

Village of Woodridge, Regular Board and Workshop Meetings

October 24, 2013 Regular Board Meeting

All board members except Trustee Goodwin were present. Members of the public, including some individuals from the Chamber of Commerce, were present. The Board accepted and approved all items on the consent agenda.

During the Special Awards, Presentations, and Recognitions, two police officers and two Village employees received service anniversary awards. The Village proclaimed November 12 - 19 as the DuPage Community Foundation Week; October 31, 2013 as Kathy Nartnick Day; and October 13 - 20 as United Methodist Church week in honor of its 50th anniversary.

On Questions Not Related to the Agenda, Louis Wardin stated his concern that the Specially Called Meeting held Monday, October 21, 2013 at 4:00 pm. did not comply with the Open Meetings Act. He asked the Board to conduct its meetings at the normally scheduled 7:30 pm. time so that he and other members of the public could attend. Mr. Wardin also had a question related to the Agenda item regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Janes Avenue Redevelopment project. He asked for, and received, a copy of the February 2013 Agreement that was referenced in the Agenda packet as Exhibit A.

Mayor Cunningham thanked the Village staff and residents who contributed to a successful Annual Town Meeting. Director of Community Development Mays outlined the new Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and Athletic Recreation Center (ARC) which would become effective should the Village acquire the Janes Avenue Project through eminent domain. This agreement requires the ARC to be a minimum of 48,000 square feet, and to serve as a health and fitness facility and community center. The ARC would be subject to Village Zoning regulations, and its funding would be through the Janes Avenue TIF.

Mays also explained proposed changes to the Village's ordinances concerning signage and medical marijuana distribution centers. Based on input received from the Plan Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, and other businesses, the Village will allow Electric Message Boards (EMB) to be a portion of existing signage. EMBs will be permitted on major and minor commercial arterials, and no shopping plaza out lot signage would be allowed for stand-alone businesses.

The Illinois Medical Marijuana Act becomes effective January 2014. Although the Village does not meet the regulations required for cultivating marijuana, it does have the opportunity to designate a site within the Village for a medical marijuana distribution facility. The Village designated International Parkway as a site where a medical marijuana distribution facility would be permitted.

Water rates will increase 10% based on meter size. The increase takes effect in November and will appear on bills starting January 2014. Trustee Blair noted that the increase reflects the increased costs the Village received from the City of Chicago.

The Board accepted the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Village, the Library, and TIF District 2 for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2013. This was the first year that Sikich, LLP conducted the audit. They made some changes to the audit—the Library is no longer included in the Village audit as it issues its own report, and revenues in TIFs will be recognized as revenues as they are received and not as they are spent. The acceptance of the Financial Report and Audit for the Seven Bridges Golf Club was tabled as that information was unavailable.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

October 24, 2013 Regular Workshop Meeting

The Board reconvened at 8:55 pm. to conduct a Workshop meeting on the 2013 property tax levy. Director of Finance Alletto reviewed proposed tax levy scenarios for the Village, the Police Pension Fund, and the Library. The property tax levy will be announced at the November 14, 2013 Board meeting; public comment will be held at the December 12, 2013 meeting.

Even though the Village is a home rule unit, it has a self-imposed property tax cap. Administrator Rush noted that the Village's past practice to reduce property taxes is not sustainable. The Village is recommending a 1.7 % increase in the tax levy (the full amount permitted under the Property Tax Limitation Extension Law), and that the Village continue to use its interest rate assumption of 7.75% for the Police Pension Fund. The Library also requested a 1.7 % increase in the levy. The Police Pension Board recommended that the Village use an interest rate assumption of 7.50%. Trustee Blair commented that a 1.7 % for the Village and the library would be \$4.00 for a total increase to residents of \$8.00. Abbott responded that although \$8.00 does not seem like a big increase taxes are cumulative and may include additional increases for schools.

The Mayor requested that each Trustee share their views regarding the tax levy, and the Police Pension. Trustee Blair noted that in 2012 the Village lowered the levy by \$4.00, so an increase of 1.7% would make it even; she recommended 7.75% interest rate for the Police Pension. Trustee Abbott recommended 7.50% or 7.75 for the Police Pension. Trustee Martinez favored 7.5% for the Police Pension and no increase to the levy. Trustee Beavers noted that the Village has reduced staff and services; she favored 1.7% levy and 7.75% for the Police Pension. Trustee Banks stated that it would be difficult for the Village to cut anymore; she agreed to a 1.7% levy and 7.75% for the Police Pension.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

