

Observer Report Form

Administration and Public Works

February 10, 2008

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: Jean-Baptiste, chair; Hansen; Holmes; Rainey; Wollen

Staff Present: Jennings, Gaynor, Lookis, Police chief, Aiello, Purze, Gavin, Flowers and lots of others.

Media Present: Seidenberg, Mary Gavin, Smith, Daily Northwestern

Meeting Began. 5:40 PM

Meeting Ended: 7:00 PM

No. of Citizens in Attendance: Gerry Gordan, Jonathan Perlman

Results: Most items were included on the consent agenda.

Only one was deleted (voted down) by the committee: the proposal to have stickers put on yard waste bags (evidently a \$200,000 shortfall for the upcoming budget). People have just been trained to use the waste bags and now to have to get a sticker was a stretch. There would be bags all over the alleys. Staff suggested there could be a special pick-up with a charge on the water bill. No: Jean-Baptiste, Rainey, Hanson.

Other items discussed included:

Tax on prepared food and beverages: would be \$850,000 per year. Any item that was directly prepared by the manufacturer would be exempt (for instance, eggs or a can of cola). Perlman (Chamber) voiced concern for restaurants with banquet/group business (and big checks) – not for the individual dinner who would absorb the increase without altering her plans. Wollin asked him for suggestions as to how group business could be differentiated so that the additional tax only would apply to the individual. The item was put on the consent agenda. (Rainey insisted that it has never been doom and gloom as the Chamber always predicts.)

Raise on the taxi renewal fees and rate: This will raise both the license fees and rates, which haven't been raised in at least 10 years. Taxi companies are given the opportunity to raise riding rates but they usually do this over time (last time the 2001 rate increase wasn't fully implemented until 2005). Evanston doesn't regulate Ev/O'Hare (Skokie does). Cabs are inspected 4 x per year. *There was a general call by the aldermen to have a meeting of the taxi cab board, but it only has one member and all other terms have expired.*

Parking Meter and Parking Fine Increases: Discussion focused on the fines during snow emergencies. Hanson pointed out they were unevenly applied, and the staff explanation left me still confused. Jennings suggested that this part be referred to the parking committee since the increase wouldn't be in place until 4/01 – at which point there shouldn't be any more snow emergencies.