

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
2 December 2009**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM directly following the Tax Levy Public hearing, and present/responding to roll call were Trustees Casey, Fox, Novak, Sloan and Steker, and President Pulia. Also present were Village Manager Urban and Village Attorney Michael Durkin. Trustee Boyle was not in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

3) A. Mr. Urban presented the draft ordinance authorizing disposal of personal property. Mr. Urban said the list has been prepared by Mr. Gross. Mr. Urban reviewed the list with the Board members. Trustee Sloan stated that he had asked for the inventory of village vehicles for the purpose of producing a long term plan for capital replacement. The board members agreed to bring the ordinance forward to the next board meeting.

B. Catherine Loney and Madeline Hood of GCG Financial were on hand to present their proposal for the Village employee benefits plan. Ms. Loney stated that her company stresses early detection and employee wellness beyond the normal health and dental benefits. Their proposal includes: Life insurance commission reduced to zero; no cost for Flex administration services; COBRA administration services and a wellness program provided up to \$15,000. Trustee Novak asked about the COBRA services saying the proposal was confusing. Ms. Hood clarified that it was an added service, not a savings. President Pulia remarked that in the past there have been problems with loss of first dollar benefits when changing insurance. Ms. Zabinski commented that her firm using GCG Financial after looking at many different brokers and the representatives go into depth with how insurance is used for the individuals within the company. Mr. Durkin explained that there was no reason to contact the unions at this time as there were no changes to the insurance plans or carriers. Trustee Sloan commented that it would be good to have better representation and a more aggressive broker.

C. Mr. Urban reported that the packet included an outline of the IEPA Loan Program and the Preliminary estimate of costs for the 2010 Street Improvement Projects. He said that Hancock reported that the Village should hear within 30-45 days regarding the 20 year loan program for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project. Mr. Gutsch of Hancock Engineering reported that Gardner Road was divided into two projects; the first, Canterbury to Roosevelt is scheduled for a Jun 2010 letting. Mr. Urban reported that MFT funds have certain restrictions and are usually used for roads, salt, road equipment and manpower. He stated that conservatively the budget has \$400 in MFT funds per year. Ms. Zabinski stated that for \$400K per year the Village could acquire a 25 year bond for \$8-9 million. She said the caveat is that the MFT funds would be restricted for 25 years, and the Village could utilize the reserves versus debt to fund roads. Mr. Urban said that the firm of Kane McKenna has done preliminary bond research and there are no "black eyes" on the Village and would indicate a favorable bond rating. He said that at this point Kane McKenna has done their research for no charge and if the Village wants real numbers, they would need to hire Kane McKenna. Trustee Casey commented that he would like to make sure the "squeaky wheels" are not getting more attention than those streets that are justifiably in worse condition. Trustee Sloan said that looking at the sewer report, he would like the streets with sanitary sewer issues addressed and cost estimates of all the #1 rated streets as well. Trustee Fox asked if we should be looking at streets rated #3 for resurfacing and perhaps buy us time for those streets. Trustee Sloan said that he would like more information before committing \$400K per year in MFT funds. Trustee Fox suggested that we not use the whole budget of MFT funds and use a portion of the funds for the bond. Ms. Zabinski stated that the bonding is not a one shot deal and we could bond \$2 million with a \$250k debt service and use the

other \$200k for other projects. She added that if a sewer repair is needed with the road repair the sewer repair must be made with sewer funds, not MFT funds. Mr. Gutsch stated that all sewers would be televised prior to construction. He said that the water mains in the village are in pretty good shape and they are repaired on an ongoing basis when main leaks occur. Mr. Gutsch said that mains are usually repaired on a block to block basis and he would get estimates to the board as well as reports on water main breaks and repairs and leak detection survey. Trustee Novak said that he concurs with the list. Mr. Gutsch said that the estimates are on the high side and not based on the current market, but that the funding determines what streets will be done. President Pulia said that if scarification is not a huge savings then he would like a plan to move forward. Trustee Casey stated that he would like Hancock to determine the streets to be done after the funding is decided. Trustee Novak would like the bonding process started. President Pulia agreed saying it should be done while interest rates are low. Ms. Zabinski recommends that the potential sewer projects be identified and they do a separate bond issue for \$10 million and fund the bond by increasing the sewer rate. She said that if MFT funds are used to borrow, IDOT must be involved in the projects. Mr. Urban said he would like to work on a 2, 3 or 5 year plan and then have projects that are shovel ready when funding becomes available. Mr. Gutsch said they are so many streets that need to be done in the Village, they are all really just different shades of gray.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

INFORMATION ONLY:

Mr. Urban reminded all of the tree lighting on Friday, December 4 at 7 pm at the fire house. Trustee Novak reported that the US Census has job openings and are conducting testing through March. President Pulia reported that he had heard reports that residents from Westminster and Brighton have been issued LOMA letters to get out of the flood plain.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Santa Claus appeared at the meeting and asked if everyone had been good this year. Resident Tim Hinsdale reported that the Library had a great newsletter article regarding the Census and recommends the Village get this information to the residents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Casey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fox to adjourn and on the roll call vote, the Board passed said motion (AYE 6) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily M. Fister
Deputy Village Clerk