

The notes of Village meetings are prepared by volunteers of Winfield United as a community service. The notes are not the official Village of Winfield minutes. They are not a complete written and accurate representation of all matters discussed at the meeting nor is it our intention to lead readers to make any such conclusion. These notes are solely for a prompt and quick informational briefing of the agenda and general discussion made by the Village Trustees and attendees at the meeting for the convenience of Winfield United (WU) website visitors. They should not be used for any other purpose. We suggest that visitors to our Winfield United website please visit the official Village of Winfield website to obtain the official agenda and minutes. The Village of Winfield website is [www.villageofwinfield.com/Minutes\\_and\\_agendas.htm](http://www.villageofwinfield.com/Minutes_and_agendas.htm) for the official posting of Village minutes. Please call the Village of Winfield administration at 630-933-7100 should the official minutes for the subject meeting not be posted or for further clarification of the agenda and minutes.

**AGENDA**  
**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING,**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

>> All present

IV. Public Hearing on Reinstatement of Vehicle Sticker Ordinance

Prior to the opening of the public hearing, President Czech suggested that the vote on the issue be postponed to the next meeting.

Phil Page, interim village manager, went through a presentation containing information previously presented at a Town Hall meeting on December 13, 2008 by then Village Manager Bill Barlow.

Part 1 enumerated road repair needs.

The Village has 31 miles of streets divided into 378 "street segments." The results of a 2006 pavement evaluation rated 171 of the segments as being in fair or poor condition. "Fair" is defined as approaching the need for repair, and "poor" as needing repair or resurfacing. The "mid life" of roads is after 10 to 15 years when roads can be resurfaced with grinding and overlay. The presentation explained the maintenance life time, etc.

Waiting to deal with the roads for an additional 5 years can increase costs from 50% to 100%. Waiting 20 years or more puts the project into reconstruction, rather than resurfacing. 10,900 feet per year should be repaired in order to keep at the 10 – 15 year schedule. A number of streets were not repaired during the 1995 to 1999 cycle, mostly in the older sections of town on the south side. The northern sections of town consist of newer subdivisions that are not at the 10-15 year repair stage yet.

Part 2 discussed financing options for funding the work.

It would cost \$850,000 per year to keep at optimal cycle. The Village receives \$240,000 from Motor Vehicle Taxes, but that is used for things like salt in addition to road repair. That leaves about \$150,000 from MVT for repairs.

Since Winfield is not a home rule community, we are limited in how we can raise revenue.

Options:

Reinstate vehicle stickers. (can be done by ordinance)

The vehicle sticker program was discontinued in the early 80's. A chart of vehicle sticker fees in surrounding towns was shown. There was also a chart showing the different categories and fees being proposed for Winfield. Fees vary, but the basic fee would be \$30 per vehicle, which was an average fee when compared to surrounding areas. The projected income is based on data from the Secretary of State's office that indicates that Winfield has 8,200 cars. If all fees were collected, the income would be \$292,000. A service would be hired to mail stickers and process fees at a cost of about \$30,000. This combined with the \$150,000 from MVT would still be short of the amount needed to maintain the optimal schedule.

Raise sales taxes (requires a voter referendum)

The tax rate is currently 7%. It can be increased by ¼%. This would probably raise \$150,000 that could be used for street repair.

Raise property taxes (requires a voter referendum)

This would ask for an increase in the property tax rate for street repair. This would add an average of \$65.00 per household.

A question was raised about going with a bond referendum. This would only be used for road reconstruction, not repair.

The public works department enumerated things the public works department routinely does. They understand that residents are very sensitive to the state of the roads. Times are bad because of the economy. It took 10 to 15 years for the roads to get in their current condition. Some of the damage may be due to poor drainage. That situation is being addressed by recent sewer work.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A resident stated that she is not in favor of the vehicle stickers. She understands that the Trustees' job is to find ways to pay for needed services. She also felt strongly that they also needed to educate citizens about the needed repairs. She felt there was a source of intentional misinformation in the community, and the board had an important responsibility to make sure that the citizens received clear, true information about Village issues. She asked the trustees and citizens to keep open minds regarding ideas for solving the funding problem.

Another resident had questions about whether stickers would be a yearly fee, (yes) would R.V.'s be included, (if it is an operable vehicle, yes) and would there be weight limits for trucks? (the chart showed various fees for different weights.) He admitted that the roads did need work.

An observation was made by another resident who felt that two vehicle households would be hard hit. He felt that if a household had 2 or more vehicles, they would be better off financially by "pushing for a property tax increase."

Someone else asked if the vehicle sticker revenue would be in a separate account. She also thought the cost of the service to mail and collect the fees seemed high. In addition, she wondered how the sticker program would be enforced. (The police department could issue citations on public property.) She felt the sticker program was a "band aid" She concluded by explaining that she had multiple vehicles, so she preferred a property tax option, which could be deducted from income taxes. She suggested that the issue be put on the fall ballot as a referendum.

Expanding the tax base through annexation and increased businesses was suggested by a resident. He stated that he and his neighbors would not support any trustee who voted in favor of the vehicle stickers in the coming election.

A resident expressed opposition to the sticker idea because he felt it was a tax. He asked if there could just be a one time tax as opposed to the vehicle sticker.

A citizen with 9 vehicles expressed opposition to the proposal. Her idea was that fees should be assessed according to how many “eligible drivers” per household. (How many cars could be on the road per driver, rather than cars parked and not impacting the roads.)

The next citizen thanked the board for the presentation. She felt that the residents should all be properly informed of the details of issues, rather than getting information from other local sources that may slant the information. In addition, she had a question about exceptions for cars that were still *in* the area when the owners/drivers were, for instance, away at college. (not specifically addressed) She also felt that enforcing the sticker requirement would really be a problem.

Another resident stated that he really wanted to support the idea because the roads needed repair, but felt that the property tax idea would be better especially for households with multiple vehicles.

A question was raised by another speaker about whether CDH vehicles would need stickers. He understood the need to pay for infrastructure repair and wondered whether a utility tax increase would be one way to get more of the revenue from the hospital.

After writing out a number of bills, a citizen observed that all fees and costs were going up. He was torn on the vehicle sticker issue. He felt it wouldn’t work because so many people could avoid it. He also felt that having the police department enforce the ordinance was a waste of police time.

The number of cars in Winfield – many may be trailers that would not need stickers – was questioned by a citizen. The numbers may be wrong and the 10% non-compliance number is probably too low. He also felt that the police department should not have the added burden of enforcing the ordinance. He felt the cost of collecting fees from the collection company was high. The Village should get a better bid. He questioned whether the hospital should pitch in more, perhaps through parking fees, with part coming to the Village. He asked “Are there any other options?” (The village manager explained that he felt these were the only *viable* options to raise funds)

Imposing a sales tax would force residents to shop outside of Winfield was the opinion expressed by another resident. A question about revenue from recyclables collected by the waste hauler was also raised. (possible source of funds)

## BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Bajor complimented the process and felt that a good conversation had been held yielding many good ideas.

Trustee Oakley wanted to clarify the idea that the \$65 per household number was an *average* number and would be determined by the value of the house.

Trustee Mortenson felt that the board was getting very valuable input from the community. He explained that at the time the ordinance was researched and formulated, the stimulus package was not in the picture. There will be incentive funds from the federal and state governments that may be available for projects such as this. The state is discussing raising the gasoline tax, with part coming to local governments for roads. He felt there are other options coming up that weren’t around when they began exploring the issue.

Trustee Bajor had some ideas on new techniques in road repair that could stretch the amount of material needed per foot of repair. He also felt that the Village should be ready with “shovel ready” projects should additional stimulus funds be available.

Trustee VadebonCoeur felt that the big issue was that the board was listening and should take seriously their responsibility to thoroughly educate the public about issues before the board. In this issue, roads are an asset, and can impact property values. He asked if the Village could explore the possibility of stimulus funds before voting on the ordinance.

Trustee Birutis asked that the issue be tabled until all options could be considered. There needs to be time to get the information out to the residents.

## V. Consent Agenda

### A. Payment of Bills

1. List of Bills
2. Klein Creek Booster Generator Pay Request 1 (Partial)
3. 2007 Watermain Replacement Pay Request 5 (Partial)

### B. Ordinance approving disposal of surplus equipment – seized vehicle (2nd reading)

### C. Approval of Minutes – Regular Village Board Meetings of January 8, 2009 and January 15, 2009; Special Village Board Meeting of January 22, 2009.

### D. Appoint Diana Belda as Authorized Agent for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

>> All approved

## VI. Open Forum

### A. Public Comments

>> A resident explained that he had e-mailed an idea to each board member involving Motor Vehicle Tax options. His suggestion would be cheaper than a special census and would involve select newly annexed areas.

The owner of 20 acres on County Farm Rd. asked about the progress of the development north of his property. It was explained that there was a pre-annexation agreement in place and they were waiting for the sewer to be extended. The current economic downturn was also cited.

A citizen who had addressed the board about the vehicle stickers applauded the plan to table the issue until stimulus fund options were explored. He said it was good to hear that the board plans to listen and pay attention to other options. He complimented public works on keeping village streets clear while saving money on salt etc.

In a request for proper education and efforts to make sure the community gets accurate information, a resident asked what the Village could do. She felt that many issues could be dealt with more easily if there was a way to inform the public. Village officials mentioned the newsletter in utility bills, the Village web site as well as *The Winfield Stuff*, the Chamber of Commerce newsletter. “Could there be more stuff in Stuff?” The Village has also put in place a system to get e-mail messages about Village information to residents who choose to sign up. Many people didn’t seem to know about the program, so it was suggested that the Village include information about the program in the utility bill newsletter as well as on the web site.

A question was raised by another resident about the status of the building housing Caliendo’s restaurant. He wondered if the Village still controlled it. (The Village does not) and what was being done on the second floor. CDH has plans to use the space for conference rooms and offices. A spokesman for the hospital said they hope to be in there by April 1. He felt this use would generate more foot traffic for the businesses in the building.

## VII. New Business

>>

## VII. Reports of General Business

### A. Administration and Finance Committee

1. Review/Discuss Sales Tax Increase for Road Funding.

>> Tabled

2. An Ordinance Amending Article 3 – Business and License Regulations, Creating Chapter 16 – Motor Vehicle Licenses of the Village Code (Vehicle Stickers).

>> Tabled

### B. Plan Commission

1. Ordinance for Final Plans and Plat for a Planned Unit Development for the Demolition of an Existing Building and Construction of Additional Parking Spaces at 27W365 Jewell Road  
>> Passed

2. Ordinance for Final Plans for a Planned Unit Development for the Demolition of an Existing building and Construction of Additional Parking Spaces at 0S33 Church Street (pending Right of First Refusal amendment-0S033 Church Street)  
>> Will be brought to a vote at the next board meeting

C. Other  
>>

VIII. Reports of Temporary Committees  
>> Formed Bikeways Planning Group

A. *Safe Routes to School* – Trustee Birutis

IX. Future Business

A. Active

1. Discussion on the possible nuisance problems at 0S257 Summit Drive

B. Forthcoming

1. Implementation of a cadet program for Village departments – Trustee Oakley is working on a proposal
2. Anti-monotony ordinance for new housing projects – Matter has been referred to Plan Commission
3. Policy on maintenance of stormwater facilities – Work has begun on the inventory; policy will be deliberated by Public Works Committee first
4. Policy on distribution of impact fees – Matter has been referred to the Administration and Finance Committee
5. Sign Ordinance – Referred to staff

X. Village Board Comments

>> Trustee Mortenson announced a meeting to explain the process for the awarding of \$100,000 in grant money from CDH. This is the second of a three year grant plan. The meeting will be held on Feb. 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Village Hall

Trustee VadebonCoeur had a report from the Finance Committee. They have been exploring the possibility of posting legal notices in *The Daily Herald* and *The Winfield Register* newspapers. Representatives of both papers were at the meeting. They were looking for a cost effective way to post notices that would best serve citizens.

The Riverwalk Committee has filed the paperwork as a 501C3 organization. *The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter* will have an article on the Winfield Riverwalk project. It was also mentioned that in obtaining grants it is important to show cooperation between local organizations. In Winfield's case, the committee can show that they are working with the Safe Routes to School Committee, Prairie Path, as well as the Riverwalk.

Trustee Bajor wanted to recognize Eric Spande for his work on the Environmental Concerns Committee. He also asked if there was some way the Village could recognize and show its appreciation to CDH for all of the help that they give to the village. A plaque or certificate was suggested.

Trustee Oakley reported on the Communications Committee. They are discussing ways to get information to residents as well as providing more readable summaries of all commission minutes.

## XI. Other Village Official's Reports and Comments

### A. Village President

1. Creation of and Appointments to the Bikeways Planning Group
  - a. Trustee Deborah Birutis (Board Liaison)
  - b. Laura Kuhlman
  - c. Kevin Jury
  - d. Erik Spande
  - e. Malcolm Boyle>> Passed
2. Appoint Huseyin Gulcu to the Police Pension Board for a term to end 3-20-2011  
>> Passed
3. Re-appoint Officer Jeff Hunger to the Police Pension Board for a term to end 3- 20-2011  
>> Passed
4. Re-appoint Heidi Vollmuth and Lawrence Priban to the Traffic/Transportation Commission  
>> Passed
5. Appoint Robert Murgacz to the Environmental Concerns Commission  
>> Passed
6. Appoint Rudy Diblik as Village Treasurer  
>> Passed and sworn in
7. Appoint Andrew Kucienski to the Communications Commission  
>> Passed

### B. Village Attorney

>> None

### C. Village Treasurer

>> None

### D. Village Manager

>> Newsletter to go out next week

### E. Village Clerk

>> There will be a Public Hearing at 4:00 p.m. on Monday regarding petition challenges brought against three candidates.

## XII. Other Business

>> None

## XIII. Adjournment

>>

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### I. Old Business

#### A. Public Works Committee

1. Award of Bid for Northern Territory Sanitary Sewer to Stokes Excavating of Aurora, IL in the Amount of \$587,856.15.  
>> They will complete a 1 mile stretch to St. Charles Rd. The bid came in \$120,000 under engineer's estimates. The Village has worked with this group on the Cooley Ave. project and

have been satisfied with their work. This project has been delayed because the Village had to get the right of way from the Forest Preserve District. The project already has the water main, so the sewer section will complete the project. This item will move forward to the regular board meeting.

2. Engineering Design Contract with Rempe-Sharpe for Resurfacing of Winfield Road (Highlake Rd. to Gary's Mill Road), Gary's Mill Road, Jewell Road, and Liberty Street.

>> It was felt that plans and specs should be prepared so the project will be "shovel ready" should state or federal funds become available. Winfield Rd. is a Federally Designated Urban Highway route, so funding is likely. Trustee Birutis asked if flooding and bridge projects could also be included in possible funding proposals. Moved forward to next meeting

3. IDOT approval of Construction Services Agreement for Pedestrian Underpass.

>>

4. Backflow Prevention Testing Services

>> This project would provide protection for the public water system. If, for example, a water main were to break, water could be drawn back into the system. An inventory of cross connections throughout town needs to be done. These must be inspected by a plumber at a cost to the Village.

5. Main Lift Station Repairs – Replace Valves and Piping

>> West Chicago is currently responsible for maintenance of the lift station, but at the Village's expense. Some problems (Shady Way) have been addressed. The Village would like to negotiate to transfer ownership of the lift station to Winfield so the Village could have direct control. The village would like to replace the air relief valves, which hasn't been done in 20 years. This would involve a temporary shut down of the lift station. As it stands, Winfield pays whether they do the work or not. It was felt that the Village should move forward quickly. West Chicago does not have it on a good maintenance schedule. It will be cheaper for the Village if they can get in there and put in the correct size valves.

#### C. Administration and Finance Committee

1. Amendment to costs for recreational vehicle/trailer special use application (refer to Plan Commission).

>> To change the application costs would require a public hearing, which would also cost money. The current fee is not covering the cost of the special use process.

Ideas to reduce the meeting costs were suggested.

The Village could save money by not having a court reporter at the meetings. The meetings so far have not been contentious and it was felt that the legal transcript was not really a necessity.

The sign notifying residents of the hearing could be purchased by the Village and configured in such a way that the dates and other variable information could be changed as needed. The cost of the sign is \$150. The Village could charge a \$10 processing fee per hearing and eventually pay for the sign instead of requiring a new sign each time.

Trustee Birutis asked that the Finance Committee come back with some updated numbers on various costs before a determination is made.

No Action Taken

#### II. New Business

>>

III. Discussion of requests for future Committee of the Whole Agenda items from the Trustees (Requests Require the Concurrence of at Least Two Members of the Village Board)

>> President Czech asked that a discussion of possible creating districts for Village Trustee elections be put on a future agenda.

IV. Public Comments

>> None

V. Village Board Comments

>>

VI. Executive Session - None

>>

VII. Adjournment

>>