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AGENDA
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING,
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

>> All trustees present, clerk, attorney, village manager, Dan Watson of Rempe-Sharp

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Payment of Bills

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Village Board Meeting of January 3, 2008

2. Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 3, 2008

C. 2007 MFT Pay Request #2 and Final

D. An ordinance authorizing the disposal of property owned by the Village of Winfield – Surplus Equipment (first reading)

E. Approval of Hourly Rates for Village Engineering Services for 2008

>> Approved with editorial changes of minutes by Birutis

V. Open Forum

A. Request for Fence Variance – Jones Residence

>> The variance pertains to a corner property at the corner of Roosevelt Rd. Owner wants a fence taller than the ordinance allows because of the proximity to a highway, and wants to extend the fence farther south from the house rather than in a direct line with the edge of the house as the ordinance states for a front yard. Petitioner stated he has received a letter from IDOT advising that they are planning on doing work on Roosevelt Rd this season that will need part of his property for either expansion of Roosevelt Rd, or as a staging place for the equipment as they work on Roosevelt Rd. Therefore he changed his petition to read “up to 30’”. This will give him the chance to accommodate IDOT when he builds the fence. Barlow stated there are other properties in similar situations that have received a variance. Mortenson noted that property owners in Normandy Woods had asked for a similar variance and not received it. Board agreed to send it ZBA.

B. Proposed annexation agreement for Pleasant Ridge Manufactured Home property

>> Barlow stated it seems to be a good situation for all parties. Village would have to change zoning code to permit a manufactured homes site within the village boundaries. Mortenson asked if this would be a step towards upping our ratio of affordable housing in the village, Barlow said yes. Bajor asked about the closing of the private well there. Watson noted they aren’t asking to hook into city water now, only city sewer. Board agreed to send the proposal to plan commission.

C. Public Comments

>> Lanny Wilson, Chair of DuPage RR Safety Council expressed his support for the approval of the

pedestrian underpass.

Karen Skillman expressed concern about the arrival of federal and state monies for the underpass. Also, she thinks it is too far east.

Ann Muese suggested the underpass be put on the ballot and voted on.

Jed Skillman said the underpass project hasn't been fully thought out. He suggested polling the riders about their thoughts.

Heidi of WEMA thanked CDH for donating two way radios and pagers to emergency responders in Winfield.

David Russo urged the board to vote against the underpass. He wants to see the at-grade crossing maintained. He also suggested the land could instead be used to build multi-family homes, and that a combination parking garage and overpass could be feasible.

Steve Reynolds said no one is happy with the underpass. He questioned the cost of maintenance and insurance.

Donna Seifert spoke against the underpass, and questioned the sense of urgency.

Joe Randell spoke against the underpass. He asked what other villages our size and budget have an underpass.

Dan Slavinski spoke against the underpass, mentioned the bite of taxes.

Elizabeth Barber said the underpass is too long as drawn. It will attract danger, drugs, filth.

Nancy Bruce stated she wouldn't walk that distance to cross the tracks.

David Walchman stated the village has better things to spend \$ on. We can teach our kids to be safe.

Tony Reyes said our kids know better than to cross unsafely. The underpass would have leaks, graffiti and urination. He urged the board to do what it can to keep the CDH cancer research center in Winfield.

Rick Wilger imagines garbage and buzzing lights in an underpass. He doubts we would get any money from the governor, and spoke of a coming recession.

Henry Parkder spoke of hearing comments from female train riders that they would be uncomfortable using an underpass. He doubts the governor will release the money.

Laura Ska asked for a shorter, open passage above the tracks. She is worried about crime.

Ron Barzo reminded the board they were voted in on the platform that they would listen to the people.

VI. New Business

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VII. Reports of General Business

A. Public Works

1. Assumption of snow removal services for the Klein Creek Town Homes Condominiums
>> Board denied snow removal services to a private property

There was another issue listed on the agenda here reading:

Resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for \$300,000 from the state of Illinois' Road Fund to assist in financing the pedestrian underpass project.

Bajor moved, Petitti seconded. Barlow recommended. Birutis moved to table only the motion on the table until the marketing & capacity study is completed. Kunesh seconded. Discussion followed about what can and can't be in tabling motion. All Ayes, with editorial comments of regret from Bajor and Petitti.

B. Finance Committee

1. Contract for Information Technology and Computer Support Services
>> no motion

VII. Reports of Temporary Committees

1. Downtown Riverwalk Initiative Task Force – Trustee VadeBonCouer
>> Vade Bon Couer met with the county and they are of the same mindset about placement, etc. There is a Town Hall meeting on Jan 26. Everyone in the village is welcome to attend.
2. Fire Sprinkler Regulations – Trustee Petitti
>> Petitti is putting together the draft ordinance and the project will move forward.

3. Town Center Marketing and Capacity Study – Trustee Birutis
 - >> There were over 50 people at the Town Hall meeting Jan 10
4. Safe Routes to School – Trustee Birutis
 - >> Birutis reported that the end of the first quarter '08 the committee will know more

VIII. Future Business

- A. Active
 - >>
- B. Forthcoming
 1. General Development Plan Key Development Areas 1a, 1b, and 2/ St. Charles Road area annexation initiative –Will be presented to the Plan Commission
 - >>
 2. Policy on maintenance of stormwater maintenance facilities – Work has begun on the inventory; policy will be deliberated first by Public Works Committee
 - >>
 3. Policy on distribution of impact fees – Matter has been referred to the Administration and Finance Committee
 - >>

IX. Village Board Comments

>> Bajor reported from ECC that the village will participate in the annual Prairie Path clean up this April. They are also considering purchasing waste receptacles for the Prairie Path. The 50/50 tree program for the parkways has not been used as much as they had hoped. They are considering other species. They will have on the solid waste contract a year from now. He recapped the Mayors and Managers meeting. He also expressed appreciation for the public comments, and noted that at the second meeting in December there were all comments in support of the underpass.

Petitti announced the Town Hall meeting for Jan 26. WEMA will give a presentation at 9:00, and the regular meeting will follow at 9:30. Thanked CDH for radios. VadeBonCouer stated the finance committee met last Saturday, and the numbers are holding thanks to the good management of Barlow and Belasario.

Mortenson expressed thanks to CDH. He stated the Plan Commission workshop the previous Wednesday went well.

Petitti announced a communications commission meeting on Monday, Jan 14. The public came and commented, Comcast was present.

Czech announced he will appoint a committee consisting of Trustees Mortenson and Petitti and one resident to work with the CDH representative on distributing money.

Czech stated he talked with Mike Fortner, our representative to Springfield, last night, and Fortner has seen a list of state monies to be released, and Winfield is first on the list. The marketing studies won't be done in time to get the money released this fiscal year, and he fears we will lose the money. He expressed sadness, and referred to the public about how nothing gets done in Winfield. He asked Barlow to put the breakdown of where monies to build the underpass will come from in the village newsletter. He urged the board to stop leading people on, and asked that if they are not going to go ahead with the project they vote it down now instead of tabling it. People think the village will be obligated for \$3M. People need answers to their questions. They are reacting to the recent article in a local paper about urine soaked underpasses. He stated his belief the board needs to respond to the public's financial questions.

VadeBonCouer stated he believes the village can do the underpass right. He stated the village failed to manage its message to the public.

Czech stated that if the board doesn't respond, the people who spoke at tonight's meeting will think that what they said is true. (JED AND KAREN SKILLMAN WERE THE ONLY SPEAKERS LEFT IN THE MEETING AT THIS TIME.)

Birutis stated she wants to wait for the recommendations of the marketing study.

Petitti reported on a situation with the Union Pacific. They began attempts to close the at-grade crossing at Church St. in 2002, but were asked to wait because a pedestrian underpass was being considered. No current tunnels report maintenance or crime complaints. She stated there is misinformation about winding tunnels, as the drawing in the local newspaper appears. The winding areas are actually the outdoor ramps leading towards the tunnel. The tunnel itself will be a clear sight line straight through. She feels like she is letting people down.

Czech expressed his wish that more people would check out the College Avenue tunnel in Wheaton. He expressed his belief that the pedestrian crossing will close even if we don't have a tunnel, with a fence erected from the farthest east point of the platform to Winfield Road. People would have no choice but to all walk to Winfield Rd and cross there. He asked Barlow to check when the federal grant will expire. So far Winfield hasn't seen any reimbursement money because the engineering studies aren't completed. Now we won't get any money because the engineering has been stopped with the tabling of the motion. We will not get reimbursed for what we have already spent.

Petitti stated that St. John's school reports 79-80% of their students cross the tracks at Church St. Birutis said the stats from Safe Walks to School don't support that.

X. Other Village Official's Reports and Comments

A. Village President

- 1 . Reappointment of Angel Oakley and Scott Young to the Communications Commission to 12011

>> All ayes

B. Village Treasurer

- 1 . Monthly Report – December 2007

>> Further rate cuts may effect our CD's.

C. Village Attorney

>> None

D. Village Manager

>> Barlow stated he could have given a breakdown of the finances for the underpass tonight, but didn't get the chance. \$2.95M is no longer the cost of the project. Now we will have to wait until next year's construction season, and costs will be higher. Two funds from the State are available now. He reported receiving a call from Springfield today asking where to send the funds for deposit. Fortner got only \$75K for West Chicago, his hometown, but \$300,000 for Winfield. Any information we put out now about the cost of the project will be outdated already.

Czech noted we need to assure the public that this will not raise their taxes.

Barlow urged the board to make a decision one way or the other. He mentioned the likelihood of a fence from the east end of the platform to Winfield Rd.

E. Village Clerk

>> Voter registration has stopped for the February election. Early voting is now open.

XI. Other Business

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XII. Adjourn to Committee of the Whole

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

I. Old Business

A. Resolution of support for the Winfield Riverwalk Project

>> Since part of the Riverwalk could end up on county or Forest Preserve land, the county would like an official endorsement of the Riverwalk concept from the board

II. New Business

A. Plan Commission

1. Preliminary Planned Unit Development – Central DuPage Parking Garage and Diagnostic Imaging Improvements

>> No report. The Plan Commission approved the PUD and sent it to the board for approval. Petitti asked about the consensus of the public. Birutis reported they were more concerned about other CDH plans.

B. Finance Committee

1. Electrical Utility Tax

>> Barlow reported we are not collecting as much electrical utility tax as allowed. Could add \$30,000 to the budget.

2. Business License Fees

>> Not been looked at since 1990. Now they are \$50/year for everyone. A new schedule would have a fee based on the size and complexity of the business. Home businesses are feed the same as others. New fees would not go into effect until next fiscal year.

III. 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)

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IV. Public Comments

>> Heidi (of WEMA) spoke as a citizen. She urged the board to market the underpass to the village. They have no idea how far they are going to have to walk to get across the tracks when UP closes the at-grade crossing. She believes the village is going backwards because the costs are going up.

Jed Skillman expressed concern that this is the wrong place and the wrong time for the underpass. He is concerned the public left the meeting thinking the issue is over. He said at the Jan 10 Town Hall meeting he did not hear anyone express support for an underpass. He encouraged the board to listen to the citizens.

Cindy Keck said she did express her desire for an underpass at the Jan 10 meeting. She believes citizens know that it is tabled and not voted down. She noted she was at the December 20 meeting where many people spoke for the underpass. She encouraged the board to listen to all the citizens and make up their own minds about issues, not vote for whichever side gets the most people out for one meeting. She also expressed regret that the many people who asked for answers did not stay around long enough to hear the answers.

V. Village Board Comments

>> Mortenson noted that board members have more background knowledge about issues, because they have access to some information that is not public. He expressed his concern that the public trust the board to make a wise decision. He asked how long the issue will be tabled.

Czech asked Barlow to check on the expiration dates of grants.

VadeBonCouer stated his commitment to listening to the public. He asked that the public trust him to listen to both sides and weigh the issues.

VadeBonCouer noted that at the Jan 10 meeting the issue of traffic cutting across Manchester Road in a shortcut to the county complex was mentioned. He asked if we can discuss with IDOT timing of traffic signals so traffic flows better on Roosevelt Rd. and people won't need to cut across. Barlow will look into the issue.

VI. Executive Session

Pending Litigation

VII. Adjournment