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Holly Spurlock  
Board President  
Oak Park Elementary District 97  
[hspurlock@op97.org](mailto:hspurlock@op97.org)

Dear President Spurlock,

I wanted to reach out to you regarding the work of the Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force that was established by the Oak Park Village Board in late February and has recently begun to meet. Recognizing the tax-driven financial challenges posed to an increasing proportion of the residents of our community, the Village Board established this Task Force and charged it with responsibility to identify and make recommendations regarding potential efficiencies that could lessen the property tax burden that is currently facing the community and/or that will face the community in the future.

The task force is composed of seven members. These members include Brian Chang, Joi Cregler, Judy Greffin, John Hedges, Gary McCullough, James Peters, and myself. I have been asked to serve as the Chair of the Task Force. We are also grateful to be receiving valuable outside logistical, facilitation, and subject matter expertise support from the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC).

With this communication, we also want to clarify that the members of the Task Force recognize that each of the individual governing bodies operating within Oak Park oversees operations that provide important and needed services here in our community. In turn, we also fully grasp that our charge is not aimed at the elimination of needed services, but rather at the more efficient provision of such needed services.

Approaching this question from the same standpoint, the members of the Task Force have asked me to reach out to you on behalf of your Board to invite you to provide us with any information from your Board's standpoint that may assist us in this effort. We would appreciate any information and/or suggestions that you and your fellow Board members can provide to help to advance the more efficient provision of governmental services here in our community.

We've attached a number of questions designed to prompt relevant thoughts and ideas, but please do not feel limited in your responses simply to these questions. We will welcome any and all insights that you and your colleagues may be able to share with us – either regarding potential opportunities related to your organization's operations or to the operations of any other organization(s) here in the community that impact the overall property tax burden in Oak Park. Your insights and recommendations can be shared with us through the Task Force's shared email at [efficiencies@oak-park.us](mailto:efficiencies@oak-park.us).

Also, please expect to receive an invitation from the MPC that asks representatives of your organization to attend a breakfast or lunch meeting to discuss these topics during the week of May 7.

MPC is a nonprofit organization assisting the task force with its work, and we ask that you give full consideration to their invitation.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at 312-498-6001.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this important undertaking, and thank you again for all of your continuing service to all of the people of Oak Park.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. G. Pope", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David G Pope  
Chair of Task Force

## Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force – Governing Body Questionnaire

Thank you again for your willingness to share your insights and perspectives with the Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force. We look forward to working in partnership with you to identify potential opportunities to more efficiently meet the needs of the residents and businesses of Oak Park, while at the same time maintaining our community's high quality of services. In order to help provide us with your insights, we've compiled the following questionnaire to prompt your thinking. Please do not feel limited to responding only to these questions. Thank you again for your participation.

1. What are *ongoing initiatives* that your organization is pursuing to improve efficiency of service delivery? Please consider these along each of the following dimensions:
  - a. Operating expenses
  - b. Retiree pensions and benefits
  - c. Capital expenses
  - d. Expenses related to financing and debt
2. What has been your experience with *coordinating, sharing, or consolidating services, equipment, staff, or other assets* with another unit of government? Please share with us any specific examples. As above, please consider this in terms of: operating expenses, retiree pensions and benefits, capital expenses, and expenses related to financing and debt. Can you comment on how any such coordination has worked in terms of service level outcomes and financial impacts? What barriers, if any, have you encountered in pursuing such efforts?
3. Beyond your current activities, are you aware of any *past efforts* by your organization to coordinate, share, or consolidate such services with another unit of government? If these efforts have ended, please share with us those examples as well?
4. Please share with us any further opportunities that you see regarding opportunities for *coordination, sharing, or consolidation of services, equipment, staff, or other assets* – either between or among your governing body and other governing bodies or among other governing bodies exclusive of your unit of government?

Thank you again for your time and attention to this important initiative. We would appreciate receiving your responses to this survey by **Monday, May 7**.