionable practice of the office and hundreds of thousands spent on lawsuits because of the practices of the Assessors office.

The Assessor's office budget was held in committee until the requested breakdown is supplied to trustees.

**Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Holmes seconded. The Township Supervisor and General Assistance budget was unanimously approved (3-0).**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-R-08 EVANSTON TOWNSHIP INVESTMENT POLICY**

Ms. Vance stated that this is a new law that requires each governmental body to have an investment policy that guides how the funds are used.

**Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Holmes seconded. The Supervisor's budget was unanimously approved (3-0).**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-R-08 AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR TO TRANSFER ACCOUNTS FROM J.P. MORGAN CHASE TO FIRST BANK AND TRUST**

Alderman Bernstein asked why approval is needed to change bank accounts. Ms. Vance stated that the law requires it and that the change is necessary because Chase bank charges a fee to cash a check for non members which her clients are not.

**Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Holmes seconded. The Resolution Authorizing the Township to Transfer Accounts from J.P. Morgan Chase to First Bank and trust was unanimously approved (3-0).**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 25-R-08 CALLING FOR OPPOSITION TO U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION OR USE OF FORCE IN IRAN**

Item was not discussed held in Committee until the May 5, 2008 meeting.

### **UPDATE OF CITIZENS POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The police and the CPAD committee have unanimity on the Citizens' Police Advisory Committee Proposal. Alderman Bernstein stated that the proposal is a structure and a mission statement, what it doesn't have is how it will function; an advisory committee has to be created he will leave the final decisions to the City Council. Alderman Jean-Baptiste mentioned to Elke Purze, City's legal counsel that this committee should be handled in the same way as other ad hoc committees.

**Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Holmes seconded. The Citizens Police Advisory Committee Proposal was unanimously approved (3-0).**

### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 3-O-08 AMENDING THE CITY CODE BY ENACTING A NEW TITLE 9, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 32 "FIGHTING"**

This Ordinance is being held in committee until legal counsel can take a look at it.

**Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved to hold in committee. Alderman Holmes seconded.**

### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 50-O-08 AMENDMENTS VARIOUS SECTIONS OF TITLE 9, CHAPTER 4 OF THE EVANSTON CITY CODE, "DOGS, CATS, ANIMALS AND FOWL"**

Linda Teckler, Chief Animal Warden requested 1) an increase in fees; license, pick up fee and boarding impoundment 2) amend the neutering and spay sections 3) dangerous dog criteria 4) anyone with a dangerous dog should have insurance not adjacent to homeowners insurance 5) dangerous dogs holding/pen structure 3) dangerous dogs should have a microchip. Alderman Jean-Baptiste asked if the City Managers office was given notice about the potential revenue with the increase of the fees during the budget process. Ms. Teckler did not know. Alderman Holmes would like an update in the future about the other animals i.e., raccoons how do you get rid of them and how to prevent them from entering your property.

**Alderman Bernstein suggested that the proposal be approved and should go to the City Managers office and Legal for review and forward to City Council. The Committee did not vote, held in Committee.**

### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 51-O-08 AMENDING VARIOUS SECTION OF 9-6-1 OF THE EVANSTON CITY CODE, ENTITLED "CURFEW"**

Alderman Rainey reported that the City of Chicago shares a city limit with the City of Evanston and that their curfew does not coincide with ours; the south side of Evanston which is part of her ward is experiencing people crossing the street after Chicago's curfew in order to not be in violation. She is asking the Committee to make the City of Evanston's curfew ordinance comparable to the City of Chicago.

**Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, motion seconded by Alderman Tisdahl. The Ordinance 51-O-08 Amending Various Section of 9-6-1 of the Evanston City Code Entitled 'CURFEW was unanimously approved (4-0).**

### **CONSIDERATION OF FY2008-2009 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Alderman Bernstein asked Alisa Dean what is the process in arriving at the dollar amount and how do you

solicit the agencies. Her reply stated that allocation depends on the amount requested; number of agencies and the amount of dollars that is available and soliciting is done by sending out requests to agencies that fit the guidelines. Alderman Bernstein requested copies of past years recommendation submitted to the City Council to see the trend.

**Alderman Jean Baptiste moved approval, motion seconded by Alderman Holmes. FY2008-2009 Emergency Shelter Grant Funding Recommendation was unanimously approved (3-0).**

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

### 1. Farmers Market

Emily Guthrie coordinator of the Home Grown Artist are Evanston residents and people that have an affiliation with a studio or gallery, it has to be the artist own work. The first year there were 25 artists and 45 last year. Their location last year posed some barriers; they felt removed from the market and were limited in the number of tents. They would like to be placed on the north side of the garage this year.

Alisa Dean reported on the *How We Are Cooking*, Alderman Holmes was concerned about how the food was going to be cooked and if there was a charge for the food. Evonda Thomas mentioned that *How We Are Cooking* will use the foods from the farmers and that the Health Department has already approved the equipment. Alderman Jean-Baptiste was concerned about the liability to the City if someone gets sick from the food and if we allow one entity to participate how do we police who can or cannot cook at the market.

**Alderman Bernstein recommends holding it in committee until liability and sponsors can be established.**

### 2. Indoor Recreational Needs Assessment / Future of Robert Crown Center

Doug Gaynor stated the Evanston Township High School (District 202) is in the process of remodeling their field house and he spoke to Bill Stafford and it was suggested that the City of Evanston could collaborate with District 202. The goal of the Recreation Board is to renovate Robert Crown Center and to have an indoor facility for i.e. soccer and tennis. The high school would use it during the day and the City would use it at nights and on weekend. They are requesting that the Committee revise the hiring of the consultant so that the Board can move forward with District 202. Mr. Gaynor wanted direction from the Committee and they will return in a few months with more information.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

Report of Township Assessor's Office Review

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicola Whyte  
Department of Health and Human Services