

VILLAGE OF HINSDALE

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

MEMORIAL HALL

Chairman Vic Orlor called the meeting of the Environment and Public Services Committee to order at 7:10 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2007, in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, IL.

PRESENT: Chairman Vic Orlor, Trustee Laura Johnson, and Trustee Jean Follett

ABSENT: Trustee Cindy Williams

ALSO PRESENT: Edward Kokat, Bill Seith, Mark Tazelaar, Linda Sluman, Pat Bruder, Mike Romano, Karen & Roland Porter, Carol Burke, Dale Kleber, Dan Irwin, Joseph Craig, Dave Cook, Shaun Pelletier, Tim Bleuher, George Franco, Tom Bueser, John Finnell, Dan Hopkins, and Rob McGinnis.

Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2007 & March 6, 2007

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the minutes of February 12, 2007. Trustee Follett seconded. Motion carried.

Trustee Follett moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 2007. Trustee Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Chestnut Street Parking Lot

Mr. Pelletier reviewed the status of the Chestnut Street Parking Lot project and indicated that minor revisions requested by Metra were being addressed. The

Burlington Northern Railroad stated they must also review the plans and copies were forwarded to them on March 21, 2007. Staff was directed to solicit bids with the revised plans prior to obtaining BNRR approval understanding that addendums or change orders may be required.

Public Discussion – Leaf Removal Program

The Village has offered curbside leaf pick-up for many years, but recently issues regarding public safety, drainage, snow plowing, aesthetics, and disruption to sanitary waste treatment have been documented and must be addressed. Additionally, staff has indicated that the additional costs and time incurred by the program are significant. Some alternatives presented include ceasing the curbside program and requiring residents to bag and tag leaves for pick-up either at normal sticker price, or a subsidized sticker price, or creating a hardship program for the elderly.

Mr. Ed Kokat of the Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District (FCWRD) stated that the current program creates a tremendous impact on their treatment facility through increased treatment costs and the potential for backups due to the pumps being clogged by the influx of leaves during storm events. He also stated that the Village is the only combined sewer system tributary to the facility and therefore the only one contributing to the problem. All of the District's service area is potentially at risk when the system backs up at the treatment facility, but only ¼ of this area is comprised of Village residents so many communities would be affected. Leaves that are raked to the curb, or even into the parkway have the potential for washing into the sewer system during heavy storm events that no one can control.

Village attorney Bill Seith indicated that in terms of the pending litigation, elimination of the program will be helpful and is the proper solution. A solution must be in place by September 1, 2007. He also stated that as a resident of the Village, there is a huge benefit in having the program available and would not like to see it eliminated.

Several residents, including Carol Burke, Dan Irwin, Roland Porter, and Dale Kleber indicated their need for the program and feel it is a valuable service offered by the Village. There would be additional cost and time involved with bagging leaves. They also believed that enforcement of the current rules and

issuance of fines would solve the problem. Resident Joe Craig does not believe the program is necessary and the leaf piles create safety hazards in the roads.

Trustee Johnson recognizes the problems created by the service, but is hesitant to eliminate it without a creative alternative in place.

Trustee Follett stated that there is a legal obligation to resolve the problem, not just with FCWRD, but also with drainage problems created by clogged drains. Education and fines may not eliminate the problems since it is difficult to rake leaves on the Village schedule.

Chairman Orler stated that this is not a program the Village wants to dismiss, but must given the circumstances. It is not an issue of cost cutting and agrees that education and enforcement will not be effective since the weather conditions cannot be controlled.

Staff was directed to obtain resident input and to explore options with waste haulers and the topic will be discussed at the EPS Committee again in a couple months.

Elm Tree Injection

Mr. Finnell reviewed the elm tree injection program for 2007 and indicated that 500 trees are scheduled compared to 312 in previous years. He stated that trees have previously been chosen for the program based on 50/50 participation and whether or not they were considered landmark trees. Chairman Orler clarified that in the new program the Village will be proactively seeking locations to concentrate on and will maintain a three-year cycle for injecting all trees.

Trustee Johnson stated that education is necessary for residents to understand the importance of injecting private trees. Mr. Finnell said that letters would be sent to residents in the areas where trees are to be injected and that the contractor has been directed to offer the service to residents if they are asked.

Woodlands Drainage Investigation

Mr. Pelletier updated the Committee on the current status of the project stating that Earth Tech was moving forward with data collection and the taskforce has

decided to redistribute the questionnaire to residents within the project study area to obtain relevant information following the storms during the past several months. Project milestones have been established and possible solutions will be presented to the taskforce and Committee in September.

Resident and taskforce member Pat Bruder stated that drainage is not an isolated problem within the Woodlands and it is essential that this study be dovetailed with the stormwater masterplan currently being created on a Village-wide level. Mr. Seith said that drainage improvements should be considered a capital improvement funded completely by the Village, similar to future projects that will be identified by the masterplan.

Trustee Follett indicated that coordination between the two studies would be required and that this has already commenced between the consultants.

Chairman Orlor stated that the likely source of funding would be through a special service area, with the approval based on a negative petition process, just as the improvements were made south of 55th Street. An infrastructure masterplan is also likely to be created in the fall.

Approval of Change Order – Woodlands Drainage Investigation

The Committee considered the request for contract change order for the Woodlands Drainage Investigation being completed by Earth Tech. The original proposal quoted salary rates from 2006 that needed to be modified to reflect 2007 rates due to the delayed start of the project. The scope of the work would not be altered.

Trustee Johnson moved to approve a Resolution Approving Certain Contract Change Order for the Woodlands Drainage Investigation in the amount of \$4,981.06. Trustee Follett seconded. Motion carried.

Woodlands Street Patching Project

Staff had identified several locations in the Woodlands where street patching would be beneficial due to severe deterioration of the roadway and obtained

quotes from three contractors. The low bidder was Central Blacktop, Inc. at \$155,925 for patching of the 9,450 square yards identified.

Chairman Orler stated that resurfacing projects for the area in the past have been tabled due to the imminent drainage and street improvements that are currently being studied. Although the request is reasonable, it is difficult to approve funding for work that will be a temporary fix. He suggested applying the cost towards the resident's share of the final project.

Ms. Bruder stated that they do not want to waste money, but it is necessary due to severe deterioration and safety issues. Mrs. Linda Sluman agreed and stated that the older pavement and patches are washing away.

Trustee Johnson said that funding was fought for in the past to approve the resurfacing project that was tabled. The Village cannot afford to wait any longer since it is dangerous and unacceptable. She is in favor of spending the money.

Trustee Follett agrees that there is a safety issue, but also indicated that there are streets outside of the Woodlands that are just as deteriorated and it is difficult to justify costs spent for a temporary fix.

Mr. Cook indicated that since the project is not budgeted, funding could possibly come from the corporate road program fund, or the water rebate.

Trustee Johnson moved to accept the proposal for street patching from Central Blacktop, Inc. in the amount of \$155,925. Trustee Follett seconded. Motion carried.

Monthly Report

The Committee reviewed the activities of the Public Services Department in the last month. Mr. Franco indicated that pothole filling and alley grading have been important due to the weather conditions, and that sump pump discharges to the street will be addressed at next months Committee meeting. The new horticulturist, Dan Hopkins, was introduced.

Mr. Franco stated that the Cub Scouts might be interested in assisting with fire hydrant painting this summer.

Budget Discussion – Revised Building Fee Schedule

Staff was directed to evaluate the building fee schedule compared to other like communities. Fees were calculated for a single family home, tenant finish and room addition and indicated that Village fees were low. A new fee schedule should be developed and staff recommended increasing the building permit fee itself by 75%, which would increase permit revenue approximately \$500-750k. Mr. Bleuher recommended that this revenue be used for an assistant village engineer and a permit coordinator. Mr. Cook indicated that the revised fee schedule should be structured so that alterations and additions are not discouraged.

Chairman Orler stated that it is not the Village's intent to become anti-development, but that parity was necessary among similar communities and that automation of the permitting system should also be a goal with the increased revenue. Trustee Follett recommended that the demolition permit fee be earmarked for infrastructure repairs.

Staff was directed to revise the fee schedule as required to achieve parity, increase automation and invest in infrastructure.

Permission to Seek Bids – Sewer Cleaning and Televising & South Washington Street Watermain Replacement

The Committee considered requests to seek bids for sewer cleaning and televising, and for watermain replacement on South Washington Street. Trustee Follett would like the contractor for the Hamptons to contribute to the cost of the watermain replacement. Mr. Cook indicated that a quote from that contractor might include cost savings since they will already be on site. The Committee granted the requests.

Award of Bids – Gasoline

The Committee reviewed the three bids received to purchase gasoline. Trustee Johnson moved to recommend the award of Bid 1406, Gasoline, to Osco, Inc. in the bid comparison amount of \$14,204.90. Trustee Follett seconded. Motion carried.

Award of Bids – Tree Removal

The Committee reviewed the six bids received for tree removal, a reoccurring contract for which \$65,000 is budgeted. Trustee Follett moved to recommend the award of Bid 1408, Tree Removal to Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts in the bid comparison amount of \$75,450.00. Trustee Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Purchase of Staff Vehicle Under State Contract

The Committee reviewed a request to replace a plow truck under state contract for which \$36,500 is budgeted. Trustee Johnson moved to recommend approving the purchase of a 2008 Ford F-350 with dump body, plow, and spreader for \$40,195.48 to replace a 1999 Chevy 3500 plow truck. Trustee Follett seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Resolution – Work Permit Along State Highways

The Committee reviewed a resolution to approve a working permit necessary to expedite the issuance of permits required to complete any work located within the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation. Trustee Johnson moved to recommend approving a Resolution Approving a Working Permit Along State Highways Within the Jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation. Trustee Follett seconded. Motion carried.

Open Discussion

Trustee Follett indicated that the new pavement marking program is being coordinated with the police department.

Staff was granted a request to move up the 50/50 Sidewalk Program to be bid and constructed in early to mid-summer instead of late summer or early fall. Discussion about new sidewalk installations shall be held at the April Committee meeting.

With no further issues to be brought before the Committee, Trustee Johnson moved to adjourn. Trustee Follett seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun S. Pelletier
Village Engineer