

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
20 October 2009**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM and present/responding to roll call were Trustees Boyle, Casey, Fox, Novak, Sloan, Steker, and President Pulia. Also present was Village Manager Urban.

PRESENTATION:

The purpose of the town hall meeting is to clarify the building code procedures. Mr. Dennis DiPasquale and his staff will present an informal overview of the building code requirements and guidelines for all residential construction plan submissions. Village Manager Urban explained the changes that have taken place in regard to the building department thus far. The building department was moved into the front office so all business can be handled at one location. The hours of the office have been extended and the staff has had training in customer service. A new checklist has been created so that the resident knows exactly what is needed for their project. Mr. Brian Gorka, Planning and Zoning Intern, explained the permit process and real estate inspections. The list of all work that needs a permit is listed on the village website. After a study of neighboring village codes done this summer, it was determined that Westchester falls in line with other villages in regard to fee costs.

Mr. Ken Welch, Building Department plan reviewer reported on how he checks all codes that the village has adopted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Pam Kouimelis, of ReMax Focus expressed concern over the high escrow requirement for first-time homeowners. She asked if something could be done to lower escrow amount so the new homeowner has money for improvements. Village Manager Urban reported that the village is trying to come up with a solution that will be fair to the resident but also protect the village.

Barb Walsh, 1900 block of Manchester asked if there is an appeal process for home sellers when problems arise that should have been caught in the prior inspection. Village Manager Urban explained that at the present time there is no appeals process in place. Only the home seller gets a list of the violations. Mr. Urban suggested that both the seller and buyer should get a list of violations if requested.

Tim Hinsdale thanked the village for putting on the presentation which has been a great educational tool for residents.

Steve Battersby claimed to have a discrepancy on his plan permit and feels some are too high. Ken Welch explained that all codes are being reviewed and corrected as needed.

Nick Cooney, 1000 block of Dorchester complimented the village on tree-trimming and streets and sewer work.

Joe Krushall complimented the village on how quickly he received his permits.

Joe Mastruzzo thanked the village for the beautiful job on the streets and curbs of Windor Drive.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Trustee Sloan explained the leaf bag program and reported most bags had been delivered. The program cost \$9000 and was fully funded by advertisers so there was no cost to the village. Trustee Fox stated that he felt the program was very political and was not communicated to the board. Trustee Sloan replied that Trustee Fox chose not to be a part of the program.

Trustee Novak reminded everyone that the census is coming out in March and stressed how important it is for everyone to fill it out.

Trustee Boyle left the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Steker 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 9:20 PM.

Cathy Booth, Village Clerk