

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
22 September 2009**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM and present / responding to roll call were Trustees Boyle, Casey, Novak, Sloan and Steker and Pres. Pulia. Also present were Village Manager Urban and Village Attorney Storino. Trustee Fox was absent.

President Pulia asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Jim Booth, who passed away suddenly last Sunday. Jim was the husband of Clerk Cathy Booth.

PRESENTATIONS:

Police Chief Matt Evans introduced new Police Officer Kevin Tierney. Officer Tierney was sworn in by President Pulia and welcomed to the Village.

Mr. Greg Hribal was in attendance to present the changes to the Village website. He reported that in addition to updating the look of the site, the website will be more user-friendly; will have more capabilities regarding tracking web traffic; will include photo galleries; and residents will be able to change their 911 information online. He asked that Board members contact him if they had any other suggestions for improvement to the website.

Chief Richard Belmonte narrated the slide show from the September 11 Ceremony held at the Village Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Steve Battersby, 1905 Balmoral, questioned if the Gardner Road project included sewer work. Mr. Urban reported that the sewers on Gardner were reviewed and the sewers were okay, with some point locations that needed to be fixed, but the sewer work was not included in the project. study and were deemed not bad included in the project, just resurfacing and curb work where needed. Mr. Battersby had a question about the inspection of the sidewalks. Mr. Urban assured him that the sidewalks included in our replacement program will be inspected by our people. Mr. Battersby asked if the Village ticketed for people who had garbage cans out on the street. Trustee Boyle said his comment at a previous meeting concerned people who put their garbage out ahead of the time allotted. Mr. Battersby commented on the great service of the building department during the permit process of his home project.

ACTIVE AGENDA:

A. No minutes were presented for approval.

B. Trustee Sloan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Steker to approve the Record of Bills for the period ending September 22, 2009. No discussion was held and on the roll call vote, the motion was passed (AYE 6) (NAY 0).

C. Trustee Boyle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Casey to approve the Ordinance to designate the intersection of Drury and Newcastle as a three way stop intersection. No discussion was held and on the roll call vote, the motion was passed (AYE 6) (NAY 0).

D. Trustee Casey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sloan to approve the Resolution to Award Contract for Sidewalk Replacement. President Pulia and Trustee Casey asked Ms. Garret to have sidewalks at 2215 Sunnyside and 1601 Boeger checked out for trip hazard problems. Trustee Casey asked that the residents on the "cannot afford" list that included multiple squares, for instance 12 be carefully reviewed before replacement. Ms. Garrett said that it is too late for residents to take advantage of the 50/50 program this year since agreements and invoices must be sent before work is done. She said that the Public Works department will continue to look for those areas which have extreme trip hazards and add them to the list. Mr. Urban said that he will deal with any residents who are under the "hardship" category on an individual basis. He reiterated that the Village will do its best to accommodate any resident who wants the work done. On a roll call vote, the motion was passed to approve the Resolution to Award Contract for Sidewalk Replacement (AYE 6) (NAY 0).

E. Trustee Casey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Steker to approve the Leaf Removal Program. Mr. Urban stated that he would like to pull the recommendation included in the agenda packet. He said he would have spoken with Jerry Malek the Village mechanic and he would like to recommend that the current leaf vac machine be put back into use. He suggested a schedule be published so that residents would know when the vac would be on their street. If the current vac could not handle the job Mr. Urban said a vac could be rented for \$140 per hour. Trustee Sloan questioned the \$9000 amount that was presented at the last Committee meeting for the rental of a leaf vac machine. Mr. Urban explained that \$10K that Waste Management gives to the Village every year per our contract goes into the general fund and is not a separate line item in the Public Works budget. Trustee Casey said that he was not opposed to a bag program as a "kick-off" marketing tool to say "residents please bag your leaves", if the policy is to bag, not rake leaves into the street. Trustee Sloan said he would like to explore the bag program further, would like the bag program to be promoted and thinks it is irresponsible of the Village to spend \$750K to clean the sewers and then to promote raking leaves into the street. He said he is working on some sponsors for the purchase of the leaf bags and said he would be responsible for heading the leaf bag program and getting volunteers to hand deliver a set of bags to each house. Trustee Boyle is not in favor of the bags, and thinks the old vac should be used for incidental leaves that fall into the street. He said that all others should be ticketed since it is against Village ordinance to rake leaves into the street. Trustee Novak stated that he liked the bags given out as a kick off or springboard to the program. Trustee Casey said that this should be a January conversation, and now the program should use the existing machine and deal the bags later as a marketing program. Trustee Steker said that he liked the LaGrange Park program where 1 guy with a truck picks up the leaves in one of three sections per week. President Pulia stated that the equipment was not ready when it should have been. He stated in his experience as a police officer some wrote tickets for leaves in streets, some did not. He would like to see a program that sets a schedule by zones. He thinks that distributing bags is good and can encourage some residents to bag, but in the some residents will not bag their leaves, some never rake their leaves and some just will blow into the street. President

Pulia said that the parkways are the Village responsibility. Trustee Casey said that the Board should be careful of how much they are undertaking; it's one thing to pick up leaves off the curb, another to do the parkway ; soon the residents will say cut the grass and shovel the snow if the parkway and the sidewalk is the Village property. He does not want the Village resources spread too thin. Mr. Urban stated that it was staff recommendation that the original leaf vac machine was taken off the original equipment wish list. The reason at the time was that it was a \$200K piece of equipment only used 2-4 months out of the year. Mr. Urban said that it seemed like all the Board members had different ideas for the leaf removal program. Trustee Steker said that the Board should commit to a program and educate the residents. Mr. Urban said that with the Boards permission he will investigate purchasing leaf bags within his allowable scope of \$10K, with Trustee Sloan's idea of sponsors and volunteers, and will start the old leaf vac the 1st week of October. President Pulia said that the Village should also take advantage of the SWAP program. He asked former Public Works Director Dale Bogda who was sitting in the audience his opinion on a leaf removal program. Mr. Bogda stated that in the past the leaves which had not been bagged had always been picked up by the Public Works department. He said that the schedule may be hard to keep due to equipment problems and unpredictable weather causing delays. Trustee Casey and Trustee Steker withdrew their earlier motion for approval of the leaf removal program presented on the agenda. Trustee Boyle had to leave the meeting during this discussion.

F. Trustee Novak made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sloan to approve the the Ordinance Amending the Liquor Ordinance to add one license. Mr. Urban stated that Trustees Boyle and Sloan were appointed to the Liquor Commission and a liquor hearing was held for the Signature Sports Bar and Grill. President Pulia invited the owner of the establishment Felicia Williams to say a few words. Ms. Williams said she is excited about opening and will be serving burgers, wings and other appetizers as well as steak. She said the bar has a 50 person limit and invited everyone to come in and visit. On a roll call vote, the motion was passed (AYE 4) (NAY 1-Trustee Casey).

7. Manager's Report

Mr. Urban reported that there is a white sign at the Mayfair Park District as a notice of the Public Hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals that will be held on September 30, 2009 for a new flag pole on their cell tower.

Mr. Urban reported that Dr. Sophie of the Westchester Public Schools would like to bring back Government Day and he supports it wholeheartedly. He would like to schedule several throughout the year.

Mr. Urban reported that the alleys in town will get a clean sweep and SWAP program will be used every Friday.

Mr. Urban reported that the National League of Cities Conference registration will be forthcoming. Trustee Casey said that the Conference is a great opportunity to meet with elected officials all over the country and it was one of the best conferences he ever attended.

8. Finance Director's Report:

None

9. Attorneys Report:

None

10. Board Members Reports And New Business:

None

11. President's Report

President Pulia reported that the Community Board meeting held Monday, September 21st was very well attended with representatives from the village, schools, library and chamber. He said one of the comments made was that the schools were very pleased with the police presence in the schools.

He reported that the services for Cathy Booth's husband James would be held Wednesday from 3-9 at Conboy's funeral home with a mass at Divine Infant the next morning. He said that all our thoughts and prayers are with Cathy and her family at this time. He thanked the members of the fire and police department for their professionalism.

President Pulia reported that he and others will be attending the Illinois Municipal League Conference this week, and the Chamber is holding a breakfast meeting on Saturday. He said he was gathering names for appointments to the Economic Development Committee and will get those to the Board. He said he is still looking for volunteers for the Citizens Advisory Committee.

12. Executive Session

Trustee Sloan made a motion seconded by Trustee Novak to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. (AYE 5).