

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 27, 2017**

The specially scheduled meeting of the Hinsdale Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Village President Tom Cauley in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building on Tuesday, February 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: President Tom Cauley and Trustees Christopher Elder, Neale Byrnes, Luke Stifflear, Gerald J. Hughes, Laura LaPlaca and Scott Banke

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager Kathleen A. Gargano, Assistant Village Manager/Finance Director Darrell Langlois, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public Safety Brad Bloom, Police Chief Kevin Simpson, Fire Chief John Giannelli, Director of Public Services George Peluso, Village Engineer Dan Deeter, Administration Manager Emily Wagner, (offsite at the Fire Department), Management Analyst Jean Bueche and Village Clerk Christine Bruton

**DISCUSSION REGARDING ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY PROPOSED
EXPANSION OF I-294**

President Cauley reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of the expansion proposal, information taken directly from the Illinois Tollway Authority website, including a project timeline, Village of Hinsdale concerns and illustration of impacted areas, and the removal of the Oasis.

President Cauley encouraged residents to stay informed on this issue and to voice their opinion to tollway officials. He also described the Village's action plan moving forward, which includes adopting a resolution opposing any expansion of I-294. The Village will not approve any easements requested by the Tollway Authority for construction to the BNSF Railroad bridge or as part of the project until final plans are known.

He summarized stating the issues for the Village are the sound wall, drainage, parkland, tree removal and loss of revenue. He believes this is a fight we can win. We may not be able to stop the expansion, but we can minimize the effects. He also reiterated that the Tollway Authority has not finalized their plans. He encouraged residents to visit the Village website. There is a page dedicated to tollway information and a form that can be filled out and will be forwarded to Chairman Schillerstrom of the Tollway Authority, Governor Rauner and Village Hall. He encouraged residents to attend Tollway Authority meetings to voice their opposition to the expansion.

He explained the Village is trying to engage every group possible; local officials in Western Springs, Burr Ridge, Oak Brook, as well as State and Federal representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Colleen Allison, 116 Columbia Avenue, commented that living through the construction of the tollway will be awful; workers, trucks and mud in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Chris Allison, 116 Columbia Avenue, is concerned the air pollution in the parks from diesel trucks will get worse.

Ms. Maribeth Rhoades, 615 E. Walnut Street, is concerned about the loss of property value, and increased property taxes.

Mr. Eddie Surgarmam, Western Springs, asked what Western Springs is saying about this issue. President Cauley responded they seem to be less concerned, as there is less of an impact to them because of fewer parks and residences. Ms. Gargano added they are concerned, but there is more green space on their side of the tollway.

Mr. Phil Moriarty, asked if there is any concrete action plan to get to the Governor, and will it help. President Cauley replied the Village has reached out to Kirk Dillard for his help and direction.

Ms. Fawn Scherencel, Vice-Principal of Hinsdale Adventist Academy, asked about reimbursement for a partial take of property. President Cauley replied the tollway authority has suggested they can do this expansion within their easement, so there would be no reimbursement. He added there is Illinois legislation that would allow them to take land with ICC approval, but they would have to compensate property owners.

Unidentified resident, asked what the options are legally, what money and resources will be necessary to counter attack. President Cauley said until we know specifically what the plan is, it would be premature to retain an attorney. The Tollway Authority wants easements from the Village for the shoefly, which the Village controls, however, they can use their own land, and they can take down the Oasis.

Mr. Roger Dusberger, 727 Cleveland, is concerned about the impact on property values, and increased noise and odor. He asked if there is a value analysis of property values. President Cauley said not at this time, but the Village will try to accommodate this request.

Ms. Kathleen (Ky) Scanlon, Burr Ridge resident, stated Burr Ridge residents are concerned about the Oasis, but that this is not a done deal and everyone should stay together and fight this proposal. She would like to see the survey used to justify this process.

Mr. Justin Bouchard, 525 Columbia, studies traffic on I-55 and I-290, but doesn't remember being stuck in traffic on I-294.

Ms. Susan Hughes, Western Springs, stated she is disheartened that her local representatives aren't worried, and asked how to make sure Western Springs residents are informed. President Cauley said he has reached out to all surrounding communities, all are watching and concerned. If Western Springs residents can help fight this expansion, that would be great.

Mr. Andy Katsoulis, 708 Harding, suggested the Village assess the approximate loss to the Village, the tollway won't write a check, but it could be persuasive.

Unidentified Resident, asked if we have told Western Springs we want to move the center line. President Cauley said no, but Mr. Schillerstrom did not dismiss the idea.

Ms. Veda Chenue, 640 Mills, stated there are 20 small children in the area of her home, and you can already hear the tires blow on the tollway. She believes this is a serious safety issue. President Cauley said the construction phase of the project and the sequencing has not been discussed.

Mr. Abe Borkowski, commented this is a big issue and the clock is ticking. Has the Village created a dedicated committee to address this problem? President Cauley said that will be done.

Mr. Tim Budding, Burr Ridge, asked what will be done about the loss of income from the Oasis. President Cauley said there could be a plan to move restaurants, too, but we don't have that information yet. Ms. Gargano noted there is no commitment to replace the Oasis.

Ms. Marian Kierscht, 321 Princeton Road, expressed concern for all area communities, as well as the impact on Hinsdale. She asked for an equitable solution for all communities. President Cauley said the Village would work collaboratively with all neighboring communities.

Mr. Davin Eaton, 208 S. Thurlow, confirmed that, in fact, this entire expansion would be in Cook County. He asked for a list of all tollway commissioners and where they live.

Ms. Maribeth Rhoades, 615 E. Walnut Street, asked if the Village has reached out to Whole Foods yet. President Cauley replied not as of yet.

President Cauley reiterated that the Board felt it was important to inform residents as soon as possible, even though the Tollway Authority has not made a decision, nor has the Village fully mobilized or created a final plan of action. The Board wanted resident input, and realized that if residents and constituents mobilized, there would be a better chance of getting elected officials involved.

Mr. Ken Moore, Burr Ridge, stated the traffic obstruction occurs north of I-290. He asked if there is any Illinois Statute to hold the Tollway Authority accountable. He doesn't believe there is a reason to widen the tollway. President Cauley explained the Tollway Authority has their own Board and budget from toll revenues. He noted their Board is appointed by the Governor.

Unidentified resident, said she is a former employee of the Tollway Authority and stated they don't rely on State funds or Springfield approvals. She encouraged residents to go to the Tollway Authority Board meetings, as this is the time to be heard. She said the Tollway office is located at 2700 Ogden Avenue.

Mr. Matt Kowal, Veeck Park area resident, asked if there is a case study on new sound barriers because it is already loud where he lives.

Ms. Adrienne Bates, 525 Mills, expressed concern about the construction of the project and stated that more lanes do not relieve congestion. She urged the Village to do a study on this matter to determine the results of past widening practices. She said she came to Hinsdale because of the beautiful trees, and the quality of life. She suggested residents be surveyed on this matter.

Mr. Eugene Sekiguchi, 602 Franklin, commented that the health effects are understated; such things as toxic particulates and polyaromatic hydrocarbons create respiratory compromise for children and the elderly.

Unidentified resident, wants a copy of the Tollway Authority traffic survey, and thinks the Village should hire their own professional. Additionally, the Village should hire a consultant to evaluate air quality, noise impact and property value impact.

Unidentified resident, asked about a concrete action plan and, if residents attend a Tollway Authority board meeting should they go as a group.

Unidentified resident, suggested diverting traffic to I-355.

Western Springs resident, stated there are some condominium units on Commonwealth Avenue that are very close to the existing sound barrier. She said there were complaints about this to the tollway several years ago, that went nowhere. She thanked President Cauley for holding this meeting.

Mr. Dennis Parsons, 28 Springlake, commented that six months doesn't sound like much time to organize. It was noted that Mr. Bloom is the Village contact person for now.

Unidentified resident, suggested rather than widening to tollway, maybe a solution would be an upper and lower level, like Wacker Drive. President Cauley said this would be a suggestion for the Tollway Authority.

Unidentified resident, suggested raising the price of the toll to push more people off I-294. President Cauley said this would be a suggestion for the Tollway Authority.

Ms. Cindy Summerfield, 206 Mills, said she Googled widening expressways and the data that came back confirms that widening the road does not alleviate congestion, but rather creates more traffic.

Unidentified resident, firmly suggested the Village hire a professional legal firm to represent residents. President Cauley said until the Tollway Authority provides their plan, a legal team would be 'running in place'; it is premature at this time.

Unidentified resident, asked the Village to get any available traffic surveys for the Eisenhower, too.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Elder commented this meeting produced a lot of good ideas, and it is important to bring all this to bear on the Tollway Authority.

Trustee Byrnes commented while there may be new technology for noise muffling, the trees are irreplaceable.

Trustee Banke reiterated the success of any opposition depends on residents and there outreach. He noted the successful fight of Oak Park residents with respect to the Eisenhower. We need a similar effort here as this will affect the quality of life in Hinsdale.

Unidentified resident, commented we need an injunction to stop this, as it will cause irreparable harm. An environmental impact study will be necessary.

Trustee LaPlaca noted in material she has from the Tollway Authority, traffic studies have been done. Hopefully we can get that information. She also noted she has a petition on line, and has almost 500 signatures. This petition is open to Burr Ridge and Western Springs residents and can be accessed through social media.

Trustee Hughes said he has some experience with mobilizing and planning, and eventually we will end up with a citizens group. He recommended this group show up to Tollway Authority meetings to get a feel for the dynamic, and who the people are whether or not this matter is on the agenda.

Trustee Stifflear said at this point in time, the Board's response to this proposal is no. The Board does not have all the answers yet, but felt it was most important to get in front of residents to get people involved. He said this Board will dedicate resources to find out what reports are true and correct.

Mr. Gopal Lalimalani , Oak Brook Village President, stated he is here to extend the hand of cooperation to Hinsdale. This item appears on Oak Brook's meeting agenda for tomorrow evening. He thanked President Cauley for the invitation; he learned a lot this evening. He hopes this can be worked out with Mr. Schillerstrom.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments from the Trustees or those in attendance, President Cauley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Christine M. Bruton, Village Clerk