

**Village of Mamaroneck Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

1. Approve prior meeting minutes.
2. Re-cap of Budget agenda items via 3/27/23 Board of Trustees meeting.
3. Budget Committee latest feedback on Tentative Budget.
4. Review upcoming BOT Budget Work Session schedule and Budget Committee's plan for engagement.
5. Feedback and analysis of Village of Port Chester migrating its court system into the Town of Rye's

Village of Mamaroneck Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Present: Charles Guadagnolo, Chair, Ellen Hauptman, Vice Chair, Len Aubrey, Cathy Chaput; Glenn Tippet joined by telephone; Nora Lucas, Board Liaison

Absent: Ed Zagajeski and Bill Spiro.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm

The meeting minutes from the November and December meeting were approved.

The Committee discussed the Police Reimbursement Rate recommendation. All approved and asked Nora Lucas to share with the BOT. The data collected and the recommendation were shared with Jerry Barberio, Augie Fusco and Dan Sarnoff. Feedback has not yet been received.

The Committee discussed the potential upcoming meeting with the BOT during a work session. Charles will be our spokesman. In general, we agreed to the following talking points:

- A brief introduction of who we are
- Examples of work provided in the past to illustrate how the Committee can be useful/helpful to the BOT and Village Staff
- A narrative concerning the importance of an approved Capital Plan accompanied by a discussion about the correlation between debt and the operating plan (at prior (2021) interest rates, \$1,000,000 added \$80,000 in debt service to the operating plan).
- An understanding of the impact on debt of unfinished prior year projects; can help inform current year decisions.

Charles agreed to put together bullet points to share with the Committee prior to the work session meeting with the BOT.

Glenn voiced concern about many expense categories, particularly overtime, that is over budget. Len mentioned that we need to look at both revenue and expense in order to determine if there's an issue (for the past few years, the Village has had a surplus adding to the General Fund).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Village of Mamaroneck Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Members present: Charles Guadagnolo, Chair (first on the phone and then arrive in person at 7:25), Ellen Hauptman, Vice Chair, Len Aubrey, Cathy Chaput; Ed Zagajeski; Glen Tippet joined by zoom; Nora Lucas, Board Liaison

Members absent: Bill Spiro

Members of the public present: Judge Christie Derrico and Judge Daniel Gallagher

The meeting was called to order at 7:00

The Committee discussed the budgetary consequences of eliminating the VOM Court. Village Court cases would be absorbed by the Town of Mamaroneck and the Town of Rye. Nora Lucas explained that the charge to the committee was to focus only on the budget and not on operational or logistic ramifications. The Committee determined that a sharp division between budget, operations, and tax consequences was impossible. They concluded that any analysis would have to take account of a wider set of concerns.

The judges in attendance as members of the public provided an overview of their positions, staff, and case load, emphasizing that they run an extremely cost-efficient operation. With the exception of a recent dip that they attribute to COVID, they are basically a self-funding operation. Each judge holds a 1/3 position with full health benefits and a pension pegged to a \$42,000 salary. In addition, there is a staff of 4 full-time and 1 part-time employees. On Tuesdays the court administers civil cases and on Thursdays it does criminal cases, frequently clearing 80-100 cases per day per judge. In addition, they hold night court twice per year and are available, on call, at all times for arraignments.

From their perspective, to accomplish this workload under the existing structure of Rye and Mamaroneck Townships, there will have to be full-time judges and additional staff hired. The VOM cost (in terms of cases/staff) is much more cost efficient than either town. In other words, there is no economy of scale benefit by eliminating the VOM court. Certainly, these additional costs incurred by the Townships will be offloaded onto tax-payers. In addition, there will be costs that the VOM will have to absorb. For instance, a records clerk with specialized training will have to be hired to keep and access records from court cases for 40 years after the close of each case. There is also a concern about the potential decrease in parking and traffic revenue coming into the Village as many areas have ambiguous boundaries. To maintain the revenue stream would likely require the Village to hire staff to oversee and ensure the distribution of profits from parking.

The Committee determined that an analysis of this issue would require looking into cost-savings, new costs accrued for administration, and tax implications.

The committee agreed to reschedule the next meeting for March 28th at 7:00 because Charles Guadagnolo, the Chair, would be out-of-town during the regularly scheduled meeting the following week.

The committee also discussed its frustration with the 5-year budget, which seems to have spread priorities across units evenly (two per department) rather than determined overall priorities. Moreover, there are 20 projects without clear budgets. This is not an effective capital budget under which an operating budget can be pegged as there needs to be better prioritization and associated costs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00

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