

**Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken.”

Thursday, January 9, 2014

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR RICHARD S. ANDREWS

The regular meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard S. Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Tom Hinshaw
Trustee Brenda O’Laughlin
Trustee Norman L. Schnauffer
Trustee Matt Walsh
Trustee Amy Jo Wittenberg

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration
Steve Busa, Treasurer
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

For the record, Mayor Andrews noted Board meetings are being videotaped by the Village as well as video or audio recordings by others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *"I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all"*.

MAYOR'S REPORT – RICHARD ANDREWS

Mayor Andrews stated he wished to extend thanks to Rich Ramello and his law firm who made a donation of \$250.00 on behalf of the Village to the Make a Wish Foundation.

Mayor Andrews commended Superintendent Santen and Public Works employees for the good job in keeping up with snow removal efforts.

Mayor Andrews stated this past Monday Police Chief Frank Alonzo tendered a letter indicating he will be retiring from his position as Police Chief and Administrator effective February 14, 2014. Frank has expressed a desire to spend more time with his family in Oregon.

SEASPAR PRESENTATION – SUSAN FRIEND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Susan Friend thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk to the Board about the programs offered by S.E.A.S.P.A.R. She summarized the following: (1) S.E.A.S.P.A.R. is an extension of recreation services offered to individuals with disabilities in the communities served by S.E.A.S.P.A.R.; (2) Indian Head Park has been one of the longest members when the Village first joined in 1976; (3) it has been a thirty-six (36) year cooperative venture to help serve residents with disabilities; (4) relationships are developed with people of all ages with disabilities to help match them with programs that would be best to suit their needs; (5) S.E.A.S.P.A.R. serves eleven (11) communities (five in Cook County and six in DuPage); (6) S.E.A.S.P.A.R. has grown over the last few years through media announcements, focus groups and the Helping Hand organization as well as input from residents with disabilities that participate in the programs; (7) S.E.A.S.P.A.R. has developed an electronic newsletter to help keep people informed of the programs and services as well as on-line registration; (8) special Olympics is one of the programs some individuals with disabilities have been involved with from Indian Head Park; (9) a winter sports retreat is also hosted by S.E.A.S.P.A.R.; (10) on February 27th in LaGrange at the Park District an event will be held similar to Boci Ball where participants in wheelchairs will be able to play the sport; (11) an ice hockey event is also held each year; (12) general summer programs are a busy time and field trips are planned around the Chicago area as well as the Midwest; (12) in May each year every participant is recognized that participates in S.E.A.S.P.A.R. programs; (13) the Flying High Gymnastics Program is also very popular; (14) an opportunity is coming up at a park district that has an additional 2,000 square feet of space available for S.E.A.S.P.A.R. programs; (15) there are many adult programs also available to individuals with disabilities; (16) some interactive programs are also now being developed for individuals with autism to provide an environment where they are comfortable; (17) S.E.A.S.P.A.R. is considering the possibility of a new building in the next five to ten years and some of the park districts have allowed use of some of their space for S.E.A.S.P.A.R. which has been free of charge operationally.

Susan Friend stated S.E.A.S.P.A.R. is in a good position, member contribution information was provided, typically special parks and recreation associations make up about 70% of the total budget and over the past few years that amount was reduced to about 64%. She noted funds are also raised through special events, activities and private donations as well as member contributions from the various communities. Susan Friend stated the aggregate contributions from existing members has stayed constant over the last five years. She noted Indian Head Park's contributions to S.E.A.S.P.A.R. for 2014/2015 is \$24,792.00, overall participation in programs is up, the average cost to a homeowner per year is about the cost of a medium pizza and she thanked Indian Head Park for their support over the past years.

Trustee Hinshaw thanked Susan Friend for the presentation and stated he appreciates the services provided by S.E.A.SP.A.R. He asked Susan Friend to discuss the benefits of a strategic plan. Susan Friend stated the strategic plan allows her to map out and commit to certain changes that will help make decisions in the long run for S.E.A.S.P.A.R. and it is a work in progress. She noted the plan helps to explain how, when, and why something is being done. Trustee Wittenberg asked if there is anything being done with vocational integration. Susan Friend stated S.E.A.S.P.A.R. works more with general skills and physical recreation.

Tom Heaney, of Plainfield Road, stated the acoustics in the Board room are terrible, it is difficult to hear, if there is a full audience in the room it is hard to hear, in order to communicate with people better sound is needed. He added when he comes to meetings he cannot hear what is going on and asked if anything would be done to fix it. Mayor Andrews stated he would look into it. Trustee Hinshaw stated microphone ports are installed on the Board dais but there are no microphones.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report for the Month ending November 30, 2013

Treasurer Steve Busa presented the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2013. For the month of November, he noted: total revenues were \$143,166.78; expenditures were \$507,469.17 and fund balances in all accounts at the end of November were \$1,435,980.47. He noted there was a bond payment due that accounts for a portion of the expenditures.

Trustee Hinshaw asked about an expenditure and a check issued to Ray O'Herron. Chief Alonzo stated Ray O'Herron company provides police equipment. Trustee Hinshaw stated he is aware the Village purchases salt in bulk and several residents have asked if we are on budget for salt and snow removal. Frank Alonzo stated the budget will be off for salt purchase because we had a substantial amount of snow already this year, there is a shortage and we are expecting another 200 tons of salt but the cost will be higher this year (about \$75 per ton instead of \$50 per ton). Trustee Hinshaw asked if overtime will be higher also. Frank Alonzo stated he has not yet reviewed the overtime. Trustee Hinshaw stated a check was issued to Christopher Burke Engineering in the amount of \$3,468.25. He noted last year the engineering firm provided details of the expenses. Frank Alonzo stated details will be provided and our engineer was on vacation for a few weeks when the invoice was sent.

Trustee Hinshaw stated a check was issued to Georgis Catering Executive for \$439.00. Frank Alonzo stated each town belongs to the South Suburban Police Organization (MCAT) and each town takes turns hosting a meeting of all the members once or twice a year. The host town provides lunch for all the members. Trustee Hinshaw stated a payment was made to Storino, Ramello and Durkin for \$6,000 and he asked if the Village will be receiving details of those charges that was requested previously. He asked if a detailed statement can be provided monthly. Rich Ramello responded a redacted copy will be provided. Trustee Hinshaw stated a payment for \$18,959 was issued to J. Redding Asphalt and he asked about details of the expense. Frank Alonzo stated the expense was for street repairs. Trustee Wittenberg stated she recalled a document reflecting \$7,500 per month for a legal services retainer and we are paying \$6,000 per month for legal services. Counsel Ramello stated when there was a down turn in the economy and the Village encountered financial difficulties it was agreed the monthly legal services retainer would be billed at \$6,000 per month.

Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to approve the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2013, as presented by Treasurer Busa. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Bailey, Hinshaw, O'Laughlin, Schnauffer, Walsh, Wittenberg

Nays: None

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – December 12, 2013

After review of the regular meeting minutes, Trustee Hinshaw moved, seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to approve the December 12, 2013 Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSION AND A POSSIBLE VOTE MAY TAKE PLACE)

1. Chicago Water Rate Increase Impact on Indian Head Park

Mayor Andrews stated the Village was notified by the City of Countryside that a rate increase will be passed along on the water we receive from Countryside as a result of increases over the years from the City of Chicago who has also increased water rates. He noted this year's increase from the City of Chicago is 15% (which is about 44 cents per 1,000 gallons of water) from Chicago to McCook, the Village of McCook added another 4 cents (a total of 48 cents per 1,000 gallons) passed along to Countryside (who did not add any more increase to Indian Head Park). Mayor Andrews stated effective January 1, 2014 the increase of 48 cents per 1,000 gallons of water will require Indian Head Park to raise the water rates to keep up with the increases. He recommended counsel prepare an ordinance for consideration at the February meeting to increase the water rates by 48 cents per 1,000 gallons of water to reflect the pass through charges.

Mayor Andrews stated there have been increases from the City of Chicago every year for the past few years and Countryside adjusts their rate every two years.

He noted there will be one more increase next year from the City of Chicago. Mayor Andrews stated some southern suburbs are running water lines through Indiana then buying Lake Michigan water from Indiana to serve their communities. Also some suburbs are trying to get water through Evanston or Waukegan, it takes a lot of money to extend water lines to other sources and it takes a consortium of towns to sometimes accomplish it. Mayor Andrews stated the West Central Municipal Conference created a water rate task force to try to negotiate with the City of Chicago and also to explore other options such as trying to get legislation passed that would regulate water coming from Lake Michigan and the charges for water. Superintendent Santen stated the Village receives Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago and the water is already treated as it is passed along for delivery. Trustee Hinshaw stated the way the water system was set up was supposed to be cash neutral, what we make we spend on the water from the City of Countryside and it is not a profit center or supposed to be a loss but pay for itself. Trustee Hinshaw stated Public Works staff and Frank Alonzo developed a wish list of items that we would like to get and there were several items not road related, some storm run-off items, reservoir and other things tied to the water system. He added we are depreciating about \$94,000 a year which is fantastic but if the items on the wish list are items we want to look at doing down the road we need to look at how to pay for it. Trustee Hinshaw stated a water rate increase is proposed but we also need to determine how to pay for other water related items down the road, the water fund should be neutral and if there are projects looming a capital plan is needed to determine how to fund those future water projects.

Trustee Wittenberg stated new water meters is something we might have to do at some point so how to pay for it needs to be determined. Trustee Hinshaw stated he hopes before next month there is an idea how to do the projects and how to pay for it to determine if the 48 cents per 1,000 gallons of water will cover it or should we add a few cents to the water rate increase to pay for future projects. Mayor Andrews stated collectively the Board discussed streets and other infrastructure and the Board decided at that time to focus on streets for a road bond referendum and water infrastructure is not the proposal before the Board. Trustee Hinshaw stated a depreciation in the water fund of about \$94,000 a year is about enough to pay for a watermain if we do one every two or three years and there is no extra money to pay for water meters or other projects. Mayor Andrews suggested that a one-time charge per water user could be added to the bill to help pay for the new water meters.

Trustee Walsh stated he agrees with Trustee Hinshaw's point that we need to plan for future expenses. He asked how much revenue could be generated if another 5 or 10 cents per 1,000 gallons of water is added to help offset future water expenses compared to a one time fee. Mayor Andrews stated approximately 108 million gallons of water per year is purchased from the City of Countryside and we charge residents per 1,000 gallons of water. Trustee Hinshaw stated we need to know whether we are going to raise \$20,000 or \$200,000 and if we need a water rate increase. Trustee Walsh concurred that we need to know how much will be raised from the water rate increase and how much to increase the water rate. Mayor Andrews stated when Countryside determines what the rate increase will be to Indian Head Park for their costs and infrastructure, the Board can also determine its needs.

Trustee Wittenberg stated it would be beneficial to have a calendar of water department activities to understand the rate increase now so a capital plan for water can be incorporated into a fiscal plan so we do not have to keep going back to the citizenry in a piece meal fashion asking for more money. She added we can ask for money once and put it into a capital plan so when we know we need the money it will be there without having to ask for another referendum for more money. Trustee Wittenberg stated with a strategic plan for both a short and long term plan it will benefit the water and public works departments when we need the money as a contingency fund for those emergencies that we know happen that we cannot plan for in advance. Mayor Andrews stated typically we have not had a referendum where we ask for all of the residents to fund a water supply which only goes to about 85% of the residents. He noted a portion of the Village receives water from the LaGrange Highlands Sanitary District so it would not be appropriate also to use water rates for general improvements in the Village because not everyone gets water from Indian Head Park. Trustee Wittenberg stated at least we need to have a plan in place how to fund projects, we have one element in place with the street portion and have not established a plan for water infrastructure. Trustee Hinshaw stated there is no plan in place for the sewer system or storm water improvements. He added a 5 cent increase over and above the water rate increase from Countryside does not sound like enough to cover the projects that may be needed over the years.

Mayor Andrews stated he is requesting Counsel Ramello to prepare an ordinance to increase the water rate by 48 cents per 1,000 gallons of water and if the Board decides to amend the ordinance to add more to the increase it can be done at that time. Trustee Hinshaw asked Frank Alonzo if he could provide further input on the water capital improvement plan. Frank Alonzo stated we do not know what is needed until we can start televising the system and putting cameras down the lines to evaluate the infrastructure.

John Corcoran, of Apache Drive, stated it cost a certain amount of money to turn on the tap, the Village is not making money, we are not funding the infrastructure so we might be losing money and until we start building up money then we will be behind on funding projects and paying for watermain breaks or whatever needs to be done. He added we have to charge whatever it costs. Tom Heaney, of Plainfield Road, stated the Village needs to start accruing funds for things that cannot be anticipated in the future, it is not a good way to operate, the Board cannot keep going back to the taxpayers asking for more money and projects need to be done gradually over time. Mayor Andrews stated this has been happening for years and the Board has been trying to build up revenues for many years. In 2007, when he became Mayor the deficit in the general fund went from a negative \$700,000 to a positive \$100,000 and we have slowly been working our way out of it with a tough economy. Mayor Andrews further stated most people are not in favor of small continuous increases but would rather know how much is it going to cost and the Board has gone to the residents a couple of times before and maybe with the economy people did not vote for it. He noted five months after a tragedy in town people in Indian Head Park voted against a referendum to hire another police officer.

Tom Heaney, of Plainfield Road, stated the problem is not a revenue problem but a spending problem and until the spending problem is addressed that is when the revenue will increase. He added his belief is that a reduction in spending increases revenue.

Mr. Heaney stated operating costs of the Village can be reduced, that action has not taken place in the past and if more money is needed costs need to be reduced first. He added to convince residents about a bond issue something else needs to be done to reduce the operating costs of the Village because everyone has to tighten their budgets. He mentioned there are people in the community out of work for two years and they had to reduce their expenses so the Board has to make an adjustment also. Mayor Andrews stated he disagrees that the Board has done nothing to reduce costs because turning the general fund from a deficit situation to a positive in six years time shows that costs were reduced. Even with that, streets have not been done in years, there is a vacancy in the police department for six years and employee pay raises were not given for three years. Mr. Heaney stated things that make a significant difference to reduce costs are not being recognized and in his opinion we do not need a police department. Mayor Andrews stated we are discussing Village water rates, not the budget or Village finances and if Mr. Heaney believes we do not need a police department there are plenty of other residents that believe we do need a police department. He noted thirty five (35) years ago when he moved to Indian Head Park that was an attraction that the town had a police department.

Trustee Hinshaw stated he reviewed the one to five year short term plan for water that Frank Alonzo and staff prepared. The water plan is 1.3 million for (1 to 5 years) the (5 to 10 year) water plan is 1.8 million. He noted the current projected cost is approximately \$300,000 per year needed for water projects over the next ten years and possibly the plan could be modified but it is still a lot of money. Trustee Hinshaw stated Mr. Corcoran pointed out that expenses also need to be taken into account and there is an expense to provide the water to residents more than just the cost per 1,000 gallons of water. Mayor Andrews stated he is open minded to suggestions from the Board about the water rate increase.

2. *Approval of an Ordinance Amending Title 15, Building, of the Municipal Code to Adopt the 2014 National Electric Code, 2012 International Building Code, 2012 International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 International Fire Code, 2012 Property Maintenance Code, 2012 One and Two Family International Residential Code.*

Mayor Andrews stated the ordinance presented to adopt various building code updates is quite lengthy and everyone may not have had an opportunity to review the document. Counsel Ramello stated the Village is proposing to adopt several standard codes published either by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association. He noted when you adopt those standard codes it is customary that amendments are also adopted that tailor those to the individual municipality. Counsel Ramello stated typical amendments are common to suburban communities. However, it is suggested that the local amendments to the International Fire Code be sent to the Pleasantview Fire Protection Agency to review them in accordance with what they believe is safe and prudent. Similarly, the building codes to be adopted should be sent to the Village's plan review consultant to review.

Counsel Ramello stated some time is needed for both the Pleasantview Fire Protection Agency and the Village's plan review consultant to review the codes to be adopted before the Village Board approves the ordinance. Mayor Andrews stated the ordinance will be sent to both the fire department and plan review consultant for their comments before the Board finalizes adopting the codes.

Trustee Hinshaw stated he discussed an issue about a property maintenance blight issue with Frank Alonzo. He noted on page 47 of the ordinance “weeds” is mentioned that anything in excess of 8” is a violation, the Village would charge someone if there is a violation and how much would that be. Frank Alonzo stated a property owner must be given an opportunity to correct the problem, a letter would be sent and if the violation continues a citation may be issued. Trustee Hinshaw stated we went through a process of screens on the balconies at Wilshire Green and he did not see any language specifically about screening requirements and asked if that should be part of the ordinance. Frank Alonzo stated the Property Maintenance Code adopted by the Village defines that the Village may inspect screens, it is already in the code and he will send a note to the plan review consultant asking for their opinion.

Trustee Wittenberg asked if language is included in the International Fire Code that requires installation of sprinklers in new residential construction because there have been some issues in some towns about that requirement. Frank Alonzo stated the Fire Department also has their own codes they enforce for new commercial facilities and multi-family dwellings.

Mayor Andrews stated the Board will continue the discussions on adopting the code updates at the February Board meeting.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Trustee Hinshaw stated he heard from several residents on Blackhawk Trail thanking Frank Alonzo and his staff for the excellent work over the holidays on the snow removal and it was very much appreciated by residents. He also noted there was an update on the Website about a crime alert and asked if there is any additional information that can be provided. Chief Alonzo stated the Police Department is investigating the incidents, there are a few leads, three homes were burglarized and there are not a lot of details at this time about the suspects. Chief Alonzo stated the three incidents may be related.

Joan Metz stated she was reviewing minutes from October and it was mentioned in the minutes to direct the attorney to prepare an ordinance about purchases which is an important topic. She asked if the Board will be considering that document at some point. Mayor Andrews stated he asked Counsel Ramello to hold off on preparing a purchases ordinance so what we currently have on the books can be reviewed as well as check with other Villages what they have in place. Joan Metz stated in light of Frank Alonzo retiring there is more of a need to know how money is being spent and who will be making decisions that comes in next.

Joan Metz stated there was also a comment in the October Board minutes and she asked what form of municipal government is the Village of Indian Head Park. Counsel Ramello stated the Village operates under a Village President and Board of Trustees form of government.

Joan Metz asked if an inspection of the mold issues at the Heritage Center has taken place. Frank Alonzo stated the Board is currently looking at options, the recommendation from a consultant for the basement is to get a more industrial use dehumidifier, there were some mold spots that can be cleaned with bleach, a water leak spot was repaired, the mold in the basement was higher than the outside air but lower in the rest of the house than the outside air.

Joan Metz asked if there is any interest in anyone renting or leasing the upstairs of the Heritage Center. She added some of the docents are interested in using that space for storing books.

Mayor Andrews stated a resident asked if we do the street bond how long will it take to pay it back. There were discussions by the Board to pay it back over 10, 15 or 20 years and it was not decided yet until we get approval from the residents on the street bond and move forward with bond counsel who will advise the Village what the rates will be to make a decision on the terms. Mayor Andrews stated it has been suggested we have to educate the residents, we are open to suggestions, and what is the alternative if the street bond fails.

Trustee Hinshaw stated not having the number of years to pay the road bond off will make it harder for the community to understand because that number can double if it is paid in 10 years instead of 20 years and most people will want to know what it means to them on the tax bill. Mayor Andrews stated a scenario page was previously distributed showing how much it would cost for each scenario over 10, 15 or 20 years. He noted useful information will be put in Smoke Signals about the plan.

Trustee Walsh stated we are all in agreement that at some point down the road we will need to determine the best option and the number ranges will all come down to the interest rates available at that time.

Trustee Hinshaw stated if the road bond fails there are some cuts that can be made and asking for the legal information is one step to understand what and why we are doing it. He noted in his opinion, we are paying too much for legal fees, new trustees have come on board without pay and if we pass an ordinance that there is no compensation for the Board, that is another approximate \$23,000. Trustee Hinshaw stated there are not enough cuts for all the roads to be done so the best idea is a possible vehicle sticker increase because it relates to roads. Mayor Andrews asked Trustee Hinshaw if he could provide a report on vehicle stickers at the February Board meeting since the data was received from the Village offices. Trustee Hinshaw stated he received a report previously but asked Frank for a more current vehicle sticker report and is waiting to receive it, enforcement is also needed and if someone does not buy a sticker can we contact them at their home, give them a citation and can we go back retroactive a couple of years to collect vehicle sticker fees from them. Chief Alonzo stated there were some results from the road blocks to check vehicles that did not buy stickers, and some people heard about the stops and came in to buy a sticker before getting a ticket.

Trustee Wittenberg stated that all of our professional services agreements for legal and engineering should be pay as we go instead of a retainer, possibly all elected and commission positions be no pay positions, police and public works overtime needs to be evaluated to reduce costs. She noted in the budget process we need to go back to the departments to determine labor and all services that are needed in the current environment to operate this year in an effective way. Trustee Wittenberg stated we also need to look at sharing labor in intergovernmental relationships with other departments like the Highlands Sanitary District, which is less than two miles away from our water department as well as other options.

Trustee Wittenberg stated Trustee Bailey raised the topic of home rule, there are other municipalities such as Oakbrook Terrace that approved home rule with an amendment so there are a range of things that can be considered. She noted cellular tower revenues need to be reviewed to determine the schedule when those agreements are up and possibly employees have some opinions and suggestions on revenue. Trustee Wittenberg stated we all need to work together to get creative on what is needed for the future, we need to show residents we have a plan to make changes because it cannot be business as usual anymore.

Trustee Hinshaw stated Trustee Walsh suggested we cut police overtime by 10% this year and maybe we could cut another 10% next year and that could raise another \$10,000 or \$15,000, he is not a fan of home rule but heard what Trustee Bailey said and researched home rule with Clarendon Hills and Oakbrook Terrace who both have home rule but without the power to levy additional property taxes. They have instituted a home rule property tax cap. Trustee Hinshaw stated there is a benefit to home rule, one being the fee can be raised for video poker machines from \$25.00 to \$1,000 per year and there was a mention previously about revenue from truck parking fees. Mayor Andrews stated at the meeting in July, 2010 home rule was suggested and there was no intention to raise property taxes but to find a way to increase revenue from other sources.

Mayor Andrews stated streets are deteriorating and interest rates are historically low. However, if the road bond does not pass, the Board cannot get the money to do the streets. Trustee Hinshaw stated there are things that can be cut to reduce the budget. Trustee Wittenberg stated there were some discussions about the Comprehensive Plan at a prior zoning meeting as well as the development of the Brookside Plaza, the sales tax revenue generated from the economic incentive agreement for that development was helpful. She added the corner of Joliet and Wolf Road retail business is looking terrible and we need to open some meetings up with business owners as a group to improve that area to generate more sales tax for the future. Mayor Andrews stated at one time a Tax Increment Financing District was proposed for that area of the Village.

Mayor Andrews stated information will be posted on the website as well as printed in Smoke Signals about the road bond referendum. Trustee Wittenberg stated we need to get the word out and she asked if the Village could hold a meeting with residents. Counsel Ramello stated factual information can be provided to residents but the Board cannot advocate either for or against the referendum, it is prohibited by statute to tell someone to vote for or against it and Village resources cannot be used.

Trustee Hinshaw stated Wilshire Green has a discussion group every two months and maybe we could provide factual information to explain about the roads. Trustee Schnauffer stated he serves on the Wilshire West Board and can make a statement at the next meeting about what is going on with the road bond but many times there are only a few in attendance at the meetings.

Bob Bersin, of Acacia, stated the Acacia annual meeting is at the end of February and maybe the Village road bond issue could be discussed at that time.

Joan Metz stated she researched other referendum items, it is a good idea to get a group of citizens together who would like to advocate for the referendum and possibly some of the people who supported it at the townhall meeting would be interested to facilitate getting the information out to the public.

Tom Heaney stated there is more to this than a referendum, he will not vote for it, other action needs to be taken to reduce expenses and there were several other items mentioned this evening to reduce expenses that can be explored. Mayor Andrews stated there are always people that will be for and against some things, we all have choices to make and property taxes have not been increased in 18 years.

John Corcoran stated the Village has been given a big discount with Frank Alonzo as Police Chief and Administrator, it will be a big chair to fill when Frank leaves, what we have been given for what we are paying is going to be hard to replace and it will be another challenge. He stated if we are paying \$100,000 a year for debt service, it will be a grave situation if the bond payment is extended out too far so if the road bond goes through a shorter term is better. Mr. Corcoran stated the Heritage Center is becoming a money pit that will keep costing the Village money and although it is nice to have, we cannot afford to have it and we need to get what we can get out of it. He added, eliminating the pay for elected officials will send a statement to the community as well. Mayor Andrews stated he will have an ordinance prepared about the elected officials salary for Board consideration. Trustee Hinshaw stated if he wants to put a sign in his yard as a resident about the referendum he can do so without advocating for the referendum as a Trustee. Counsel Ramello stated that is correct.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline or performance of specific employees. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Bailey, Hinshaw, O'Laughlin, Schnauffer, Walsh, Wittenberg

Nays: None

Absent: None

RETURN TO THE OPEN MEETING

There being no further business to discuss in the Executive Session, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to return to the regular Board meeting. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 10:40 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Minutes prepared by,
Kathy Leach, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary