

Village of Deer Park

Public Hearing Minutes—Proposed Appropriations Ordinance 05-05

May 16, 2005

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Deer Park was held on Monday, May 16th, 2005 at the Charles Quentin Elementary, 21250 W. Shirley Road, Palatine, in the Village of Deer Park, Lake County, Illinois.

President Gifford called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m. Upon roll call the following were present: President Gifford, Trustees Dowell, Ekstrom, Kizior, Plautz, and Thrun. Trustee Rotter was absent. Other Village Officials present were Engineer Gordon, Administrator Diesen-Dahl, Clerk Smith, and Attorney Hargadon.

Guests present were: John Lahr (201 Rue Touraine); Richard Chay (408 Bramble Lane); Jeff Michalski (24455 Hunters Lane); Gerald Ewing (24467 Hunters Lane); E. McLaughlin (23625 Cuba Road); Teri Bridge (23675 Hedgeworth Court); Caryn Tausend (20708 N. Deerpath Road); Roger Hankin (20856 Swansway); Robb Tausend (20708 N. Deerpath Road); Bob & Carol Levine (24600 Middlefork Road); Wendy Case (20561 N. Primrose); Mary Lahr (201 Rue Touraine); Officer Zujewski (Kildeer Police).

2. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION: by Ekstrom second by Kizior to open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Appropriations Ordinance. Upon voice vote:

YES: (5)

NO: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rotter

Motion Carried 5/0

The Public Hearing was opened at 9:11 p.m.

3. BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Dowell noted Ordinance 05-05 sets appropriations for fiscal year 05-06. Treasurer Stade reviewed amounts approved by the Board for the budget and increased line amounts by fixed percentages ranging from 2 – 10% to allow appropriation ordinance to absorb small budget excesses without requiring amendments.

Trustee Ekstrom asked why only a 5% increase in Road Repair was allowed as compared to other much larger increases in other areas, given the risk to increases in road repairs. Trustee Dowell stated numbers were set higher in cases where knowledge exists that numbers for current year may come in a bit higher, such as GASB work for current year auditing. Trustee Ekstrom stated she objects to the proposed ordinance because items already approved tonight blows the budget. Board discussed whether or not there was money allocated in the budget for the Ferndale project; \$10,000 of the \$25,000 was previously approved and allocated. Trustee Dowell stated he was not disagreeing expenditures could run over; more interested in getting appropriation ordinance passed that reflects the spirit of the budget passed last month.

Trustee Ekstrom stated there is less risk in Parks expenses exceeding appropriations than in Road Repairs; should have greater increase in roads than in parks. Trustee Kizior stated we should not go into others' budgets to make up revenues. Trustee Dowell stated the appropriations ordinance should reflect the approved budget with minimal increases to absorb excesses; appropriation ordinance simply allows the Village to enact the budget. If necessary expenses arise, the Board can amend budget throughout the year, and amend appropriations ordinance to reflect annual changes of the budget to reality.

Trustee Plautz reiterated desire to bring the appropriations ordinance closer to expected reality, and asked if it is possible to recalculate items and still pass the ordinance at this meeting. Trustee Dowell asked Trustee Ekstrom what specific changes should be made. Trustee Dowell suggested 10% increase in Road Repairs and deduct amounts from Parks; Trustee Kizior concurred.

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Trustee Ekstrom thanked Trustee Plautz for support and voiced frustration over budget process; message was sent very strongly that this year's funds were frozen. Trustee Kizior disagreed and noted the Board will find ways to cover necessary expenses when courses of action that must occur are laid out. Trustee Ekstrom requested assistance in determining how correct courses of action and necessary expenses are determined—drainage issues and flooding in peoples' yards would constitute such expenses in her opinion, and not nuisances. Trustee Dowell stated Trustee Ekstrom must use her own best judgment to bring issues before the Board that must be handled; Trustee Ekstrom stated she did so and was shot down. Trustee Dowell expressed anger that Trustee Ekstrom would criticize the rest of the Board for not doing preplanning in the areas of responsibility for which Trustee Ekstrom is responsible. Trustee Ekstrom stated she has done more work than others, and expressed anger over behavior she feels are personal insults exhibited repeatedly at meetings. Additionally, Trustee Ekstrom expressed frustration at mixed messages received regarding the budget process and actual allocations of money to projects. Trustee Ekstrom attempted to forward a motion; need to complete Public Hearing process first. Trustee Kizior offered to assist Trustee Ekstrom outside the meeting if she so desired; Trustee Ekstrom declined.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Gifford noted comments will be limited to 5 minutes per resident.

Resident Mary Lahr requested the current balance in the park fund. Trustee Dowell stated the amount as of 4/30/05 is \$4,580. Mrs. Lahr requested the budgeted amount for Parks expenses; Trustee Kizior stated it is \$57800 ($66,470 - 2890 = 57,800$). Mrs. Lahr questioned if all expenses are paid out of the Park Fund; Trustee Kizior stated yes. If so, Mrs. Lahr questioned where Trustee Kizior would be able to get the difference to cover anticipated expenditures; Trustee Kizior stated he will have to manage his expenses to his budget. Trustee Kizior stated he was under budget in the Parks by \$4,500 as of 4/30/05. 5/1/05 begins a new fiscal year, and he is being appropriated \$66,470 – 2890 for budget expenses. President Gifford noted that Mrs. Lahr's question is really the fact that there is \$4,500 in the Parks Fund with roughly \$66,000 appropriated for the coming fiscal year—where is the \$62,000 difference coming from. Trustee Dowell noted the money comes from the General Revenues. Mrs. Lahr noted expenses are \$1.3 million above income, and that is where this money comes from.

Mrs. Lahr noted that, at the last meeting, Trustee Kizior stated he was contracting with Maloney through November. Mrs. Lahr said Maloney has stated they do not do work after frost. Trustee Thrun expressed frustration regarding a private citizen discussing a Village contract with a contractor. Mrs. Lahr stated she called the contractor regarding her own lawn work, and this information was revealed. Trustee Kizior agreed they will perform work for the village they do not normally do as this is an annual contract, need to contract for resources for the term of the contract. Contractor will allow work of equivalent value, rather than mowing when not needed.

Trustee Ekstrom asked if some of the work might be cutting near roads. Trustee Kizior noted some of the rights of way near roads are not owned by the Village, such as Quentin and Lake Cook Roads—envisioning items such as trimming bushes and trees, dead vegetation clear out, cutting back borders of parks

Mrs. Lahr noted the line item of \$50,000 for personnel issues. Trustee Plautz asked about the line item at the last meeting, and was told by President Gifford he would talk to her off line. Line item is not included in the Appropriations Ordinance, as was not in the approved budget.

Mrs. Lahr requested confirmation that the Village is caught up on reimbursable expenses, questioned why this is not billed directly to contractor, and requested confirmation that reimbursements are 100%. Attorney Hargadon stated the Village has always gotten 100% in his tenure with the Village; except Home Depot where the Village had to sue for reimbursement, and then they paid.

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Resident Jeff Michalski asked what amount over the budget the Board is appropriating. Trustee Dowell noted the total budget approved last month was \$3,909,596; amount appropriated is \$4,051,728. Difference is \$140,000 – 145,000.

Mr. Michalski asked if the Vehe Farm Foundation received an appropriation increase. Trustee Dowell stated the VFF increases were virtually in line with all other line items. Mr. Michalski stated, based on Trustee Ekstrom's comments, would rather see money taken out of VFF for safety. Trustee Dowell noted this is a separate issue from the appropriations ordinance which simply enacts the budget passed last month. President Gifford stated road safety issues will be addressed in a timely fashion.

Resident Wendy Case questioned if the Parks Fund appropriation contain money for anything besides lawn maintenance for new or expanded equipment. Trustee Kizior noted that maintenance, vegetation trimming and replacement, maintaining parks equipment, tennis courts, maintenance of walkways and parking lots and park benches are included. A portion of the budget is also allocated for reimbursement of homeowner associations making investments in public property. Mrs. Case was attending to speak to such an issue; however, the Village is still in need of answers to questions regarding expenses submitted for reimbursement prior to presenting to the Board.

Resident Roger Hankin stated he realizes the revenue conservatism in this budget process, and applauds that fact. Mr. Hankin noted it is interesting the Village will start with \$2.4 million and end with \$1.2 million on hand.

Mr. Hankin questioned interest-bearing investments chosen, and asked if the Village is stuck in relatively low interest-yielding assets. Trustee Dowell stated the Village tries to move to achieve highest rates; has not been much of an issue in recent years as rates have been fairly steady and low--may change as the climate changes.

Mr. Hankin noted Business Registration fees seem flat, and asked if there is any interest in addressing business registration fees. President Gifford stated there is already someone looking at changing the fee structure; not certain if all of the information will be back for next month.

Mr. Hankin asked if there is any input into the allocation increases for the appropriations ordinance other than Treasurer or Trustee Dowell. Trustee Dowell stated no other input was received. President Gifford attempted close Mr. Hankin's comment period, as he was approaching the 5 minute limit. Mr. Hankin disputed approaching the limit, and stated he had more comments.

Resident John Lahr called a Point of Order stating that the Ordinance may not be voted on if all comments were not heard in the Public Hearing.

MOTION: by Dowell second by Thrun. Upon voice vote, motion to close failed.

Resident Roger Hankin questioned contingency planning—specifically for items such as Harris Bank calling the note on the loan given the claim there was not litigation ongoing, or for items such as the Shepherd litigation. President Gifford stated this comment is not pertinent to the discussion regarding the Appropriations Ordinance, this is pertinent to the budget, which has already been passed. Mr. Hankin noted there is not a Public Hearing prior to the budget, and reiterated, if Harris calls the loan or if litigation drags on, does the Village have the financial reserves to cover expenses without going into bankruptcy. President Gifford asked Trustee Dowell to answer the question. Trustee Dowell stated the Board considers possible adverse financial considerations during the budget process and allows for sufficient cushion to cover contingencies.

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5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Dowell second by Thrun to close the Public Hearing on the Proposed Appropriation Ordinance. Upon voice vote:

YES: (5)

NO: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rotter

Motion Carried 5/0

The Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

H. Scott Gifford, President

Sandra R. Smith, Village Clerk