

**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, November 14, 2013

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, November 14, 2013 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard S. Andrews. Deputy Clerk Kathy Leach called the roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: KATHY LEACH, DEPUTY 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
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

NOT PRESENT:

Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk

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 reported that on Saturday, November 16th a “Run for Kelli” one mile walk event will be held at the south campus at Lyons Township High School at 9:40 a.m.

Mayor Andrews noted Superintendent Santen contacted the Cook County Highway Department requesting the county to make paving repairs along Wolf Road north of the Acacia entrance. He added the road needed to be saw cut for a deep repair and that street patch work was completed last week.

Mayor Andrews read the following letter received from the Indian Head Park Heritage Foundation dated November 8th to Frank Alonzo and the Board of Trustees: *“Dear Mr. Alonzo, this letter shall serve as notice that the Indian Head Park Heritage Foundation shall terminate its month to month lease relative to office space located at the IHP Heritage Center at 6250 Wolf Road, second floor space, on December 31, 2013. In this regard, all foundation furniture and all other personal items of the foundation shall be removed from said premises on or before December 31, 2013. Lastly, we enclose herewith our check in the amount of \$630.00 representing rent for fourth quarter of 2013”*. The letter was signed by Noreen Costelloe, as general counsel for the foundation. Mayor Andrews stated the Village will lose a tenant at the Heritage Center as of the 1st of the year as well as the approximately \$2,400 in rent per year that helped pay for some expenses of the Heritage Center. He further stated he contacted Mr. Pellegrino about the lease termination and the reason is the Heritage Foundation is not in a position to sign a long term lease. They preferred a month to month lease, there were some concerns mentioned by others regarding liability about not having a lease so the Heritage Foundation decided to terminate the month to month lease.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of a Resolution to Determine the Estimated Levy for 2013 for the Village of Indian Head Park (Resolution #R11-13-1)

Mayor Andrews stated each year in November the Board must approve a resolution to determine the estimated amount of the levy. He noted at the December Board meeting, the Tax Levy Ordinance will be presented for review and approval by the Board.

Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote. (6/0/0). **Resolution #R11-13-1.**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report for the Month ending September 30, 2013

Treasurer Steve Busa presented the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2013. For the month of September, he noted: total revenues were \$130,840.24; expenditures were \$234,559.52 and fund balances in all accounts at the end of September were \$1,669,931.76.

Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin, to approve the financial report for the month ending September 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 – October 10, 2013

Minutes of the Town Hall Meeting – November 7, 2013

After review of the regular meeting minutes, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to approve the October 10, 2013 Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

After review of the special meeting minutes, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin, to approve the November 7, 2013 Townhall Meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0). Mayor Andrews thanked Kathy Leach for expediting preparation of the Townhall meeting minutes with a short time to prepare minutes between meetings.

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

1. Finance Committee Ordinance (Ordinance #2013-10)

Mayor Andrews stated an ordinance is being presented for the Board’s consideration to establish a Finance Committee consistent with the discussions before the Board at the September meeting.

He noted the Finance Committee will be comprised of the two Finance Trustees (Trustee Schnauffer and Trustee O’Laughlin), Village Administrator Frank Alonzo and Finance Director Dave Brink and two members of the community who will be appointed at the December meeting. The Finance Committee members will have a one year term to assist with the budget process, no term of a member will go beyond the end of the current Village President’s term, reappointments would need to be according to provisions of the law for consecutive terms in that position. He further noted the duties of the Finance Committee include the following: to interact with Village Trustees, appropriate officials and departments of the Village regarding financial matters, to recommend to the Board of Trustees an annual budget with proposed revenues and expenditures, to recommend such legislation as it deems appropriate relating to Village finances, upon requests by the Village Board to conduct public hearings, perform research to obtain pertinent data and make appropriate recommendations related to Village finances, to conduct meetings according to the Open Meetings Act and other applicable laws and to carry out such other functions that is directed by the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Andrews stated establishing the ordinance will help the committee accomplish its primary tasks to assist with the budget process, this is a new endeavor for the Village, it is a good starting point, the proposed ordinance is a little broader than initially envisioned but the committee will not be making any decisions and serves in an advisory capacity to make recommendations to the Board who will vote to approve a budget. Mayor Andrews recommended approval of the proposed finance committee ordinance.

Trustee Hinshaw inquired how many people have responded to serving on a finance committee. Mayor Andrews stated to date he received six letters of interest from individuals interested in serving on the finance committee. Trustee Hinshaw asked how the selection process works and if the Finance Trustees will select the candidate or the Village President. Mayor Andrews stated he would make the recommendation for appointment with the advice and consent of the Village Board based on meetings with candidates and their resumes. He added he hoped to make a recommendation for appointments to the Finance Committee at the December Board meeting.

Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin, to approve the ordinance creating a Finance Committee for the Village of Indian Head Park, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0). ***Ordinance #2013-10.***

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Andrews stated once he meets with candidates, additional information will be provided to the Board prior to the meeting. He noted there are six candidates for two positions and it should not be construed or a reflection on their ability or qualifications if someone is not appointed.

2. Approval of Street Repair/Capital Improvement Plan including Scope of Work and Method of Project Financing

Mayor Andrews stated the street repair and capital improvement plan will be discussed this evening including the scope of work as well as the manner and method of financing the project. He noted a Townhall Meeting was held last week, residents in attendance at that meeting provided their input, the Village Board will discuss the next step in determining how to proceed and a final vote will not be taken tonight because there is no document prepared for the Board to vote on at this time. He noted at some point the Board will consider a motion to direct counsel to prepare a document whether it is an ordinance or resolution to be considered by the Board at the December meeting. He noted the Board will have to decide how much road work needs to be done, what the scope of work will be, how much it will cost and how to raise the funds to pay for the projects. He noted at the Townhall meeting the discussion primarily focused on a road bond so the Board will need to make a decision on a road bond concerning whether the payment period should be for 10, 15 or 20 years or something else that is suggested to pay it off.

Mayor Andrews asked the Board for their opinions with respect to the scope of work to be included and how to pay for it. Trustee Hinshaw stated he spoke with Mayor Andrews earlier this week, he has some questions in general that have not been answered about the project, those questions were sent to Frank Alonzo in an email message on September 18th and he did not have a chance to address those questions at the Townhall meeting. Trustee Hinshaw stated he is not ready to say what he is in favor of because there are still questions. Mayor Andrews stated he would like to get to a point to make a preliminary decision and he asked Trustee Hinshaw what questions he has regarding the project that need to be answered. Trustee Hinshaw stated in scenario 3 that is proposed in the Street Maintenance Plan there are a number of streets listed and other streets that need crack filling. He noted crack filling is not permanent and he wanted to know how many years crackfill will last. Superintendent Santen stated preventive maintenance will be done over five to eight years and at some point there would be no benefit with crack filling. Frank Alonzo stated the streets listed for preventative maintenance may need other work besides crackfilling, once the Board decides what needs to be done the Village Engineer can evaluate all the streets, the streets listed that need crackfill will be further studied to determine if any other type of patching is needed.

Trustee Hinshaw stated if we do several streets now and crackfill others, do we anticipate any streets that need to be done again with resurfacing at the time of the bond if we go that route. Frank Alonzo stated if we go out fifteen years with a bond we should be fine. Trustee Hinshaw asked if the crackfilling will last fifteen years. Frank Alonzo stated crackfill for some streets is recommended. However, the Village Engineer will determine if more needs to be done besides crackfilling. Trustee Hinshaw stated if we proceed with a ten, fifteen or twenty year bond with debt to be paid off then we have another street that needs to be done that is not on the list how will that street be done because there is no money for that street when the bond expires. Frank Alonzo stated there is some money for normal street repairs that is budgeted. Trustee Hinshaw asked if some money is coming out of the General Fund for road repairs to date. Frank Alonzo responded, yes. Trustee Hinshaw asked if we do the bond how much money are we freeing up by not using the money from the General Fund to put that towards saving for depreciation of streets. Frank Alonzo stated approximately \$20,000 is budgeted for crackfilling and minor repairs each year to help maintain streets.

Trustee Hinshaw stated he supported scenario three proposed in the Street Maintenance Plan but we also need to get to the point of depreciating money for the roads so that in fifteen years or whatever term is determined we are not at the same point again. Frank Alonzo stated that question was previously raised, we need to look at the budget to determine if we can set aside some money for future projects, the Village Engineer is a proponent of the streets that need to be crackfilled, some minor road repairs are made every year and all streets will receive some type of work and as the Village Engineer evaluates all the streets more closely some streets may need more work based on core samples and some roads might need less work. Trustee Hinshaw asked if all scopes of work including crackfilling would be done at once or over a longer period of time because if it is done at once where does the money come from in three, five or eight years for more crackfilling. Frank Alonzo stated all scopes of work on the street maintenance list would be included in the road bond program and money is budgeted each year for general crackfilling in the budget which the Village will continue to do. Trustee Hinshaw asked if we have been crackfilling roads over the years. Frank Alonzo stated this year the Village did not do crack filling since the Board was discussing a road program but we have been doing that maintenance over the years.

Mayor Andrews stated if there is support for scenario 3 in the Street Maintenance Plan all of the work on the streets would get done as soon as possible including streets listed for crackfilling. Trustee Hinshaw stated he is not sure where the money for crackfilling will come from in five years if \$34,000 of crackfilling needs to be done every five years. Frank Alonzo stated in scenario 3 a correction was made to the street plan, \$34,000 was for mill and overlay of the roads and the cost for crackfill is a very minimal amount of money. Trustee Hinshaw stated Mohawk Court is listed as \$10,000 in repairs. He asked how long a road should last and how long crackfill lasts. Frank Alonzo stated a road lasts approximately fifteen to twenty years before maintenance is needed, crackfill lasts possibly five to ten years and the Village Engineer will evaluate the streets each year to determine work that is needed.

Trustee Walsh stated that he supports scenario 3 of the Street Maintenance Plan, it is the most cost effective approach to accomplish as many street repairs at once and he supports a fifteen year timeframe for a road bond. He mentioned there was an issue previously with maintenance of 65th Street and discussion about reconstructing that street at a cost of about \$90,000. Trustee Walsh stated there was a lot of discussion whether that street should be closed and that still needs to be determined as well as finalizing some of the numbers for all streets to insure that we want to dedicate funds to every street listed. Frank Alonzo stated that when street work begins there may be money left if that street does not need as much work but needs some curb work and that would still be within the project scope. Trustee Walsh stated he would rather have a little more funds on other streets if we are planning to close 65th Street rather than spend \$90,000 for maintenance of a street that may be closed.

Mayor Andrews stated where it stands is that the Board decided we may not want to spend any money on 65th Street for paving or maintenance, Counsel Ramello checked into the matter and through jurisdiction of the Township they agreed to fix that road except for the Illinois Department of Transportation (I.D.O.T.) who did not agree. He noted no work will happen in the winter and he is working on getting the jurisdiction of transfer from Indian Head Park to the Township to pave 65th Street.

Mayor Andrews stated the second street north of the Walgreens off of Willow Springs Road on the west side leads up to Laurel where residents on the south side of 65th Street that is their backyard. He noted the Indian Head Park boundary goes to the north edge of the street, residents of Indian Head Park living in that area do not have direct access to 65th Street as a roadway and some residents walk through that area when they cut over from Acacia so possibly a walking pathway could be created and close that section of street with a barricade that would be accessible for emergency vehicles, if needed similar to the closure of Indian Wood Lane to Plainfield. Mayor Andrews stated last May the Township proposed to split the cost with Indian Head Park to repave 65th Street at a cost of \$15,000 each, residents of Indian Head Park do not use that street for vehicle traffic, the matter is still being considered but he is not in favor of spending \$90,000 to fix that street. Trustee Walsh asked if the road bond funds can be reallocated to other streets if the Board decides to close 65th Street instead of fixing it. Mayor Andrews responded, yes.

Trustee O'Laughlin stated one of her concerns was maintenance of 65th Street, it is important to start depreciating streets so we do have the money fifteen years down the road to fix streets and she asked if the figures presented to the Board for the road projects are close to the cost anticipated to complete the projects so if we seek a referendum for 2.5 million and we really need 3 million. Trustee O'Laughlin further stated interest rates are low and just wants to make sure the numbers are accurate so it is not estimated too low so we know how much money needs to be borrowed. Trustee O'Laughlin stated she is in favor of scenario 3 of the Street Maintenance Plan as well.

Mayor Andrews asked Trustees Bailey and Trustee Wittenberg as well as Frank Alonzo and Superintendent Santen if they are comfortable with the numbers that were presented in the plan and discussed with the Village Engineer. Trustee Wittenberg stated administratively a detailed spreadsheet would need to be prepared detailing the costs of the projects, there may be some variables and the numbers provided are estimates of the project costs which do not include engineering and legal costs. Frank Alonzo stated after discussing the projects with Superintendent Santen and the Village Engineer, engineering costs and legal expenses were built into the proposed plan.

Trustee Bailey stated we hire professionals for engineering and other matters to provide us with an opinion, we must rely on them to give us their input, we have all dealt with these individuals before and we must trust the information they are providing is correct. He added that he cannot provide exact figures of the cost of a project because he does not do it for a living and his job as a Trustee does not include trying to figure out the cost to pave a street.

Trustee Hinshaw stated we have a plan, some core work and engineering needs to be done so if we set an amount to spend of 2.5 million and find that streets are getting done easily we can do two more streets. However, if we run into problems and need to do two less streets the plan may shift a little. Frank Alonzo stated it may not be necessary to do two less streets but maybe do less on that street if it is determined less work needs to be done, if it is decided to do a bond it will need to be decided by the Board in December and \$30,000 was estimated for engineering expenses.

Mayor Andrews stated there were discussions at the Townhall meeting about getting more final engineering before going forward with anything and that could cost \$50,000 or \$60,000 for engineering. Then if whatever plan is adopted for raising revenue fails, the Village would have spent that money for nothing and we would be back where we started. So that money could have at least been used to fix a couple streets on the list. Frank Alonzo stated it may be determined that one street may need more of a surface repair than another and one street may not need a major repair. Trustee O'Laughlin asked about the \$30,000 for engineering that was mentioned. Frank Alonzo stated that cost was just an estimate to show there will be engineering costs involved with the project and if a referendum is not approved, it could cost more.

Trustee Bailey stated that he has concerns with any aspect of the financing that the Board decides to do. He further stated in this Village there is no magic Sam's Club or any other sources to help raise additional revenue, there is no money in the budget to do a road program and the voters and people in town will have to support whatever way we can determine how to pay for the road program. Trustee Bailey stated he is not going to say let's do seven streets and have the whole town vote for it because in the end the whole town will not vote for seven streets to be done when all the streets need to be done and that is the only way realistically for it to be done. Trustee Bailey stated he supports scenario 3 for all streets to be done.

Trustee Wittenberg stated she supports scenario 3 of the Street Maintenance Plan with a ten or fifteen year financing for a road bond. Mayor Andrews thanked Trustee Wittenberg for all of her prior input also at the Townhall meeting last week.

Trustee Schnaufer stated he supported scenario 3 of the Street Maintenance Plan for all streets to be done and also supports an opinion from a qualified engineer to review the plan and provide input on what needs to be done, prioritized and how much it will cost.

Mayor Andrews stated he would like to call a vote to approve the scope of work to be included in the street maintenance program as a show of support from the Board, it is not a binding decision and there is no formal document to vote on at this time. After polling the Board, he noted the consensus of the Board supports scenario 3 of the Street Maintenance Plan. Mayor Andrews then asked for input from the Board on how to raise the 2.5 million dollars needed to complete the road projects.

Trustee Wittenberg stated a road bond was discussed at the last meeting for those specific purposes that would be on the tax bills, the amount would be taken off the tax bill when the bond is retired and paid off. She noted bond companies would need to be explored to determine what type of financing is available in the bond market, what rate of interest is available and there was a mention at the last meeting that interest rates may go up sometime soon. Trustee Wittenberg stated she supports a road bond referendum question on the ballot in the March election in the amount of 2.5 million dollars for a street maintenance program with the financing to be paid in ten or fifteen years.

Trustee Bailey stated he does not support a road bond referendum because this Village has been put in a position where there is no new source of revenue coming in now or in the foreseeable future. He added there is no big parcel of land to sell to bring in cash, no new development coming in anywhere, we have what we have and are on a tight budget.

Trustee Bailey stated we can put a bandaid on it say we want to have a road bond and most of the Village will get a crack fill but we have millions of dollars in infrastructure that needs to be repaired, the streets that need crackfilling are the same age as the streets that need to be repaved so those roads may not last another fifteen years with crackfilling. Trustee Bailey stated this Village needs to find a way to raise revenue on an on-going basis, by depreciating streets that just moves money around that we are receiving from other sources and it does not raise new revenue. He proposed putting the burden on people outside Indian Head Park through a home rule source, that option was voted down, some members on the Board said we could put 5 cents on a gallon of gas, 5 cents on every pack of cigarettes or a tax on trucks that park in town but we cannot do it because we are not home rule. He noted there is a way to raise funds on an on-going basis from people who pass through town that do not live here, we are asking residents to open their wallets to pay for a road program now then in several years we may need to ask them for another bond to pay for water infrastructure but we still do not have the money. Trustee Bailey stated we got rid of the leaf program, we are down a police officer, there are so many things that we do not have, we are already running a tight budget, a road bond will not make everything great in town and will not solve the problems and we need to find a long term solution. Trustee Bailey stated we are in this position today because for the last fifteen or twenty years we have not had the money to do roads on an on-going basis, people that attended the last meeting said they wanted to knock on doors and be block captains, if they wanted to get the word out to support home rule it might pass if people understood why, there is some perception of distrust and there is no reason why and we need to do what is in the best interest of the community.

Trustee Bailey stated he supports raising funds on the backs of people outside Indian Head Park not just keep going back to the taxpayers over and over again.

Trustee O'Laughlin asked how much money could be brought in from home rule and if there were any numbers from last time. Trustee Bailey stated that would depend on how much is charged for various items, it may not be enough to pave all the streets in one year but it is a way to bring revenue into the Village and to start funding a road program that will have money in it instead of moving money around on a balance sheet by taking it from somewhere else. Trustee Bailey stated the Board previously explored red light cameras and other options but cannot do it because we are not home rule.

Trustee Wittenberg stated we need to build credibility to be able to go out and get money approved by the voters and take that money to use for capital improvements and complete the project under budget with good follow through. She added we can discuss why home rule did not happen or whose fault it is but we need to build credibility to find out why citizens vote something down two or three times. Trustee Bailey stated there are only a few residents in attendance tonight compared to last week when a road bond was discussed and if their streets get done they do not care anymore and that is what will happen.

Trustee Wittenberg stated people realize this is a permanent issue, they understand there is no money in the budget, everyone is aware of what is going on with the numbers in the budget and there is a trust issue whether anyone agrees or disagrees with that fact. Trustee Wittenberg further stated we need to all get behind this from a tactical standpoint, if we do a good job we can convince them to do the next step, home rule will not finance a 2.5 million dollar road program, let's do the project the right way, get the matrix and start managing the situation in a different way to make people believe with facts and figures that we are managing the Village in a way it should be managed.

Trustee Bailey stated he has been elected twice as Village Trustee and served on the Board for seven years and he never heard someone tell him they did not trust him or anyone else on the Board. Trustee Bailey stated he understands some people might support a bond but he is not in favor of putting the tax burden on the taxpayers.

Trustee O'Laughlin stated she is in favor of a road bond referendum on the March ballot with a ten year financing option, it is something the Village needs to do. She added home rule might be a great benefit at another time but now we need to focus on the road program.

Trustee Walsh stated that he has served on the Board for about eleven years and at this time he supports a road bond referendum to allocate resources to roads with financing over a fifteen year period. He added we should be flexible with the financing terms to pay it off in ten, fifteen or twenty years, the interest rates are low but we need to also take into consideration people who may be on fixed incomes and the amounts that will be reflected on the tax bills. Trustee Walsh stated it is more important to get the tax coming in and it would be less of a burden on the taxpayer over a longer period of time, a reasonable amount needs to be determined how it will be reflected on the tax bill and if there are other financing options. Trustee Walsh stated he has been on the Board a long time, the Board has always taken pride in what they do and he agrees with what Trustee Bailey said that he never heard anyone say they did not trust him or the Board. He added there will always be people who do not trust government and do not like taxes and the biggest hurdle will be how we propose a referendum because we do not have the ability as a Board to encourage voters how to vote on a referendum. Trustee Walsh stated there is a fine line between the Board voting for it but the Board as an elected body cannot go out and encourage anyone to vote for it.

Mayor Andrews stated the law prohibits the Board from spending government resources to advocate for or against a referendum, we cannot put an article in Smoke Signals about ballot questions and we cannot pay for printing or mailing fliers to anyone about an election. Mayor Andrews stated it will take a group of citizens who want to take the lead and their own initiative and funds to put information out but the Board can only present information to the general public. Trustee Hinshaw asked Mayor Andrews if he could pay to have fliers printed or pay for yard signs as a citizen. Counsel Ramello responded, yes.

Trustee Hinshaw stated that Trustee Bailey talked about depreciation of streets and that is important.

He noted two years ago the Board put depreciation of \$94,000 per year for water and the water projects are self sufficient because there is roughly a quarter million dollars in the money saved so projects can be done over a period of years and in ten years we can do all the water projects in the capital improvement plan. Trustee Hinshaw stated that does mean cutting something else, there needs to be contingency or other planning in place in case something fails because we still have to do something.

Trustee Hinshaw stated he supports a road bond referendum with a ten year financing and \$15.00 a month on a home value of a quarter million dollars is not that much to ask residents.

Trustee Schnauffer stated he supports a road bond referendum with either a ten or fifteen year financing option. He added with regard to the discussion about home rule if it is proposed again people would want to know how much money could be raised from home rule if it is passed and sometimes that cannot be determined because home rule gives the Board the authority to explore a variety of revenue options. Trustee Schnauffer stated at the Towhall meeting about a road program there were approximately eight (80) people in attendance which is about 2% of the population. He noted the small percentage of residents at that meeting cannot speak for 100% of the entire community about a road program. Trustee Schnauffer stated those that attended want their streets fixed but some may not vote for it if it does not affect them.

Mayor Andrews thanked everyone for their input. He stated he has been Mayor for six plus years and over that time there has been a downturn in the economy and shortfall in revenues, home rule has benefits and there was a downside according to the Illinois Realtors Association who stated the Board could vote to raise property taxes and they convinced people that is too much authority for a Board to have. Mayor Andrews stated the purpose of proposing home rule was to try to raise revenue through tobacco, alcohol or sales taxes and a trucking company on 70th Place had numerous semi-trucks stored at the site. If we were home rule we could have imposed possibly an overnight parking fee @ \$100 per truck per month times twelve months but we could not rezone it or enter into a gratuitous arrangement to collect those fees through a special use. Mayor Andrews pointed out everyone else in that same zoning district could then have the same authority to rent their property for overnight truck parking and there is no requirement for them to make a payment to the Village. Mayor Andrews stated he was more pleased to know how many people voted yes to the home rule option and not to dwell on the people that voted no.

Mayor Andrews stated streets need to be done, he supports a road bond but has concerns with people on fixed incomes, an attempt was made by referendum on a general election ballot twice and the Board has been working to that end. He added a street bond can be done for 2.5 million dollars over ten years and an alternative would be to consider an increase in the vehicle sticker fees to generate a million dollars over a ten or fifteen year period and to get the other funding through a bond issue. Mayor Andrews stated that people who use the streets should pay to maintain the streets and some people might have more cars and use the streets more than others but some people may not buy the sticker if the fee is too high. Mayor Andrews stated someone mentioned they would rather pay property taxes rather than any other tax because at least it can be deducted on their income taxes. Mayor Andrews further stated he supports a fifteen year financing term for a road bond and it will be less of a burden for those on fixed incomes.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

John Corcoran, of Apache Drive, stated he was in attendance at the Townhall meeting and he reviewed the street maintenance plan and he asked what is really going to get done on each street in terms of full heavy work on the option 1 streets, one street in option 2 is getting more than crackfilling and the rest of the streets is crackfilling. Mr. Corcoran stated he is concerned as Trustee Bailey mentioned that crackfilling is not going to extend those streets twenty years or maybe not even ten or fifteen years, we need to be really precise and understand what the long term plan is, what the next streets will be done and how to pay for it and if it is inside ten or fifteen years that changes the whole conversation.

Chris Metz, of Arrowhead Court, stated with the experience this Board has, with the exception of the three new trustees, he is disappointed that the Board does not have a plan all of these years, there has been no strategic planning to take care of the roads or the water infrastructure. He added money was spent on legal fees and money spent on the Heritage Center but all of these years there is no money for streets and does not trust the Board has done its job. Trustee Bailey stated there is no secret fund where money is hiding – there is no money and there is no plan because there is no money, an attempt was made to increase revenue several times, an election is held every two years so if someone thinks the Board is not doing their job they can be voted out. Trustee Bailey stated a referendum with a specified dollar amount for roads was proposed before to have a road program every year and it was vote down and he totally disagrees with Mr. Metz's comments that the Board did not do its job. Mayor Andrews stated long before Mr. Metz started attending meetings, Superintendent Santen and the Public Works Department has information on paper listing various jobs that needed to be done and how to do it and that is the information that was used to prepare the Street Maintenance Plan. He noted the Board faced a downturn in the economy, losing a police officer and losing revenue income so the Board was not sitting around. You can have the best plans in the world but it is not worth much if you cannot pay for it. Mr. Metz stated we had money but it was spent on other items that did not get us anything. Mayor Andrews stated money was spent on items to keep the Village running, when he took over as Mayor the General Fund was very deep in the hole and slowly through the years we went from a negative \$700,000 to being \$90,000 to the good according to the audited report. Mayor Andrews stated that sometimes we have to spend money and not always get a return on it. He noted most of Blackhawk Trail was completed in 2009 with stimulus funds and a small portion of Village funds without any extra dollars from taxpayers. That was a major accomplishment.

Carol Coleman, of Acacia Circle, stated crackfilling helps to preserve the roads and there may not be much benefit if someone else is getting their streets done, crackfilling is an ongoing process and needs to be done every year on every street to preserve the roads and even when crackfill is done the street still deteriorates. She asked what the plan is if the road bond referendum fails. Trustee Walsh stated the new Board has a lot of support as well as the old Board and there is a nice cross section of the community so he is hopeful the word will get out for the road bond to pass and if it does not pass the Board will have to deal with that issue at that time. Trustee Walsh stated he agrees with Trustee Wittenberg that we need to put our resources and time into communicating and explaining how the money will be spent. He added the Board has always done its best to appropriately address issues especially with prior bond matters but maybe it was confusing for two separate issues previously to be on the ballot.

Trustee Walsh stated if the road bond does not pass the Village does not have the money so roads will not get done so hopefully there will be a lot of community support to get it done.

Trustee Hinshaw stated various revenue sources have been discussed and vehicle stickers was one source but there are other cuts that are hard to do but there are ways to cut things out of the budget and they may not be popular but there are some things that can be cut from the budget.

Trustee Wittenberg stated other revenue resources would need to be explored to determine if anything can be increased such as cell tower revenues through renegotiated contracts or other sources and the Village has limited options. Trustee O'Laughlin stated the Village stickers will not save the Village a lot of money because there are many out there that do not buy stickers, there is no enforcement to insure people are buying them and she supports road blocks to insure they do pay because we need that income. She added if we raise the sticker fees it will be the same people paying for them and ones not paying will continue not to buy them. Trustee O'Laughlin stated she is optimistic around the road bond and the Board has a great approach with figures that have been presented and citizens will need to help get the word out about it to inform them. Trustee Schnauffer stated he agrees with Trustee O'Laughlin that not enough money will be raised through vehicle sticker increases.

Mayor Andrews stated if the road bond fails, the Board will need to reevaluate other options that might be considered, what can be done and what needs to be put off. He noted there is no Sam's Club or other source that could bring in a lot of money in one step, some things might need to be increased such as vehicle stickers with tight enforcement and possibly some cutbacks as Trustee Hinshaw suggested. Mayor Andrews stated it is not easy to sit on the Board to tell someone we want to raise taxes or other things but we are all in it together to do what is best for everyone.

Joan Metz, of Arrowhead Court, stated in her opinion one of the pros with the referendum this time is more information is being compiled and provided, some numbers may not be exact but that is because we do not have the engineering yet but it is coming from a much stronger place than it ever did before.

Bill Kiley, of Edgebrook Court, stated the Board is not allowed to push one way or another for the referendum but the Board can give point out facts to residents. He noted if the Board gives a number that \$12.00 a month raise in taxes will help to pay for streets that will benefit everyone. Mr. Kiley stated with home rule we are being asked to pass a law without knowing what is in it so we need to know what we get for the buck. Trustee Bailey stated various options were proposed and we do know that would have raised money for the Village. Mayor Andrews stated he agrees with Mr. Kiley that the Board can explain what the facts are to tell people about what is being proposed, we cannot spend money on postage or mailings and the last proposed referendum there was an explanation of what the cost would be and we can live in a town with nice streets for the cost of approximately an extra large pizza per month if the referendum is approved and we are all in this together to have a nice town.

Judy Sterling, of Acacia Circle, stated at the last Board meeting she had some concerns with how she was dealt regarding another matter at Wilshire Green and the information that was received.

She noted that Trustee Wittenberg had brought up a subject about bringing before the Board purchases for a certain amount of about \$20,000 would need Board approval.

Mayor Andrews asked if the discussion is leading up to the street program. Ms. Sterling stated it does apply because if you come to a Board meeting more of that should be welcomed by the Board rather than cloaking but being straight forward and honest with the community because it is a nice community with good schools. In her opinion, she said some people have an issue of trust and if more things were brought before the Board it would make things more clear to sell it.

Mayor Andrews stated if the Board intends to have a road bond on the ballot in March, the Board needs to approve and file it by December 30th. He noted documentation will need to be in place to officially vote on at the December meeting, having input from fellow Trustees and the audience it is time to take this matter to the next step to ask counsel to prepare an appropriate document for Board consideration.

Counsel Ramello stated two ordinances will need to be prepared and the term of the bond issue and details will need to be determined as well. He noted if the Board is asking residents to approve a bond the cost of bond will need to be calculated (a 10 year bond would be about a \$300,000 in debt service per year principal and interest, a 15 year bond would be \$225,000 and the debt certificates are increasing next year by about \$90,000). He asked if that would be raised through property taxes which would require another question on the ballot to increase the property tax extension limitation law by the \$300,000 or \$400,000 that needs to be raised or cut the budget to fund the yearly debt service or other sales tax or alternate revenue source to pay the bonds. Counsel Ramello stated if money is borrowed how to pay the bonds needs to be determined to place the questions on the ballot.

Mayor Andrews referred to the 2009 debt certificate in place already that was used to refinance and pay off a 2001 and 2003 debt certificate. He noted the debt payment next year will go up almost \$100,000 above what we are paying now. Mayor Andrews stated in 2009 we took advantage of the downturn in the economy and lower interest rates and that same bump up we are talking about would have happened in 2011 so we bought some time by refinancing. Counsel Ramello stated the referendum for the bond only gives the Board authority to borrow the money it does not provide for how it will be paid so payment of the bond needs to be determined each year in principal and interest and if done through real estate taxes, a referendum question has to be placed on the ballot for increasing the property tax extension limitation currently imposed by State Statute as a non-home rule community for each of the years the bond will be effective to pay for the annual debt service on the bond. He noted if the bond will be repaid through an alternate revenue source, whether it be local sales tax, utility tax or other source that is a different type of bond and it would need to be paid that way. Counsel Ramello stated if the bond will be paid out of the general revenue by cutting \$300,000 out of the annual budget then the Board does not need to increase the property tax extension limitation law cap.

Trustee Wittenberg asked if there is any other way to pay the bond. Counsel Ramello stated if the Village has General Obligation Bonds the total levy would be increased and local sales taxes can generally go to pay for the bond.

Trustee Walsh stated he as well as the consensus of the Board favors a separate line item on the tax bills for the bond so residents realize what they are paying for and how long it will be when it is paid off just as it was before on the last road bond that was approved many years ago. Mayor Andrews stated the consensus of the Board is in favor of scenario three of the street program and to pay it off in ten or fifteen years.

Trustee Wittenberg moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to direct Counsel Ramello to prepare documents to be considered by the Board at the December Board meeting relative to the approving scenario 3 of the street program to raise approximately 2.5 million dollars to fund that program through an increase in property taxes to be paid off in a fifteen year period. Carried by roll call vote (5/1/0).

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

Nays: Bailey

Absent: None

Mayor Andrews stated the Board will consider documents for approval at the December Board meeting regarding a street bond.

Chris Metz, of Arrowhead Court, stated since the Heritage Foundation will not be renewing the lease are there any plans to rent it out to anyone else. Mayor Andrews stated there are no plans at this time. Joan Metz, of Arrowhead Court, asked if there are any final numbers on the money collected from the annual Heritage Center book sale and also if a non binding referendum was still being considered for the Heritage Center property and Arrowhead Memorial Pointe. Mayor Andrews stated lead docent Mrs. Southerland stated approximately \$500.00 was raised from the book sale and the second item there is no news to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 9 (c) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal 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 matters to discuss in the Executive Session, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to return to the regular Board meeting. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Wittenberg moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 10:20 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Minutes prepared by,

Kathy Leach, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary