

## VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*  
ROBERT PESTRONK, *Chairman*  
DANIEL AHR, *Vice-Chairman*  
MARTHA SOLT, *Secretary*  
ROY SCHAEFFER, *Treasurer*  
MICHAEL MEZEY  
CHERYL TYLER

4433 SOUTH PARK AVENUE  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

Phone: 301-656-2797  
Fax: 301-907-3922  
Email: [info@friendshipheightsmd.gov](mailto:info@friendshipheightsmd.gov)  
Website: [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov)



JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

### **Approved Minutes Friendship Heights Village Council Finance Committee Thursday, February 27, 2025**

**Council Finance Committee members present:** Roy Schaeffer; Bobby Pestronk; Michael Mezey.

**Others present:** Julian Mansfield; Al Muller; Martha Solt; Cheryl Tyler; one Village resident.

At 6 p.m., Mr. Schaeffer called the meeting of the Friendship Heights Village Council Finance Committee to order.

#### **Approval of minutes of January 9 Committee meeting**

The Committee postponed consideration of the minutes of the January 9 Finance Committee meeting.

#### **Discussion of EV Charging Stations**

Mr. Schaeffer indicated he had received a request for including funding in the Village's capital budget for electric vehicle charging stations. Council member Martha Solt has some information on this to present to the Council. The Committee members agreed this item should be placed on the agenda for the March 10 Council meeting.

#### **Discussion/vote on Draft Budget**

Mr. Schaeffer discussed several updates to the budget from the previous draft, including adding a contribution to capital improvements expense line item in the operating budget, and updating salaries, FICA and retirement contribution line items following Personnel Committee recommendations. Committee members discussed the Capital Improvements Fund balance and adjustments to be made upon receipt of the payment from Donohoe for additional density rights related to the 5500 Wisconsin Avenue project, along with projected capital expenses. \$500,000 of the Donohoe payment had previously been committed to the Capital Improvements Fund.

Motion/vote: Mr. Mezey moved, Mr. Pestronk seconded, to place \$250,000 of the payment from Donohoe into the Capital Improvements Fund and to remove the operating expense contribution to the Capital Fund. The motion was approved unanimously (3-0). It was further agreed that the remaining \$250,000 from the Donohoe payment will be transferred to the General Fund.

Motion/Vote: Mr. Pestronk moved, Mr. Mezey seconded, to reduce the Legal Counsel expense item from \$75,000 to \$65,000 for FY 2026. The motion passed by a 2-1 vote (Mr. Schaeffer opposed).

Mr. Pestronk requested to keep line item 8I (New Initiatives) at \$5,000 for FY 2026-28. The Committee agreed by consensus.

Mr. Mansfield referred to the two versions of the draft budget, one with 2% revenue increases projected for FY 2027 and FY 2028, and the other with 3% revenue increases for the same years. He requested clarification from the Committee as to which version of the draft budget will be used moving forward.

Motion/Vote: Mr. Mezey moved, Mr. Pestronk seconded, to have the budget reflect 3% revenue increases for FY 2027 and FY 2028. The motion was approved by a 2-1 vote (Mr. Schaeffer opposed).

Council member Cheryl Tyler inquired about the \$75,000 expense for security services shown in the capital budget. She indicated the anticipated costs for security would not be that high.

Motion/Vote: Mr. Pestronk moved, Mr. Mezey seconded, to reduce the security services line item to \$20,000 per year in the capital budget. The motion was approved by a 2-1 vote (Mr. Schaeffer opposed).

The Committee discussed setting the Village property tax rate for FY 2026.

Motion/Vote: Mr. Mezey moved, Mr. Pestronk seconded, to set the Village property tax rate at 4 cents/\$100 assessed property value for FY 2026. The motion was approved unanimously (3-0).

### **Investment Policy**

Mr. Schaeffer indicated the Village Council's investment policy was adopted in 1995 and is out of date. Village attorney Ron Bolt advised that the Village should update its policy using the current State of Maryland policy and modifying it as needed. Mr. Schaeffer prepared a revised draft which was approved by the attorney. He recommended adopting the policy with the ability to make future modifications as needed. Mr. Pestronk presented 14 changes he recommended for the proposed draft.

Motion/Vote: Mr. Schaeffer moved, Mr. Mezey seconded, to approve Mr. Schaeffer's draft investment policy subject to removing the "t" in Section 4 and removing Section 15 entirely (requiring annual approval). The motion failed by a vote of 1-1-1 (Mr. Pestronk opposed, Mr. Mezey abstained).

It was agreed that Mr. Schaeffer and Mr. Pestronk will meet to reconcile the two draft policy documents.

No other action was taken by the Finance Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roy Schaeffer".

---

Roy Schaeffer, Finance Committee Chair