

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

VILLAGE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2014

Chair Jim Brunnquell called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members present: Jim Brunnquell, Jim Grant, Lisa Uribe-Harbeck, David Liss, Susan Meinecke, Dean Proefrock and Dave Antoine

Staff present: Village Administrator Darrell Hofland, Fire Chief William Rice, Director of Administrative Services Paul Styduhar, Building Inspector Tom Johnson, Director of Public Works Dave Murphy, Director of Parks and Recreation John Safstrom, Library Director John Hanson and Police Captain Joseph Gabrish

Others present: Approximately 30 people in attendance, including approximately 10 members of the Fire Department.

HEAR ALL INTERESTED PERSONS OR THEIR AGENTS

Village President Jim Brunnquell welcomed everyone to the public hearing and stated that the Board attended the October 18, 2014 budget workshop. Village President Brunnquell noted that the adoption of the 2015 budget and establishment of the tax levy would be on November 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Village Board meeting.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE BY VILLAGE CLERK

Director of Administrative Services Paul Styduhar read the statement of public notice: The purpose of this hearing is for public review and comment regarding the proposed 2015 Village of Grafton Annual Program Budget and related levy.

PUBLIC HEARING

Village President Brunnquell stated the purpose of this meeting is to obtain any comments and receive any questions regarding the 2015 Village of Grafton Annual Program Budget. Administrator Hofland gave a slide show presentation highlighting budget areas and related tax levy. Mr. Brunnquell began the Public Hearing by calling names from the Public Hearing sign-in sheet.

Eric Grob, 1549 Ulao Road, Town of Grafton, stated that he wrote an editorial to the News Graphic and does not support the hiring of a new Division Chief of Fire Protection and Public Education (Fire Inspector). As a former Grafton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Board Member he believed the intent was to have the Fire Chief perform inspection duties and does not see a need for a new position as well as going on fire and ambulance calls.

Wayne Jagodzinski, 1842 17th Avenue and Ted Grob, Jr., 1541 E. Cedar Creek Road, Town of Grafton, stated they agreed with Mr. Grob's statement.

Scott Schlenner, 1704 16th Avenue stated he is a current member of the Fire Department and supports hiring a full-time Fire Inspector. He stated the editorial published in the paper written by Mr. Grob had an incorrect headline stating the Fire Department does not support the new position. He wanted to make clear that the current Fire Department personnel support the new position of Fire Inspector.

Karen Stockwell, 717 Heather Court, Town of Grafton Supervisor, stated that the Town Board of Supervisors had discussed the request for the new position and have met with Administrator Hofland and Fire Chief Rice and that the Town Board unanimously supports the new position of Fire Inspector. Ms. Stockwell stated the Town has a stake in this decision as 40 percent of the Fire Department's expenditures are paid by the Town.

Bob Wolf, 397 Vista View, Town of Grafton member of the Village Public Safety Commission spoke in support of a new position of Fire Inspector.

Matt Schaenzer, 808 Delaware, stated he is a current member of the Fire Department and supports the hiring of a new position of Fire Inspector. Mr. Schaenzer stated that the number of inspections that need to be done along with the administrative work currently handled by the Chief Rice cannot be handled by one position. Mr. Schaenzer also wanted to correct the misconception that Chief Rice is not a "working chief" and that in fact Chief Rice goes to the majority of fire and rescue calls.

Richard Weber, 366 W. Thornapple Lane, Mary Warren, 2046 Pine Ridge Court, Pat Shaw, 375 Juniper Court, Tim Maguire, 359 W Thornapple Lane, Norm Christensen, 1793 Cherokee Street and Bill Harbeck, 907 17th Avenue also stated they support a new position of Fire Inspector.

President Brunnquell asked if there were any other comments from the public. There were none.

President Brunnquell asked if there were any comments from the Village Board.

Trustee Grant stated that the transition from the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department Inc. to the Grafton Fire Department has created angst among residents from the referendum through the current issue of the new position of Fire Inspector. Trustee Grant stated that originally he was not supportive of the new position of Fire Inspector but now supports the position. Trustee Grant commented as Chair of the Public Safety Commission he has spoken with Chief Rice and has been hard on him in Chief Rice's request for the new position but based on Chief Rice's explanation, he is now supportive.

Trustee Antoine stated he has reviewed the Fire Chief's job description and the Chief is an administrator, supervisor and participant of the department. Based on the number of standard inspections identified, 1,400 he calculated that the Chief would spend 60 percent of their time on inspections alone and is still required to be the administrator and supervisor of the department. Trustee Antione stated the Village continues to grow and is a metropolitan community with changing needs and supports the new position of Fire Inspector.

Trustee Meinecke stated that the new position of Fire Inspector's main responsibility is inspections but believes that if the duties are 60 percent of a full time position she is not supportive of creating a new full-time position.

President Brunquell stated that Trustee Meinecke's comment was fair and requested that Fire Chief Rice respond why the request is for a full-time position.

Fire Chief Rice stated that the new Fire Inspector would be conducting fire inspections, performing building plan reviews, answering questions regarding fire inspections, coordinating and conducting fire education, review training programs, update the Village's fire code and actively going to fire and rescue calls as well as perform other administrative tasks. Currently a paramedic service program is being developed and discussed that the Fire Inspector would be involved with this program. Chief Rice stated that he has been tasked to make the department better and needs assistance from this new position of Fire Inspector to make it happen.

Trustee Harbeck stated she has received phone calls and has also initiated discussions with residents and supports the new position of Fire Inspector. She understands there are two sides of the discussion and believes that the former Grafton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was not thanked enough for their service and commitment and wants to acknowledge the years of service and commitment of the members of the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Trustee Grant stated that he agrees with Trustee Harbeck's comments regarding the service and commitment of the members of the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

President Brunquell stated that when the original concept of the Fire Inspector was proposed he met with Fire Chief Rice to discuss and is convinced the position of Fire Inspector is needed. As disclosed in meetings over two years ago by Chief John Place and Assistant Chief Dean Proefrock, the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department's request to create a Village fire department was a huge first transitional step for the community. In these meetings, it was identified that a dynamic change was needed to provide future fire prevention and rescue services and it was eventually decided by referendum of Village and Town residents. Chef Rice was hired to identify what fire and rescue services should be and has now identified changes, including the new position of Fire Inspector. While change can be difficult, he views the position of Fire Inspector as positive change. The Village and Town need to look towards the future and relies on

the Fire Chief Rice to identify change and the Board is the agent of change. President Brunnuell stated that the Fire Department is doing a fantastic job.

President Brunnuell asked if there were any other comments or questions from Trustees on the proposed 2015 budget.

Trustee Grant asked why there was an increase proposed for Trustee and President salaries as he does not remember this being discussed at a prior Finance Committee meeting. Trustee Grant stated that the \$6,000 increase could be used elsewhere such as the Veterans Memorial Park shelter.

Administrator Hofland stated that this stipends increase is recommended as part of his duties as Administrator. The recommendation is based on a survey of nearby communities' elected official salaries. The increase would impact those seats which are up for re-election in April and would commence with the first Board meeting after the election. The remaining Village Board seats would not see an increase until April, 2016 when their new term of office is effective.

President Brunnuell stated that the 2015 Budget and establishment of the tax levy are on the November 3, 2014 Village Board agenda for consideration and adoption.

ADJOURN

President Brunnuell closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.