

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
16 February 2010**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM and present / responding to roll call were Trustees Casey, Novak, Sloan, Steker, and Pres. Pulia. Also present were Village Manager Urban and Attorney Durkin. Trustee Boyle was absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. A. Trustee Novak asked that the subject of the feeding of wild animals be put on the agenda for discussion due to phone calls and emails from residents. A representative from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County said they receive phone calls and complaints of residents feeding deer and will issue tickets if they can find proof or catch violators in the act. A copy of the current municipal code regarding the feeding of wild animals was provided to the board. An email from a resident concerned with the feeding of deer was received by the board and Trustee Novak questioned if a sign could be posted on village property to deter the feeding of wild animals which he stated is a safety as well as an esthetic issue. President Pulia and Mr. DiPasquale said that signs could be posted on village parkways but were unclear if anything could be done with people feeding on their own property. Village Manager Urban stated that the county has a control program in place and suggested posting information on the village website.

Trustee Boyle arrived at 7:12 PM.

3. B. Information regarding the need for an information technology infrastructure upgrade was presented by Mr. Greg Hribal. Over the past 5 years the number of computers used within the village and the reliance upon them has dramatically increased. This increase has taxed our current servers which are the backbone of daily productivity in all departments throughout the village. Our current network is divided between the police department and the remainder of the village, each of the two networks having its own server. Both servers are reaching capacity in both age and design, and require upgrades to prevent a potential system wide failure. Mr. Hribal stated that he believes this would be the opportunity to consolidate the two servers and network into one which would reduce the time and money spent maintaining two separate networks. Cluster servers would be purchased which would allow the old ones to be used as backup in the event of a failure which would prevent any down time. In addition, he would like to migrate into a unified email addressing system with a more trusted .gov domain name. All updates in the past have been patches and add-ons and the proposed hardware would not only correct current issues, but be part of a technology roadmap for the future, by installing hardware that will grow with the needs of the village. All Information Systems is the village's current technology vendor and provided an estimate for the upgrade. The quoted cost to provide a complete upgrade for the entire village is \$40,500. Village Manager Urban would like to purchase this now but stated that at this time there is no fund with enough money except for the general fund but this could be a part of next year's budget. Trustee Sloan asked if there would be other costs involved and if any cost savings would be seen. Mr. Hribal explained the savings would be in not having to repair the old server. Trustee Casey questioned if the present server has backup capabilities and would like to look at offsite backup for the near future and feels technology upgrades should be built into every budget. Trustee Boyle would like to put this purchase out for bid with the possibility of using an offsite server referred to as "cloud computing". President Pulia would like to look into the possibility of splitting the bill with half this fiscal year and half next year. The board all agreed they would like to move forward with this project when more information is provided. This item will be put back on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

3. C. President Pulia opened discussion on parking on sidewalks after receiving numerous calls from angry residents who have received tickets for this. Most tickets were written for violations during the midnight hours. A copy of the current municipal code regarding parking was provided to the board and President Pulia asked if they would like to change to ordinance for the middle of the night. The board discussed the dangers of blocking sidewalks as well as the difficulty enforcing specific times. Chief Evans will come up with a proposal that makes sense for the officers and the residents regarding blockage of sidewalks during the day and night. President Pulia asked Chief Evans if tickets for vehicle sticker violations could be written on private property and Chief Evans stated that it is illegal to write tickets on private property such as parking lots.

3. D. Discussion on Fire and Police Budgets. The forecast for these budgets will be completed for the next regular meeting.

3. E. Reserve Policy-Water Fund and General Fund. A list of reserve policies from neighboring communities was presented to the board as information for comparison only. Currently the reserve policy for the general fund is 50% and is currently at 42%. Village Manager Urban suggested lowering the reserve policy to 25% so that it looks better for the Village's bond rating. The reserve policy for the water fund is now 30% and he would like to lower that to 15%. Trustee Sloan stated that before making any decisions he would like to have a projected plan on where the Village is going and look at all expenses so the board can pick a number that makes sense. Trustee Casey explained that the water fund reserve policy was aggressive because of capital improvements that were planned for down the road. The general fund was also high because the state had been slow in paying and there had been no reserve fund in the past. Trustee Boyle would like to continue putting money into the reserve funds after some of the major projects are completed so that money is there for the future. President Pulia does not want to sit on too much money when there are numerous projects that need to be completed. A portion of the reserves should be used to start making improvements that are needed. Trustee Sloan cautioned that the board needs to be careful not to deplete the reserves. Village Manager Urban restated that he was not asking the board to spend any money but to only lower the reserve amount to improve the bond rating. Trustee Novak agreed with Trustee Sloan that we still need to look at all the numbers to be able to project forward and decide on what percentage to lower the reserves to. Manager Urban said that what he thought Kelly suggested and the board agreed upon was that the village would pay cash for new meters and the water tower leaving one million in the water fund which would be 15%. Staff will prepare a policy change of 15% reserve for the water fund and 30% reserve for the general fund.

3. F. 2006 Strategic Plan Review. Village Manager Urban asked if the board wants to start a new strategic plan or work off the 2006 plan. President Pulia suggested working on a Saturday morning with a facilitator.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

OTHER BUSINESS:

Village Manager Urban reported that a little over 10,000 vehicle stickers have been purchased to date. There are about 15,500-16,000 vehicles registered to Westchester residents according to the report from the state. A letter was presented to the board that would go out to residents not in compliance in an attempt to collect from these offenders. The next regular meeting will cover Appointments, Engineering Updates and Capital Projects, Water Meter Contract, and New Server Bid Project. The next Committee of the Whole will cover Building and Public Works Budget, Police Assets Liquidation, Sign Code Update, and Zoning Map and Ordinance Update.

President Pulia presented appointments for the Citizens Advisory Committee and applications for Rick Fox's Trustee seat. He has requested the board confirm his appointment of Mr. Paul Gattuso for the unexpired term of Village Trustee explaining the process of confirming or rejecting his appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Boyle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Steker 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 9:05 PM.

Catherine M. Booth, Village Clerk