

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER  
26 January 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and present / responding to roll call were Trustees Boyle, Casey, Novak, Sloan, Steker and Pres. Pulia. Also present were Village Manager Urban and Village Attorney Durkin.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

President Pulia and the Board presented outgoing Trustee Rick Fox with a plaque and resolution. The Board members thanked Mr. Fox for his dedicated service to the Village over the last seven years and wished him luck in the future.

There was a 20 minute recess for cake and coffee in honor of Mr. Fox.

Trustee Sloan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Novak to reconvene the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

St. Joseph High School students Maggie Christopher and James Kastrantas were present to talk about a Community Awareness Program for Severe Weather. They asked for support from the Village and its Police and Fire departments for three different presentations on March 12, 2010. President Pulia thanked them for their presentation and said we would be in contact with them regarding a contribution.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Bernie Farmer, 1124 Newcastle asked for information about the posting of village vehicles for sale. Mr. Urban stated that local cab and truck companies were contacted and sealed bids were received. He said in the future he will make sure that any vehicles for sale will be posted on the website. Mr. Farmer questioned the removal of the Public Works director and asked who was running the department. Mr. Urban said that as Village Manager he oversees all the departments and Mr. Gross is better suited in a superintendent capacity and decisions and changes were made based upon productivity within the department. Mr. Farmer said that he has witnessed some unsafe working conditions and voiced concerns about training standards and would like more attention paid to what the workers are doing.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Trustee Casey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sloan to approve the Consent Agenda with some items A, C and E removed for discussion. Trustee Casey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sloan to approve Agenda Item A, Trustee Novak and Trustee Steker abstained from voting for the approval of Minutes from December 8, 2009, and the motion was approved on a roll call vote (4 Ayes, 2 Abstentions); Trustee Boyle abstained from voting for the approval of Minutes from January 5, 2010, and the motion was approved on a roll call vote (5 Ayes, 1 Abstention); Trustee Casey and Trustee Steker abstained from voting for the approval of Minutes from January 12, 2010; and the motion was approved on a roll call vote (4 Ayes, 2 Abstentions).

Trustee Steker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Casey to approve the Consent Agenda Item C-Resolution approving Police Department Policy Changes pending discussion. Trustee Steker asked why the State Review Board was not brought in during the investigation of use of deadly force. Chief Evans responded that this procedure exists in order to maintain the integrity of the investigation. The motion was unanimously approved on a roll call vote (5,0).

Trustee Steker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Novak, to approve the Consent Agenda Item E-Resolution appointing Joseph Mastruzzo and Michelle Leibrock to the Citizens Advisory Committee pending discussion. Trustee Boyle asked the purpose of the Committee. President Pulia stated that Committee has not been charged with a specific purpose at this time, but generally, it would be to get more citizens involved in the Village and bring back issues to the Board. President Pulia introduced Mr. Mastruzzo and Ms. Leibrock to the Board and they said they were excited about the prospect of getting others involved and making the residents aware of what is happening in the Village. The motion was unanimously approved on a roll call vote (5,0).

**ACTIVE AGENDA:**

A. Mr. Urban reported that Hope Garrett had done some further reference checks and again staff was recommending the Liquid Engineering quote be accepted for the cleaning and assessing of the water tank. Ms. Garrett stated that there is no down time with our water supply during the cleaning and assessment. Trustee Casey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sloan to move forward with the Liquid Engineering quote, specifying the quote of \$9,985 (AYE 5). The contract will be reviewed by legal counsel and will not commence until spring.

B. 1. Mr. Urban reported that he had been asked to bring the Board some long-term projections before deciding upon what capital projects should be considered in the Village. Ms. Kelly Zabinski presented a memorandum outlining four viable options for street replacement and repair. She reviewed each option and answered general questions regarding each one. Trustee Casey cautioned the Board regarding decision to not do complete replacement of curb and gutters, stating the probable public outcry from those who were gyped. Ms. Zabinski stated that staff needed direction regarding what kind of finance plans and bonding options are to be pursued, then decide based on those numbers what streets should be done. Trustee Casey stated that if there was a choice of spot repairing curbs and gutters and replacing driveway aprons he would opt for the aprons. President Pulia agreed saying that many aprons are in bad disrepair. Trustee Sloan cautioned against dipping into reserves because of a possible shortfall of property taxes, may need to dip into those funds to balance budget. He suggests the option of using MFT funds for bonding.

Trustee Steker recommending option 3 use \$250,000 of MFT revenue stream to bond for infrastructure improvements. Trustee Casey agreed with the option 3, especially since we are looking toward some lean times in the future and grants will not be forthcoming either. Mr. Urban stated the staff will direct legal counsel resolution to enter into an agreement with Kane McKenna for financial planning and bonding with no more than \$250K toward issuance of bond of \$2.1 to \$3.5 million depending upon the life of the bond. Ms. Zabinski stated that the bonding will not be taxing residents to do projects, bonding is an alternative revenue source.

B. 2. Mr. Urban reported that an alternative proposal is before the Board for replacement of water meters. The cost is \$430,400 to replace 2152 meters so that we have true water readings. Ms. Zabinski reviewed her analyses regarding the water fund. She said that we are proposing \$2.8 million in projects and the current balance of the water funds is \$1.5 million. She said that there is a 50% reserve policy for the water fund which she thinks is very high, since the water fund is an enterprise activity, in that the money collected for water should be able to support the system. She said that if a project comes along that is long term in nature; we have an option to raise the water rates. She said the Village could pay cash for replacement of the water meters and come out even for the next year. This does not solve the problems of three large water mains in town, which each have had 7-12 breaks and need to be replaced, nor does this address maintenance of the water tower. Trustee Casey stated that there were plans to build up the water fund reserve levels so that large projects could be completed. Ms. Zabinski reported that with the help of Kane McKenna they project bonds between \$1.6 and \$2.7 million using only \$190,000 that would be realized with the water meter replacement. She said the water fund could support paying for both water meter replacement and the water tank maintenance but the Board would need to be comfortable with a reserve of \$400-800,000. Trustee Casey stated that there were plans to build up the water fund reserve levels so that large projects could be completed. Trustee Novak commented that he did not like being presented the first proposal of \$2.5 million if the job could be done for \$400,000, and would like to know all options up front. President Pulia stated the initial proposal was staggering but that it was for a different system and complete replacement of all water meters. Trustee Boyle and Novak voiced concerns over the cost of meter replacement as it relates to the increase of revenue. Ms. Zabinski stated that the Village has done everything it can to rule out the other major possibilities of water loss through the leak detection program. She feels the water losses are controlled as much as possible and by process of elimination, the meters are the problem. Mr. Urban stated the the four projects total over \$2 million: \$430K for water meter replacement, \$10K for tank assessment, \$350K for tank paint and repair, and \$1.3 million for the water main replacement. He furthered explained that the High Ridge project should not be included in the bonds since we are waiting for EPA approval. Ms. Zabinski explained that the water meter costs include installation by the company. Trustee Sloan asked what reserve percentage is acceptable to Ms. Zabinski with the thought of reserves being used for emergencies. She said since most water main break repairs are done in-house and the other projects are being addressed, she is comfortable with a 10-20% reserve, which is common in most towns. Trustee Sloan asked for consensus to direct staff to continue with water replacement program and get quotes for the program.

C. President Pulia stated that Dr. Keith Suchy has attended a Board meeting with a request from the Fest committee for a donation in the amount of \$75,000; \$50K intended for entertainment and \$20K for fireworks, for the Fest 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Trustee Boyle stated that he thinks the Village should live within its means and not spend more than we have. He thinks the Fest is a great way to celebrate Westchester and does not see the need to spend \$30-35K for a big name band. He would like to continue the wrist bands because he thinks that is the only way some Westchester families are able to attend. Trustee Sloan would like a count of Westchester school kids as a means of distribution of the wrist bands, with excess going to non-school age children. He commented that the fireworks show is great and would like to continue that also. Mr. Urban stated the at the last Chamber meeting they voted to not contribute to the holiday light decorations which would be an expense of \$7000 totally shouldered by the Village instead of half that amount. Trustee Boyle said that he would like contributions go to other events such as the softball tournament which brings people to town and puts heads in beds. Trustee Novak stated that he would love to see a band such as REO Speedwagon, but agrees that we must live within our means and the Veteran was a great event despite the fact that we did not get the Sinise band. President Pulia recommended an amount of \$35K for the entertainment and \$15K for fireworks. Trustee Casey commented that Westchester has the best fireworks around. Trustee Casey made a motion seconded by Trustee Boyle for the Village Fest contribution of a not to exceed amount of \$55,000, \$35K for the entertainment and \$20K for fireworks. The motion was unanimously approved on a roll call vote (5,0).

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Urban reported that on Saturday, February 6 at 8:00 am a budget meeting will be held. He would like to schedule a strategic plan session in the near future. He stated that Economic Development Committee would like to host a Town Hall meeting in the near future. He will email out dates and get availability from the board members.

#### **ATTORNEYS REPORT:**

None

#### **BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Novak reported the Census will soon be under way and encourages everyone to spread the word and "Be Proud, Be Counted". President Pulia reported that the Ill MABAS Division will be at the Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont on March 24, 2010 and will have a display of all their equipment. Chief Evans reported that he would like to recognize Sergeant Jeff Mersch for his great police work in apprehending a three suspects wanted for multiple auto burglaries.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Pulia presented a letter drafted by Mr. Durkin regarding the Village's intentions of changing the sign code. He reported that he has received six resumes for the position of Trustee vacated by Mr. Fox and hopes to have a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting. Resident Steve Battersby asked if there was any money received from the stimulus package and suggested grants requests should be structured as creating jobs. President Pulia stated that he has not heard of anyone receiving any money yet but would keep the public informed. Trustee Boyle said that he thought the State was receiving funding for their shovel ready projects. Mr. Hinsdale gave kudos to Ms. Zabinski for her succinct explanation of the budget issues. He would like to remind the Board that money spent is the sweat of the residents and was happy the discussion of

the Fest contribution was reasonable.

Mr. Ron Brown of the Economic Development Committee reported that the Committee was looking at the Camiros study, and he is working with a great group of people and will get back to the Board with a report soon.

President Pulia reported that a Community Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 pm at the Intermediate School. He stated the next Water Agency meeting is the same day at 4:30 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Casey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Novak, and the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:20 PM.

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Emily M. Fister, Deputy Village Clerk