

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
19 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, Fox, Novak, Sloan, and Pres. Pulia. Also present were Village Manager Urban and Attorney Durkin. Trustee Steker was absent.

NW BUSINESS:

A. Relay for Life Presentation: Ms. Tammi Sinegal from the American Cancer Society and Lisa Martin event chair for Relay for Life Westchester presented Westchester with an award for a successful Relay for Life in 2009. June 27th is the date for Relay for Life and this year the goal is 40,000 with twenty teams. President Pulia suggested putting the plaque on display somewhere outside in town.

C. Water Reservoir and Elevated Water Tank Maintenance: Ms. Hope Garret explained that the protective coating on the interior of the elevated water tank is failing and the tank needs to be evaluated and resealed. Also, the reservoir needs to be evaluated and the layer of sediment removed from the bottom. The outside of the tank most likely needs painting as well. The quality of the water is fine with no contamination. The cost to evaluate both the reservoir and the elevated tank would be \$3,485 plus an additional cost of \$6,500 to remove the first two inches of sediment. Any additional sediment will be removed at \$42.00 per cubic yard. The cost to place a protective coat on the interior of the elevated water tank will be around \$300,000. Two other quotes were also received. The failure of the elevated tank's protective coating was determined in 2005, but the Village did not have the money at that time to do the necessary maintenance. Ms. Garret recommended that the board agree to have this done and not wait another year. President Pulia would like to compare all the bids and asked Ms. Garret to get references from all companies for the next meeting. Trustee Boyle stated that there was no line item in the budget for Water Tank Maintenance and asked where the money would come from. Trustee Casey questioned how much sediment of the estimated 5-6 inches, really need to be removed. Ms. Garret will gather more information.

D. Sign Code: Director of Community Development, Mr. Dennis DiPasquale would like direction from the board on enforcement and changes to the sign code. Westchester's Sign Code is outdated, very restrictive and difficult to enforce. Most sign permit applications request more signage than our current code allows. Additional signage often appears after the initial permit has passed final inspection. The restrictive nature of this code contributes to the hardships and difficulties experienced by startup businesses. A large portion of local businesses have existing non-conforming or illegal signage displayed. Most businesses display more signage than is permitted. Enforcement of our current sign code to the letter of the code will contribute to hardships experienced by many existing and new businesses in these economic times. If economic development or redevelopment is to take place in Westchester, a cooperative and comprehensive sign code will be required. Signage and facades are the "Face" of the Village and helps to promote the appearance and the personality of the community. Mr. DiPasquale stressed the need for a complete rewrite of Westchester's Sign Code which will require research and study. Outside consultants are a possibility along with participation with staff and the Planning Board. Trustee Sloan pointed out that the problem was that the sign code has never been enforced and asked if a temporary variance to the existing signs could be passed with all new businesses conforming to the new code. Trustee Boyle suggested finding out where the Planning Commission left off and continuing from there. President Pulia would like to leave all old signs alone at this time and get the ordinance rewritten by looking at the codes from other towns but set a time parameter for this. Attorney Durkin stated that many villages have sign ordinances as part of the zoning ordinance. The Village may want to include the sign ordinance in the zoning ordinance. President Pulia would like to draft a letter and send it to businesses to let them know that the sign ordinance is being rewritten and not to make any changes without contacting the Village. Trustee Casey agreed a letter should be written to businesses. Trustee Sloan would like to grant a variance until the ordinance is rewritten to protect the village. Mr. DiPasquale will work with attorneys to rewrite the sign ordinance along with the planning committee.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Clark Panek, from the Westchester Blood Drive, requested an exception be made for village affiliated organizations, to use temporary signage. For the last fifteen years, approximately six signs are placed on Village property a week before the blood drive which helps with publicity. President Pulia suggested Mr. Panek get an exemption from Village Manager Urban to put the signs up.

Ms. Mary Ann Barrow, president of the Chamber of Commerce pointed out that businesses are concerned about the added cost of possibly having to change signs. She requested that the Board keep the business owners informed of all future developments on the progress of the sign code and also allow the Economic Development Committee to be part of the discussion.

Mr. Tim Hinsdale would like to see the existing sign ordinance enforced. If it needs to be changed, then change it and enforce the new one.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

B. 2010 Fest Presentation: Dr. Keith Suchy presented the proposed budget for the 2010 Fun Fest. The Chamber of Commerce is requesting \$75,000 from the Village to bolster the entertainment fund with \$50,000 for entertainment and \$25,000 for the fireworks show. The budget still needs approval from the board and also hinges on the donation from the Village. With 2010 being the 20th anniversary the Chamber would like to expand on the bands and fireworks this year. Trustee Sloan questioned why the carnival expense was lower this year. Dr. Suchy explained that there will be no pre-sales on wristbands this year. President Pulia pointed out that the funding for the Fest comes from the Hotel/Motel tax and more of that money was used to fund the Veteran's Day Run activities so the fund has a projected balance of \$78,562 as of April. However, the Hotel/Motel tax is to be used strictly for tourism in the village so he will get all the numbers from last year's fest and see what the Village can afford for this year. Trustee Casey pointed out that not as much money will be needed for next year's Veteran's Run so if necessary the Village could borrow more from the Hotel/Motel fund. Trustee Novak would like Dr. Suchy to provide a list of current sponsors which he will do.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Matt Evans would like a resolution for the next meeting, approving Police Department Policy Changes based on the Lexipol Manual. The policy manual is based on current federal law, state law, and best practice. The Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) supports the manual. The manual will be available immediately with daily training exercise that will take a few months to complete. President Pulia agreed with Chief Evans and would like to see the new manual implemented.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Trustee Novak reported the Census meeting went well with great ideas for promotion. He is requesting the media to promote the Census next month.

Trustee Sloan appeared before the Police Pension Board and presented a 5 year plan to increase the Pension Fund and the board was very pleased.

President Pulia reported on the following: The Village will be collecting donations in the front office for the Haiti Earthquake with all money being collected sent to the Red Cross. The Senior Group meeting last week at St. Joe's went very well. The budget process will start soon and would like to relook at the strategic plan and decide where the Village would like to be in three years. There will be an upcoming liquor hearing with the Liquor Board to decide on two new licenses for area businesses. President Pulia is recommending Tracy Jennings to replace Lauren Mulcone on the Emergency Telephone Board. A care package was sent to Kyle Robbins and the Village would like to adopt his unit and also send care packages to anyone from Westchester serving in the military overseas. Feb. 2nd is the Town Hall Meeting with presentations from Police, Fire and the Census at the Intermediate School. After speaking with the Image Council, the fountain project for Manheim and Cermak Roads is moving forward.

Trustee Fox tendered his resignation from the board effective immediately. He thanked the community for allowing him to serve and feels the board has made much progress.

President Pulia thanked Trustee Fox for his years of service and wished him well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Sherby Miller thanked Trustee Fox for his years of service on the board and wished him well. Ms. Miller invited everyone to State Rep. Karen Yarborough's fundraiser next Saturday at Marsailles, 124 S. Fifth Ave.

Mr. Tim Hinsdale thanked Trustee Fox for his service to the community.

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Fox made a motion, seconded by Trustee Novak, for the meeting to be adjourned and on the roll call vote, the Board unanimously passed said motion (Aye 6), and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Catherine M. Booth, Village Clerk