

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS  
JUNE 16, 2009**

IN ATTENDANCE: President Byrne called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. The following Trustees were present: Hebda, Koch, Marquardt, Schultz and Williams. Trustee Schwartz was absent.

Also present were Village Manager Allison, Assistant Village Manager Kahmar, Finance Director Nakrin, Chief of Police Fleischhauer, Village Engineer Brown, Public Works Director Laudenslager, Building Commissioner Atkinson, Village Clerk Pelletier and Attorney Kenny.

**1. APPROVAL OF 6/02/2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES.**

Motion by Trustee Schultz, second by Trustee Williams approval of the revised 6/02/2009 Committee of the Whole Minutes. Roll call vote:

AYES: 5-Hebda, Koch, Marquardt, Schultz, Williams

NAYS: 0-None

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 1-Schwartz

Motion carried.

**2. ROUTE 45 INFORMATION PRESENTATION.**

Village Manager Allison stated the Village had received a number of resident emails and letters concerning the IDOT Route 45 Phase I Study public meeting held at the Sullivan Center on May 19, 2009. The process would take 36-48 months to create a preliminary engineering plan, which would use public input. John Baczek, of IDOT was in attendance to take questions. Phase II-Design Engineering would take 18-24 months and Phase III-Construction would take 18 months. President Byrne stated that currently there were no state funds available for the Phase III Construction. The Phase I Study would better understand the safety needs; land requirements; access needs; drainage problems; median type; intersection problems; environmental concerns and pedestrian and bicycle needs. The Grosse Pointe intersection would need to meet traffic warrants to have signalization. The Village of Indian Creek would not have available funding for the project. Mundelein and Vernon Hills would probably need to fund for bikeways.

Mr. Brown stated widening of Route 45 discussions began in 1988, with the Village providing easements along the roadway when development occurred. Traffic counts taken in 2002 showed the vehicular traffic have exceeded capacities for a two lane road. Public input was held in December 2003. Currently, there was no funding for the Phase 2.

Theresa Calabrese, 405 Ashwood Ct. stated her concerns regarding pedestrian and bikeways along Route 45 through Indian Creek and drainage issues. Mr. Baczek stated sidewalks and bikeways were funded 50/50 between the state and municipalities. Mr. Baczek would contact Indian Creek regarding sidewalks.

Manager Allison stated residents had provided concerns regarding the landscape medians and moving the roadway south closer to the Willow Lawn Cemetery, away from Centennial Crossing. Mr. Baczek stated those options would be reviewed and noted IDOT usually avoids the relocation of graves. The twenty-two foot barrier medians usually allowed for U-turns to be completed at intervals. Mr. Baczek stated road expansions generally followed the current path and removal of trees would be kept at a minimum. Trustee Koch was not in favor of barrier medians as built along Butterfield Road. Mr.

Baczek stated the barrier medians reduced the use of storm sewers, which met with SMC criteria. The barrier medians were cheaper to construct, but were more expensive to maintain.

Ms. Maslov, 490 Superior Street stated concerns of traffic traveling through Centennial Crossing to Stone Fence Farms and requested Route 45 not be widened. Trustee Koch stated easements had been acquired prior to the approvals of the development of Centennial Crossing. Mr. Brown stated the connection between the subdivisions was approved to allow the Stone Fence residents' access to Route 45 at a traffic signal. Stone Fence Road was located too close to Deerpath Drive to allow for a signal.

Resident of Ranney stated teen drivers sped through Centennial Crossing between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Metra station congestion would need to be thought through.

Ms. Scudella, 578 South Central Park stated it seemed traffic had been reduced on Route 45 and requested additional traffic studies. The Metra gates had caused additional backup on Route 45. Ms. Scudella questioned why additional graves were built along the roadway. Ms. Scudella stated safety concerns for children who play in the area and wanted speed limits addressed.

David Kempner, 42 E. Depot stated he had been advised that only 5 feet would be needed for the road expansion at the time he purchased his home.

Ms. Hangebrauck stated the trees and walkway should be retained and better enforcement of litter should be instituted by leveling a \$1,000 fine.

President Byrne stated Van Vlissingen has the first right of refusal to develop the property commercially prior to Town and Country requesting to build homes.

Mr. Brady, 299 E. Huron stated the widening of Route 45 would reduce the traffic traveling on Route 60, which would impact the Village's sales revenues.

Ms. Finerty, 320 E. Huron stated safety concerns for children and would like to see a sound barrier. Ms. Finerty thanked the 191 residents who signed a petition sent to IDOT. Mr. Baczek stated the noise would need to be evaluated and see if warrants were met for a sound barrier and would be discussed at a future public hearing. Mr. Baczek noted the priority of residents was to minimize the right of way needed for the road expansion. Sixty (60) feet would be needed for 5 lanes. Fifty-five (55) feet was needed for sidewalk construction and 2.5 feet would be needed for curb and gutter construction. Mr. Brown stated a tree survey would be sent to IDOT to review.

Andrew Cutler, 119 E Depot stated they were not opposed to the expansion, but had concerns on the noise and safety levels; wanted the trees to mature; was not in favor of a wall and requested a berm be placed along the right of way.

Carmine Carroll, 7 White Barn Road questioned if the Stone Fence Farm fence along Route 45 need to be removed as well as mature landscaping. Mr. Baczek stated prices would be negotiated with residents for fencing and landscaping, trees would be replaced on a one to one basis.

Edward Brady, 299 E. Huron requested a traffic study showing the reduced time the widening of the road would save. Trustee Williams stated the traffic would increase and Trustee Schultz stated the Hawthorn Club and other western residents would welcome the road widening, so they could exit their streets.

Mr. Maslov questioned the traffic congestion on Fairway Drive. Mr. Maslov requested the Police Department to monitor speed through Centennial Crossing between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Zinthefer, 599 South Central Park requested better synchronization of traffic signals. Mr. Brown stated Lake County "Passage" System monitored the traffic. Mr. Baczek stated the road elevation would stay the same except in the area near the railroad.

Trustee Hebda inquired if the roadway could be lowered. Village Attorney Kenney stated State statutes controlled cemeteries.

Ms. Scudella questioned sidewalks on the south side of the road and was not in favor of a sound wall. Ms. Scudella requested a safety fence be placed along Route 45 similar to the one along Fairway Drive.

Ms. Duke, 330 LaSalle stated her liking of the train station and noted many running the red lights or blocking the intersection. Ms. Duke was not in favor of a wall and preferred to see a berm.

President Byrne stated that this was probably a \$50 million project, in which the planning process had begun in 1993. Manager Allison stated a letter would be drafted summarizing concerns of the residents, which would include the movement of roadway to south, minimizing the road and tree preservation. Trustee Williams was not in favor of the cemetery encroachment.

(The Committee of the Whole recessed 9:20 p.m. until 9:40 p.m.)

**3. PURCHASE OF ELECTRONIC FARE BOXES FOR METRA STATION.**

Public Work Director Laudenslager stated during the budget discussions held last fall, funds were budgeted for the purchase and installation of three fare terminals, which would have the capability to accept credit cards and cash, but would not make change. The system would provide a cost savings regarding staff time. Motion by Trustee Koch, second by Trustee Marquardt approval to direct staff to prepare the necessary resolution for the purchase of fare terminals through Total Parking Solutions, Inc. Roll call vote:

AYES: 5-Koch, Marquardt, Schultz, Williams, Hebda

NAYS: 0-None

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 1-Schwartz

Motion carried.

**4. VILLAGE HALL ENTRANCE.**

Public Works Director Laudenslager stated staff members Ken Loar and Josh Hansen had prepared a plan outlining changes to the bricks and trees at the front entrance, which would require the removing of three Ash trees and replacing with Ironwoods trees. Seat walls would be added to the area and damaged bricks would be replaced. Motion by Trustee Schultz, second by Trustee Hebda approval of Village Hall entrance design in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Roll call vote:

AYES: 5-Marquardt, Schultz, Williams, Hebda, Koch

NAYS: 0-None

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 1-Schwartz

Motion carried.

5. **VERNON HILLS TOWN CENTER (VHTC) DEVELOPER NOTES.**

Manager Allison stated staff met with the developer earlier in the day to amend the developer notes, which may include an extension to August 2012.

6. **VILLAGE VOICE PUBLICATION FOR FY2009-10.**

Manager Allison stated during the budgetary discussions held earlier in the year, it was decided to reduce the number of mailings of the Village Voice to the Summer and Winter issues. The Summer issue would ask residents who would like to continue receiving hard copies.

7. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion by Trustee Schultz, second by Trustee Williams approval to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Roll call vote:


AYES: 5-Schultz, Williams, Hebda, Koch, Marquardt

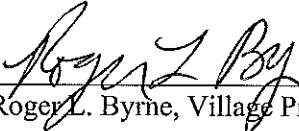
NAYS: 0-None

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 1-Schwartz

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

  
Linda Pelletier, Village Clerk

  
Roger L. Byrne, Village President