

**Minutes of the Public Hearing on the 2009/10
Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance
Held on September 10, 2009 at the
Offices of the Posen Park District
143rd & Campbell at 7:00PM**

Call To Order

President Myers called the Public Hearing to order at 7:11PM

Upon the Roll Call by Secretary Ochoa, Commissioners Myers, Lemke, Murphy, and Whitcomb were in attendance. Commissioner Nichols was absent. Staff members present were Superintendent Jim Jozwiak, Board Secretary Joy Ochoa, and Treasurer Don Jacobs.

Open To Public:

President Myers opened the floor for public inquiry concerning the budget.

Resident Albert Chmielak inquired about the revenue received from a property sale. President Myers responded that the property in question was part of Therapeutic Park acquired by IDOT as part of the toll way expansion project.

Mr. Chmielak asked why the IDOT money is being used in the budget to cover regular expenses rather than budgeting for a specific project and how the Park District plans on covering budget shortfalls next year when this extra \$34,000 will not be available again. Treasurer Don Jacobs responded that financially there is no other option available because the property tax revenue coming in is lower than anticipated and is also late in arriving. The Park District has not received much revenue since March and may need to take out a loan to cover expenses until the tax revenue starts coming in again.

Mr. Chmielak inquired why the \$34,000 couldn't just have been used to plug the deficit to avoid a loan then replaced by incoming property tax revenue and used for an improvement project or bond rather than just raising the amounts budgeted for regular line item expenses. Treasurer Jacobs responded that the IDOT money was not put into the budget simply to spend it on anything, but that legally it must be accounted for within the budget. He also stated that every entry and dollar budgeted does not necessarily get spent since not receiving all of the projected property tax revenue leads to reductions in or elimination of certain line items in the budget in order to meet critical expenses, such as payroll, the new lawnmower, and the impending need for a new truck.

Resident Juanita Goodwin inquired how much tax revenue we received and how much we appropriated for last year and how short we are currently. Treasurer Jacobs responded that we received \$118,000 last year out of \$128,000 appropriated for, and that we are currently about \$13,000 short to date this fiscal year. Resident Donald Schnering Jr. commented that governmental bodies always ask for more in appropriations than they are likely to receive as standard practice.

Mrs. Goodwin inquired about the line item regarding equipment installation, asking what new equipment the Park District has purchased in the last few years. President Myers responded that replacement parts for equipment are expensive to purchase and install, especially since the parts for much of the equipment have changed and are harder to find, making them even more expensive.

There being no further inquiries, the floor was closed to public comment.

Closing:

President Myers moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Murphy. All commissioners voted Aye. The hearing closed at 7:28PM.