

**City of Darien**  
**Minutes of the Administrative Finance Committee**  
**October 12, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Poteraske at 6:30 p.m. and a quorum was declared. Committee Members in attendance: Aldermen Halil Avci and Carolyn Gattuso. The following were also present: City Administrator Bryon Vana, Assistant City Administrator Scott Coren,

**Tax Levy Determination**

Staff advised the draft ordinance requests a general corporate purpose (general fund) and special corporate levy (police pension fund) of \$1,585,000 which represents a 2.4% increase over this year's extension of \$1,546,584. This number is the result of analysis of the estimated increase in the assessed valuation and new growth valuation in order to estimate that we stay within the parameter of not increasing the tax rate. Staff advised that in the upcoming years the assessed value is anticipated to decrease as the assessor's office basis of using the previous 3 years or real estate values as one of the basis for their calculations. The committee concurred to continue to publicize the black border public hearing notice even though we are not required to do so since the levy request does not exceed limits. Staff also advised that the Pension Fund has not yet provided the updated report so I did not increase the amount. Any increases identified in the study would increase the pension levy and reduce the corporate levy by that same amount. Motion to set the City's 2009 general property tax levy and special corporate tax levy (police pension fund) at \$1,585,000 and set the City's 2009 Special Service Area I property tax levy at \$5,000 was approved by unanimous vote.

**Marion Hills Park- Property Transfer from DuPage County to Darien**

Staff advised during the September 17<sup>th</sup> Goal Setting Session the City Council discussed that Darien, and DuPage County, currently owns several parcels of land on Elm Street near the High School. These parcels were originally purchased to be part of a storm water detention area. Due to other storm water improvements in this area these parcels are no longer needed for this purpose. Alderman Galan proposed the City work with the Park District and County so the parcels can be used as a local park. The Council concurred with the idea. Since the Goal Setting session Alderman Galan has met with DuPage County officials. The County would consider transferring their 2 parcels of land to Darien at no cost. Alderman Galan was in attendance and answered several questions from the committee. The County advised if the City would like to move forward on the land transfer they would need a short description of what's planned in order to tailor the

agreement to this particular case. Motion to proceed with land transfer process, pending approval of the final intergovernmental agreement, was approved by unanimous vote. Alderman Poterakse asked staff to place this on the Council agenda under new business. Administrator Vana advised that items receiving unanimous vote are typically placed on the consent agenda.

**Replace Tornado Siren & Pole**

Staff advised the City of Darien maintains a tornado siren located at the water plant at 1834 Manning Road. During a routine test, it was identified that one of the motors on the siren is no longer functioning. The siren was installed in 1980 at the latest. It was considered to have a life of 30 years, so it is at the end of its useful life. The cost to repair the broken blower assembly is \$4,835. It has also been identified that the pole that holds the siren has cracks through to the middle of the pole and it should also be replaced at a cost of \$6,050. Staff recommends instead of repairing the broken blower assembly, we purchase a new tornado siren for \$11,275.25. This item was not brought forward during the budget; however the concrete pad at the gas pumps will not be replaced this year for \$25,000 in budgeted savings in line item 30-4223. Alderman Avci requested that staff review the location of the siren to make sure it is located at a good place. Motion to purchase a new tornado siren for \$17,325.25 was approved by unanimous vote.

**Private Residential Parking Enforcement-Update**

Staff advised that Werk Management Company previously made a written request to enter into contractual agreements with the City for police services on three properties. Staff has met several times with representatives of Werk Management. As a result of those discussions and property visits, Staff and Werk have almost whittled this issue down to its proper core. Staff anticipates a final resolution before the end of the year as this has not been an urgent issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.21 p.m. Next scheduled meeting date is Monday, November 9th, 2009.

Approved:

John Poteraske, Chairman

Halil Avci, Member

Carolyn Gattuso, Member