

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS
FEBRUARY 1, 2005**

IN ATTENDANCE: President Byrne called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The following Trustees were present: Duros, Hebda, Koch, Marquardt and Schwartz. Trustee Williams was absent.

Also present were Manager Allison, Finance Director Nakrin, Building Commission Gerth, Police Chief Fleischhauer, Public Works Director Laudenslager, Village Engineer Brown and Attorney Citron.

1. **REVIEW OF VILLAGE BUILDING CODE AMENDMENT – LOW VOLTAGE WIRING.**
Building Commissioner Gerth stated the current code required low voltage wiring to be concealed. National Code does not require raceways for low voltage wiring. President Byrne requested this was topic be discussed after receiving inquiries from residents. The requirement to conceal low voltage wiring could be costly to residents. Commissioner Gerth to draft an ordinance to amend the current code for existing residential units and new construction.
2. **CONSIDERATION OF ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO PURCHASE SATELLITE DISH PERMITS.**
Building Commissioner Gerth recommended the elimination of building permits for satellite dishes. The FCC had ruled municipalities could not restrict property owners from satellite installation. Board members stated concerns on the number of dishes that could be allowed at one location. Homeowner associations would have stricter rules and regulations pertaining to satellite dish locations. President Byrne inquired if the ordinance could also be amended to have residents remove obsolete equipment from the locations. Commissioner Gerth to draft an ordinance to rescind the requirement for satellite dish permits.
3. **LAKE COUNTY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**
Manager Allison stated he had confirmed that Route 45 from Rt.21 to Rt. 83 was not part of the IDOT 5-year plan. County representatives are to be invited to discuss road improvements at the 2/15/2005 meeting. County Board member Pam Newton was to be contacted with the importance of including the Route 45 improvements. President Byrne stated concerns of using Rt. 53 for recreational purposes and the division of Lake County constituents on the extension of Route 53.
4. **FY2005/06 BUDGET REVIEW-CONTINUATION.**
Manager Allison opened the discussions on the budget. Chief Fleischhauer requested furniture be dropped from the Police Department budget in lieu of the increase of the capital improvement budget. Manager Allison recapped items discussed previously including policing of Indian Creek to be discussed at a future meeting. Trustee Schwartz inquired the costs of the deejay for the Appreciation Dinner and recommended using a deejay the Vernon Hills Golf Course had used for previous entertainment. Trustee Schwartz inquired if a buffet dinner versus a sit down dinner would be more feasible. President Byrne stated concerns of handling 200 people for a buffet. Further discussion to be continued for the dinner.

Manager Allison stated he had received some responses for the Social Service Grants and anticipated receiving an additional response during the week. A meeting with Chief Fleischhauer and Mike Baber would be held to discuss the grants and the information would be forwarded to the Board for review.

Manager Allison stated the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex certain specific expenditures would need to be discussed with the Larry DeGraaf of the Park District.

Public Works Director Laudenslager stated the cost to run electric to the median along Milwaukee Ave. would be close to \$10,000. The work would have to be contracted out due to Public Works staff commitment to setup the Winter Wonderland at the Cuneo Museum and Gardens. The total cost would be approximately \$45,000. Project to be dropped at this time.

Land planning for the Milwaukee Ave. corridor and the unincorporated areas near the Village were discussed as to whether it would be done in house or contracted out. Certain areas along Milwaukee Ave. had been already been conducted by Teska Associates. Areas needed to be identified including the development of a possible PUD and amending the Village's comprehensive plan. Further discussion would be needed on the extent of costs.

Administrative towing fee was discussed and it was found to be acceptable and no increase would be needed.

Manager Allison addressed program issues. Chief Fleischhauer stated their department was discussing the consolidation of the communication and records division and sharing of duties. Discussion also included increasing the life of municipal vehicles.

President Byrne inquired who was responsible for snow removal of the pedestrian paths back to the park areas. A staff member was to investigate the matter. Trustee Koch stated concerns of overlapping of snow removal by difference entities along Aspen. President Byrne stated he would like the "no touch" areas to be addressed, even if it is not completed for several days after a snowfall. No comments were made regarding the street sweeping program and the Village would maintain current service.

Trustee Koch inquired what was discussed on the fireworks at the last meeting. He was in favor of the 4th of July and Summer Celebration displays. He stated he would consider the New Years Eve display provided the monies were available. Trustee Duros stated available monies could be spent to develop new ideas and opportunities for the community. Trustee Koch concurred the monies could be used to help underwrite other projects.

Manager Allison recommended the Arborthheater concerts could be held on a fixed night such as Thursday evening. President Byrne concurred and stated with the Fairway Drive extension the Arborthheater would be more visible to the public. No changes were discussed for the 4th of July activities. Manager Allison stated the Pageant was tentative pending the appointment of a Pageant Director.

Manager Allison presented budget items that were held over for further discussion. The recycling program would remain with the Village subsidizing the expense. The yard waste program would be done by subscription as was negotiated in the Onyx contract. Onyx and the Village are to notify residents of changes.

Senior transportation was discussed and the success of the leased van from Pace. Public Works Director Laudenslager stated he would like to dispose of the 8 year old large van that has been out of service since the new van has been used. President Byrne inquired if there had been feed back from the seniors in regards to the smaller van. Manager Allison stated there had been a few conflicts on medical trip days. The main concerns were transportation of the seniors to their large events that are held during the year. Manager Allison was to follow up with discussions with the seniors. Concurrence was that if the large van was not being used, it should be sold. Manager Allison stated as demographics change in the community, further discussions would be conducted concerning the purchase of a larger bus.

Information regarding the Lake County Visitor's Bureau would be coming in a transmittal.

The Telecommunication Tax should be discussed at the February 15th Committee of the Whole meeting to include input from residents. If this tax was increased a possible roll back on the gas and utility taxes could benefit the residents. Discussion would need to be done if the tax was to be implemented by July.

President Byrne inquired what number the Special Census would increase the Village's population to and was informed the anticipated number could be around 23,000. A home rule referendum could be conducted to generate additional revenues to maintain services if needed.

Manager Allison stated with the absence of Trustee Williams, discussions on the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex regarding lighting, and sponsorship advertising should be postponed.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Hebda, second by Trustee Duros to adjourn the Committee of the Whole to Closed Session for discussion of land acquisition-[Sec. 2(c)(5)]; litigation-[Sec. 2(c) (11)] and personnel-[Sec. 2(c)(1)] as allowed under the Open Meetings Act. Roll call vote:

AYES: 5 – Duros, Hebda, Koch, Marquardt, Schwartz

NAYS: 0 – None

ABSENT: 1-Williams

Motion declared carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.p.m.

Mike Allison, Village Manager

Roger L. Byrne, Village President