

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE  
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
February 22, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER - Acting Chair/Trustee LaPlaca**

The specially scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting of the Hinsdale Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Chair/Trustee Laura LaPlaca in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:05 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair/Trustee Laura LaPlaca, Trustees Neale Byrnes, Luke Stifflear, Laura LaPlaca and Bob Saigh

Absent: Trustee Christopher Elder

Also Present: Village Manager Kathleen A. Gargano, Assistant Village Manager/Finance Director Darrell Langlois, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public Safety Brad Bloom, Acting Police Chief Kevin Simpson, Fire Chief Rick Ronovsky, Director of Public Services George Peluso, Director of Community Development Robb McGinnis, Village Engineer Dan Deeter, Village Forester John Finnell, Management Analyst Suzanne Ostrovsky and Village Clerk Christine Bruton

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**57<sup>th</sup> Street and South Madison – addition of a turn lane**

Chair LaPlaca introduced the item and noted that representatives from District 86 are present for the discussion. She also pointed out that normally this would have been a staff approval, but because it involves the high school, it was agreed it would be better to vet the matter.

District 86 Board of Education Vice-President Ms. Jennifer Planson and District 86 Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law addressed the Board about the traffic congestion at Hinsdale Central High School. Ms. Planson stated that in order to proceed with the turn lane changes they believe would improve traffic flow and improve student safety, they need permits from the Village and DuPage County.

Mr. Steve Corcoran, architect from Erickson Engineering, introduced the plan to widen 57<sup>th</sup> Street from 28' feet to 38' feet on the north side of road, but stopping short of the residential property line. ComEd poles would be relocated to provide a 100' foot right turn lane. Additionally, a left turn lane will improve driver frustration, as their studies indicate that 20%-30% of the drivers at this intersection are making left turns.

Chair LaPlaca pointed out that no trees are impacted by this design, and the costs are absorbed by District 86.

Trustee Saigh wondered if the suggested length of the taper is long enough. Mr. Corcoran said their analyses indicate this should be long enough. They considered making it longer

but did not want to impact driveways and parkway trees. With this improvement, four to five cars could be queued up in the right turn lane. Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public Safety Brad Bloom commented that he believes this is a good idea, and although vehicles will still wait to make a left turn, it will help traffic overall. They do not expect traffic to increase substantially as a result of this improvement. Mr. Corcoran added this is about a \$130,000 expense, primarily due to the moving of ComEd poles. Trustee Byrne commented that this is an expensive project, and may not provide enough benefit. Ms. Planson explained moving forward with this project depends on the cost to relocate the ComEd poles, then the school board will decide whether or not they will spend the money; they have not made a final decision.

Mr. Corcoran said the pedestrian count was done, but he didn't have the numbers yet. Discussion followed regarding foot traffic in this area.

Chair LaPlaca thanked District 86 representatives and said staff will work to help with the permitting when the final decision is made.

### **Tree Ordinance revision**

Chair LaPlaca began discussion noting that the tree ordinance was revised to include a fee schedule as follows: \$5,000 to remove a parkway tree with permit, a \$10,000 fine if removed without permit, and a \$25,000 fine if the tree is killed during construction due to lack of protection. The Village has a Tree Board to address requests from residents to remove trees in the public right-of-way. Chair LaPlaca said they found while implementing the ordinance, it was occasionally problematic in that there is no mechanism or authority by which a fee can be waived. She noted that there are certain circumstances when it is appropriate to remove a tree and/or sometimes replace a tree. The proposed changes add a provision to waive the fee in the event a removal and/or replacement of a tree, when in the opinion of the forester, Director of Public Services, or Tree Board, would further the forestry guidelines.

Village Forester John Finnell reported that overall since 2013, the Village ordinance has worked effectively to minimize tree removal. In very rare circumstances, the Tree Board and staff have discovered the overall street corridor could be improved by removal or removal and replacement of a particular tree; for example, when an ornamental tree does not create the desired street canopy or when a resident has overplanted the parkway and none of the trees are as vigorous as they could be. The current ordinance does not allow for staff to work with residents in these circumstances.

Trustee Hughes asked that these kinds of specifics be outlined in the ordinance and suggested that unhealthy or unsafe trees might be mentioned. Trustee LaPlaca is agreeable to including examples as long as exceptions are able to be made. She will work with staff to include these suggestions.

The Board agreed to the revisions as discussed and recommended the item move forward to the Board for a First Reading.

### **Surface Transportation Program funding**

Village Engineer Dan Deeter reported that every year the Village applies for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT); these funds are for needs forecast six years into the future, and are intended for Federal Aid Urban (FAU) routes only. Hinsdale applies through DuPage Mayor and Managers; they review and allocate funds by cost effectiveness. In the past, the Village has received some of these monies, but there are some restrictions for use; the entire route must be repaved or resurfaced, and 30% of the cost of the project is funded by the Village. We are approaching 2017, and there are funds available to us. The issue is some FAU routes deteriorated faster, and we have already resurfaced them. Some remain in good to excellent condition, and didn't deteriorate as anticipated. The question is, do we expend funds to resurface roads in good or excellent condition, or turn the money back to DuPage Mayors & Managers. In this case, we would use our funds to resurface just the sections we think need it. A cost comparison has been provided to the Board, and staff is recommending the money be turned back and we continue to plan only what needs to be done.

Mr. Deeter said we reapply for these funds every summer, but Hinsdale typically is at a disadvantage as we do not have the traffic that some other areas do, thereby reducing the cost effectiveness of the County expenditure.

Chair LaPlaca said the amount it would cost the Village is significantly in excess of what we need to do, and it seems appropriate to follow staff's recommendation. Trustee Hughes agrees, but wonders about Madison Street. Discussion followed regarding the life expectancy of 'good' roads and that maintenance can extend the life of a road by 7-10 years. Madison is at a tipping point, it could go either way, but what about the perception of repairing a block that doesn't need it, when another might need it more. Mr. Deeter will take another look at Madison, and confirmed it is unlikely that a request to release STP funds early is likely to be granted; a five-year wait is to be expected.

### **Residential sump pump discharge**

Chair LaPlaca began discussion and stated this problem won't be solved tonight, but she feels it is important to address the basement and permitting issues. Staff has done the legwork to identify areas that are problematic for sump pump discharge. The problem is whether or not the residence at issue has a separated sewer or a combined sewer, because the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prohibits discharge into a combined sewer. Director of Public Services George Peluso stated many residents are concerned with safety in the right-of-way because of ice on roads and sidewalks. He explained that Mr. Deeter and staff have inventoried the areas where smaller storm sewers could be installed over the course of the next 10 years. It is illegal to tap the combined sewers, but some of the nuisance issues could be addressed. Mr. Deeter said about 25% of the Village is currently on combined sewers, and one of the goals of the Master Infrastructure Plan (MIP) and the agreement with Flagg Creek, was to bring the Village into alignment with USEPA standards, and reduce combined sewer events to four overflows per year.

Director of Community Development Robb McGinnis explained recently there have been more requests for deep basements. An 8-10' dig is normal, but people are putting in sport courts and digging as deep as 25'. Currently, staff requests that the resident's design engineer address lateral displacement and the water table before a permit is issued. Staff is asking for direction from the Board on what we can require; minimally a boring log and data regarding water table location, but would like to prohibit encroachments into the water table altogether. Even a normal basement can get into the water table, noted Chair LaPlaca, so these policies should apply to any new construction, not just deep basement requests. Mr. McGinnis recommends requiring boring data no matter what, but if it's a deeper basement a more detailed log would be necessary. He explained that if someone is running sump pumps continually to keep a sport court dry, that continuous stream of water further taxes the infrastructure. The engineer on the project is charged with providing a management plan for these flows, and it could be the homeowner would need to install a storm sewer tie in. If there is no solution to where the water should go, staff wants to be able to deny the permit request. Chair LaPlaca pointed out that what Mr. McGinnis is describing is practice, not policy or ordinance. As to whether or not the engineering reports are accurate, Mr. Deeter explained that several days of monitoring is necessary to provide accurate information. Sump pumps are for storm water by foundations, they are not supposed to be pumping ground water into the sewer system. Mr. Peluso said MIP work has already corrected about 80 of these discharge problems, and our maintenance program also corrects some of these sump pump problems. Trustee Hughes stated he would support moving this practice to policy and ordinance, but would like to know what other communities are doing. Chair LaPlaca said staff can have the Village attorneys prepare ordinance language and a policy.

Discussion continued regarding whether or not additions should be included, not just new home construction. Mr. McGinnis stated staff is only asking for new builds, as that is usual and customary. The Board thinks the additions should be addressed and wondered what size of an addition should trigger additional engineering reports. Mr. McGinnis suggested 600' square feet, because there are other additional requirements, such as a tree plan, for permits of this size. Trustee Stifflear said he would be supportive of going a bit further, and is not certain how decisive the engineering reports are. He also suggested, in the case of excessive basement depths, an additional bond could be required. Trustee Saigh believes these types of basements cross a line and should be completely prohibited. The Board agreed to having an ordinance drafted for the basement issue; Chair LaPlaca noted there will be other policy decisions related to this issue to be made moving forward.

Mr. Deeter explained that normal sump pump operation discharges the water and soaks in on the property, but continuous pumping runs into the right-of-way. There are about 20 of these in town; in the next year staff will identify the areas where small projects can be done to remedy the problem. Village Manager Gargano made mention of current MIP funding; discussion followed regarding current and future funding for the roads and maintenance, as well as other utility issues, and possible costs to residents to install a lateral connection to the public sewer system.

Trustee Saigh suggested an on-going public information campaign might be in order; Chair LaPlaca asked Management Analyst Suzanne Ostrovsky to get something on the website regarding sump pump problems and policies.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Committee of the Whole, Trustee Byrnes **moved to adjourn the special Committee of the Whole meeting of the Hinsdale Village Board of Trustees on February 22, 2016.** Trustee Saigh seconded the motion. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christine M. Bruton, Village Clerk