

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

The public forum and input meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Deer Park was held on Monday, January 28, 2008 at Vehe Barn, 23570 W. Cuba Road, Village of Deer Park, in the counties of Lake and Cook, Illinois. President Gifford called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Village officials and guests did not recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Upon roll call, the following were present: Trustees Pratscher and Kellermann. The following Village officials were absent: Trustees Rotter (*arrived late*), Kizior, Thrun, and Plautz. Other Village officials present were Engineer Gordon and Clerk Meyle. Bill Kruckenberg of the Elia Township Highway Department was also in attendance.

A majority of a quorum was present at the start of the meeting. Upon Trustee Rotter's arrival at 7:21pm there was a quorum.

3) DISCUSSION OF THE ROAD AND DRAINAGE CAPITAL PROGRAM

Trustee Kellermann made opening comments with the following points being made:

- ◆ He hopes that those in attendance will leave the past in the past and focus on moving forward so that things can get done.
- ◆ He looks forward to getting input from those in attendance; he wants to make sure he is aware of all the road and drainage problems in the Village so that he can have the Village Engineer evaluate them and assist him in putting together his recommendations for the 2008-2009 fiscal budget.
- ◆ He explained the program that the Board had piloted over the summer to help residents with their personal drainage issues by providing limited Village funded engineering assistance.
- ◆ He explained that anyone who wished to speak or offer input would need to sign in on the Public Comment Sign-In sheet.
- ◆ He introduced Todd Gordon, the Village Engineer; and Bill Kruckenberg of the Elia Township Highway Department.

4) PUBLIC FORUM AND INPUT

Jill Stubenvoil of 24347 Tanager Court gave input regarding Canadian National's acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad and how it may affect Village infrastructure.

Debra Sands of 23010 Thornhill Court and Layla Pautler of 23009 Thornhill Court gave input regarding the ongoing drainage issues on Thornhill Court.

Trustee Kellermann acknowledged that Pat Winkelman of 21540 Inglenook Lane had signed in to give input on the road and drainage program, and tax incentives, but she was no longer present at the meeting.

Steve Colby of 20515 Primrose Court gave input regarding the drainage on Primrose Court that does not discharge to Long Grove Road as it should; he feels there may be an obstruction caused by roots from a line of trees that are over the drainage path.

Bob Lancelot of 22116 Old Farm Road and Paul Hein of 22116 Old Farm Road gave input regarding the drainage on Old Farm Road.

Allison Furlong of 27 Deerpath Road gave input regarding speed bumps to slow traffic on Deerpath Road: one speed bump between Long Grove Road and the stop sign and one speed bump between Lake Cook Road and the stop sign.

John Gulledge of 21775 Old Farm Road gave input regarding the drainage work he had done as a part of the resident pilot program.

Deborah Barry of 412 Bramble Lane gave input regarding the sales tax referendum, the definition of infrastructure, and traffic chokers.

Lucie Hoyt of 309 Briargate Lane gave input regarding a drainage problem she has been having on her property since some neighbors filled in the drainage ditches downhill from her property.

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Brian Janus of 21861 Mayfield Lane gave input regarding street repair and the condition of the roads in Chapel Hill subdivision.

Trustee Kellermann acknowledged that Adi Mehta of 16 Madoch Court had signed in to give input on the drainage on Country Lane, but she was no longer present at the meeting.

Marlene Smetana of 21922 Inglenook Court gave input regarding the drainage along the side of her driveway and requesting that center landscaping in the cul-de-sacs be considered when the Hamilton Estates roads are done.

John Lahr of 201 Rue Touraine and Keith Olson of 205 Rue Touraine gave input regarding drainage failure in the ditches at the end of the driveways north of his driveway along Rue Touraine in the Rue Valley subdivision.

Mary Lahr of 201 Rue Touraine gave input regarding expenditures that have been made on the Vehe Barn project this year and the Village budget.

Debra Fletcher of 17 Oak Ridge Lane gave input regarding the drainage in her yard stating that it has improved since she got engineering assistance from the Village with regard to the type of sump pump she was using, but the problem still exists and needs fixing.

Clay Mitchell of 77 Oak Ridge Lane gave input regarding the drainage issues he has been having on his property in the Oak Ridge subdivision since he purchased the property in 1998; Mr. Mitchell stated that water seems to be draining through the drain on his side of Long Grove Road, but it does not continue to flow through the drain on the other side of Long Grove Road. Additionally, Mr. Mitchell stated that the drainage problem seems to be originating on a neighbor's property that backs up to his.

Tom Weathered of 71 Oak Ridge Lane gave input regarding the drainage issues he has been having on his property in the Oak Ridge subdivision since he purchased the property in 2006. Mr. Weathered agreed with Mr. Mitchell stating that the drainage problem seems to be originating on a neighbor's property.

Kris Weathered of 71 Oak Ridge Lane read a letter from the Davenport family at 69 Oak Ridge Lane who were unable to attend the meeting; the letter gave input regarding the drainage issues the Davenport family has been having on their property in the Oak Ridge subdivision.

Mr. Kruckenberg of Ela Township stated that the property Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Weathered referred to is owned by the Hoffman family and that the Village Engineer has this project on his list to include when he makes recommendations to the Village Board for the 2008-2009 budget.

Fred Drolakowski of 123 Rue Jardin gave input regarding the drainage issues he has been having in his backyard and the drainage issue he is having with the culverts on Rue Jardin.

Lester Doniec of 21624 Rainbow Road gave input regarding road repair and replacement on Rainbow Road.

Trustee Kellermann acknowledged that Sam Jurczyk of 24395 Tanager Court had signed in to give input on roads and drainage, but he was no longer present at the meeting.

Elida Hoffman and her spouse of 23455 Redwing Place gave input regarding the drainage issues they have been having in the Redwing subdivision.

Trustee Kellermann acknowledged that Gary Genova of 21975 Green Forest Road had signed in to give input on drainage, but he was no longer present at the meeting.

Richard Chay of 408 Bramble Lane gave input regarding the sales tax referendum, the Vehe Barn, the hotel tax, and the renting of the barn.

Gary Grendua of 21975 Old Farm Road gave input regarding the drainage issues he has been having.

At the conclusion of the public forum Trustee Kellermann gave each of the trustees and President Gifford the opportunity to make comments to the residents in attendance.

Trustee Pratscher's comments included the following points:

- ◆ She remains committed to spending all of the additional revenue generated if the sales tax referendum passes on the Village's road and drainage infrastructure.
- ◆ She expects to spend all of the additional sales tax revenue generated if the referendum passes, plus the revenue in the Village's Motor Fuel Tax Fund, plus additional revenue from the Village's general fund to address the Village's road and drainage issues.
- ◆ The Village does not levy a property tax; the Village's revenue generating opportunities are limited to things such as sales tax, Motor Fuel Tax, and entertainment tax.
- ◆ The Village's police service contract was just renewed for \$1.5million. Police service was one-third of the Village's total budget in 2007-2008 with road and drainage maintenance and improvements taking up the next largest portion of the budget.
- ◆ The invoices submitted for work already completed on the Vehe Barn as well as work needed to make sure the Barn is completed according to the Building Code will be paid.
- ◆ She will not vote to spend public money on any additional projects such as a tot-lot or improvements to park land until after the road and drainage issues are addressed.
- ◆ The goal of the red light enforcement program is to encourage safe driving and to free police officers to address other Village issues. If approved, the program will generate additional revenue for the Village, but results from other municipalities show that as motorists become aware of the cameras, fewer tickets are issued and less money is generated. Trustee Pratscher is not in favor of looking at a source of revenue that is expected to significantly decrease over time to fund either the road program or police service.

Trustee Rotter's comments included the following points:

- ◆ He was happy to see so many people participate in the forum because if the Board is not aware of the residents' issues it cannot prioritize which projects should be included in the upcoming budget.
- ◆ Trustee Rotter has been on the Board for 4-years and during that time he has seen that police service and roads and drainage take up the largest portions of the budget each year.
- ◆ During the budget development meetings each year, the road and drainage draft budget line items, along with other line items on the draft budget, are reduced and adjusted to produce the next fiscal year's budget.
- ◆ Trustees have not always been given all the money they propose during the budget development process.
- ◆ Trustee Rotter is a firm believer in competitive bidding.
- ◆ Trustee Rotter sees addressing the needs of the Village's roads as a priority.

President Gifford's comments included the following points:

- ◆ In the past few years, and especially since the heavy rains last year, the Board has become aware of the increasing amount of drainage infrastructure that is failing within the Village.
- ◆ The road program was developed with only road improvement as a focus. The cost for drainage improvements was not factored into the original road program cost estimates.
- ◆ The recommendation of the Village Engineer has been to address the drainage issues at the same time the roads associated with those issues are worked on; the cost of the drainage improvements will be in addition to the cost for the roads.
- ◆ Construction of the Vehe Barn is a fixed cost and expenditures dedicated to constructing it will end when the Barn is complete. The project is nearing completion.
- ◆ Road and drainage issues and expenditures are never-ending; the goal of the Board, with regard to the sales tax referendum, is to generate a large amount of revenue, dedicated to funding road and drainage infrastructure, from a relatively permanent and reliable source.
- ◆ Illinois statutes offer communities like Deer Park the option of imposing additional sales tax, if approved by referendum, under the condition that the additional sales tax revenues be segregated and used for either public infrastructure or property tax relief. The statute requires that the referendum state which option the community is committing the revenues to; this is why the referendum refers to public infrastructure. The Board voted to add the words "*such as street and drainage improvements*" to the referendum so that residents would know what kind of public infrastructure they intended to spend the additional sales tax revenue on.
- ◆ The Vehe project was started over seven years ago and was funded by money the Village had in reserve along with grant monies. At a point when construction of the Barn was well underway, it was determined that the builder

the Village had contracted with was not capable of fulfilling his contract. The Board was faced with making the decision about how to proceed. Since they had already invested so much time and money in the project, they decided to bring in another contractor to complete it.

- ◆ Once expenditures for construction of the Vehe Barn are complete, the Board will work to rebuild its reserves.
- ◆ Currently, sales tax revenues are approximately \$1.7million per year.
- ◆ The police service contract requires \$1.5million per year.
- ◆ If the referendum passes, the Board estimates an additional \$700,000 per year which may only be used for public infrastructure expenditures, such as street and drainage improvements.
- ◆ The Board does not want to so narrowly define and limit the additional sales tax revenues to only road and drainage infrastructure because years down the road, when the roads and drainage are in excellent condition, the Board would like to have some flexibility to spend those dollars on other public infrastructure items that the residents are currently asking for.
- ◆ The projected cost of the entire road program is approximately \$7.7million; this projection does not include any expenditure on drainage improvements.
- ◆ Trustee Kellermann expects to complete the current road program in twelve years; at the end of the twelve years it will be time to re-cycle through the road program from the beginning.
- ◆ Trustee Kellermann stated that the estimated revenues generated by the additional sales tax will not be enough to fund the road and drainage needs of the Village and additional funds from the general fund will be needed.
- ◆ The Board is in agreement that the purpose of the referendum is to fund the Village's public infrastructure, such as street and drainage improvements and that their priority for at least the next twelve years is implementing the road program and repairing and improving the Village's drainage.

Trustee Kellermann made closing comments and invited those who wanted to stay after the meeting was adjourned to talk to the Village Engineer and Bill Kruckenberg to do so.

5) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Trustee Pratscher to adjourn. Upon a voice vote: YES: (3) / NO: (0) / ABSENT: (3). Motion carried 3/3

The Public Forum and Input Board of Trustees Meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

H. Scott Gifford, Village President

Susan Meyle, Village Clerk