

MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TOWN MEETING
Monday, May 12, 2008

Present:

Trustee Brandt	Trustee McDonough
Trustee Saltiel	Trustee Servi
Trustee Walder, Jr.	Trustee Walrath
Mayor Blomberg	Village Clerk Mastandrea
Village Manager Irvin	Dep. Village Clerk Marshall
Director of Public Works Tripicchio	Director of Community Development McNellis
Chief of Police Melvin	Director of Financial Systems Roelker
Village Engineer Hughes	Village Attorney Simon
Village Treasurer Curtis	

Location: Village Hall, Public Meeting Room, One Olde Half Day Road, Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Blomberg called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and Village Clerk Mastandrea called the Roll.

ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

2.11 Town Meeting

Mr. David Johnathan, 30 Kings Cross, said there was significant inflation in the real estate tax bills that residents recently received. He realizes that the Village of Lincolnshire is a small component of it. He put together all of his prior tax bills and created a spreadsheet looking at evaluations and the taxes. He then compared it against the rate of change and the Consumer Price Index published by the U.S. Department of Labor and against the Case-Shiller Home Price Index. He passed out copies of his findings to the Board. The conclusion he came to is there has been a significant increase in spending because of the increase in property values. Also, if the Lake County Assessor believes Mr. Johnathan's property increased in value last year, it is at odds with all the public information he could find. He felt that occurred because there is a lag in the data used by the Assessor. If you believe that the premise is valid, it seemed to him that there will be erosion in the tax base as valuations are adjusted the following year, and we, as a community will face significant pressure on tax revenues. He brought it to the Board not as a complaint but to share the information, and he would be willing to give his time and contribute to the community, free of charge. He said that this matter is quite dramatic.

The County Assessor believes Mr. Johnathan's home went up 6.5% last year, and Case-Shiller thinks it went down 4.53%. On the surface the tax increase looks reasonable in conjunction with the value, but not particularly reasonable compared to the CPI.

Trustee Brandt suggested that he discuss this with Lake County Representative Ann Maine, as she felt that Ms. Maine could help him. She indicated that Lincolnshire is a very small percentage of the tax bill. Village Manager Irvin said that the Village's 2 to 3% of the property tax bill is only related to employee pensions and those rates are set by actuaries and driven by changes in the State Legislature. One of the things that has happened over the last few years is the significant increase the State Legislature is providing for Public Safety pensions. They cost the State nothing but increase the taxes residents have to pay. Our only choice is to continue to use property tax for employee pension funds or use other revenues to offset that. The Village has been doing that, and for the third consecutive year it is using General Funds to build up the pension fund rather than using additional real estate taxes. So, the Village has done a good job to hold the line as best it can without using real estate taxes. Mr. Johnathan said he read the financial report in the Annual Report and he felt Lincolnshire was a community that has managed itself reasonably conservatively. Trustee McDonough suggested that Mr. Johnathan speak with the other taxing bodies.

Ms. Lori Rothbaum, Heritage Creek, advised that the downtown area looks really run down. She asked why the "tree" hasn't been replaced. She said it is an embarrassment. Village Manager Irvin advised that the property changed ownership last year. The new property owner came to the Village with landscape plans last week, and will start implementing them shortly. They are also working on landscape in the area where the tree was located, as well as on a signage plan for the development.

Ms. Rothbaum is also concerned about Jamestown Lane and getting a traffic light at that location. Village Manager Irvin advised that Vernon Hills has proposed a traffic light in that location which will be installed in 2009. Ms. Rothbaum also said "her phone service never works". Mayor Blomberg said there is going to be a larger cell tower in the area near Milwaukee Avenue and Route 22, and it will have multiple antennas on it.

Mr. Grant Golden, 435 Village Green, said he understands that the Board has a policy that residents cannot give tennis lessons within the Village unless they are given to a family member, and felt that is contrary to an advertisement in the Newsletter offering tennis lessons at Balzer Park. Trustee Saltiel explained that the lessons in question are a Village sponsored program.

Mr. Golden asked if the Board is moving forward with the development of the property at Milwaukee Avenue and Olde Half Day Road. Village Manager Irvin said the agreement with CBK runs through the end of May. The last the Village heard, the developer is planning to submit a new plan. Mr. Golden suggested putting a small coffee shop there and a community building. Village Manager Irvin indicated that there is a Starbuck's in Barnes and Noble, and a coffee shop in CityPark.

Ms. Bobby McWeeney, 431 Farrington, feels that pets should be allowed in the parks. She said she has gone into North Park with her dogs and has been given warnings. Also there are no garbage cans, recepticals or bags along the bike path to toss refuse. Staff will look into adding recepticals along the path. Trustee Brandt indicated that there are some people that do not want dogs around them, and also, when soccer games are going on there is a concern dogs might run out on the fields or possibly become aggressive. It was felt that it is appropriate not to allow dogs or cats in the parks.

Mr. Tom Guadagno, 221 Dover Lane, suggested that the members of the community get involved in the community. He updated the audience regarding a request for a variance with which he came to the Board. He said that even though the Zoning Board voted unanimously on a variance he and his wife were requesting, he was reminded by the Village Board that it could disregard that, as the Zoning Board is only a recommending body. He felt the Board's vote was arbitrary and capricious. He said that after the vote was made, which was an affirmative vote in his favor, a Trustee asked another Trustee who voted "yes" if that is how he wanted to vote. In this situation he found it very strange that she could mention that another Trustee's vote should be changed. He said the village re-voted and it voted against his proposal. He felt the Trustee "twisted his arm" to get him to change his vote. Because of his experience he hopes to get more involved in Lincolnshire and to know what is going on, and asked the public to do the same. Trustee Saltiel agreed with Mr. Guadagno's message. We want the people involved. He said unopposed elections are not a good thing. Run and get involved. Trustee Saltiel felt that he can address Mr. Guadagno's issue because he is in a unique position. He voted in favor of the variance. However, he resents the attacks on Trustee Brandt. There is a right and there is a wrong. The reality is that the Trustee who voted yes, who changed his vote, was clearly opposed to the variance in the comments he made, and he did not understand when he voted yes, he was voting for the variance. The clarification made by Trustee Brandt was to say, "Are you sure you knew what you were voting on?". He said, "I voted against it, right?". He was told he voted for it. At that point, Robert's Rules would allow the Board to reconsider the vote and, upon motion made to reconsider, the Trustee changed his vote to "nay". The procedures taken were appropriate. Mr. Guadagno said the public should draw its own conclusion and view the video he saw over and over again.

Ms. Paula Park, 202 Northampton:

1. She loves the wonderful bike path but unfortunately, on Riverwoods Road, people prefer to not use them and they ride in the street and do not follow the stop signs and stop lights.
2. She commented on the lights at North Park. There is no one there on the weekends and the lights are on. We could save some money on electricity by turning them off.
3. She commented on the Greek Orthodox Church. Her home is very close to the church, but she has never heard a word about what it is planning to do. She is very concerned about the byzantine style which is out of character in Lincolnshire. She understands that most of the people that go to that church are not from Lincolnshire and asks that the Board consider the needs of the Lincolnshire residents.
4. She said, regarding the Banner Day Camp issue, she hopes the Village stays on top of that so it doesn't affect the community. The traffic is a nightmare there now and could be worse if large groups of people are continually going there. Trustee Brandt advised that the Banner Day Camp issue will be discussed on this evening's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Chief of Police Melvin advised that years ago the Village had an ordinance that bike riders had to use the bike paths. But now, the Illinois Vehicle Code says that bike riders are legally allowed to use the roadways. He cannot prohibit them from using the roads, nor can the Village make them use the bike paths. But, if on the roads, the bikers have to follow the same laws as automobile drivers or they will be ticketed.

Village Manager Irvin said, regarding the lights at North Park, if there are field lights that are on after events are over, staff can control that electronically over the internet. If that is happening, it shouldn't. The lights should be off when the last events are over. As for the core lights in the tennis area, they are on to prevent vandalism.

Village Manager Irvin said, regarding the Greek Church, it presented its plans before the Board several months ago. The Board recommended that the church include the residents in the area as they go through the process. They have not come back to the Board about comments the Board made regarding the project. Director of Community Development McNellis said the next meeting requires a public notice, and even though all of Northampton is not within 250 feet of the church, the Village will be notifying everyone on Northampton, as well as everyone else within 250 feet of the property.

Ms. Marge Goldman, 10 Briarwood Lane, said she tries to read the monthly Newsletters, the *Daily Herald* and the *Pioneer Press*, and she corresponds with Trustee Saltiel, but she is confused about what the community's target is. One minute it talks about the triangle, another time about the southwest intersection of Milwaukee and Route 22, then there is the ghost town gas station mess that sits there, and there is the building Rebecca Ann's store is in. She asked, "When is that going to change? It is hideous. The Village Green is a ghost town". She does not feel that CityPark is Lincolnshire to her, it's Buffalo Grove. It is a wonderful shopping center but it doesn't represent her community. Then, she reads that we are focusing on spending money for a "Welcome to Lincolnshire" sign.

Trustee Brandt advised that Rebecca Ann's is not in Lincolnshire but in Vernon Hills. Village Manager Irvin said Vernon Hills is working on the development north of Route 45. They want to do something to the south as well, but the building that Rebecca Ann is in is privately owned, and as long as the owner is happy with what he is doing, Vernon Hills is not coercing him to change. The building under construction south of Ernie's is also in Vernon Hills. Trustee Brandt said the Village hired a landscape architect to work on some of the issues that the Board previously set for three to five year plans. It has been working on a plan to improve Lincolnshire's landscaping, medians, etc. It is waiting for the construction on Route 22 near the tollway bridge to start. The Board asked the landscape architect to look at the various corridors in the Village to recommend how it should clean up the areas and suggest vegetation that can deal with elements such as salt and snow. The landscape architect also looked at the Village's monument signs at the entrances to the Village, finding ways to bring in more vegetation around them, etc. The Board has money allocated to spend on these improvements. Ms. Goldman said the Village keeps revisiting issues but nothing is getting done. She complained about the southeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Route 22. Trustee Brandt said that was owned by Mr. Tony DeSantis, who recently passed away, and his grandson has taken control of that property. He also owns the land under the Marriott. He has come to the Village with proposals. Trustee Saltiel said much of the identity program is to make sure when you drive through Lincolnshire you know you are in Lincolnshire. The idea is long term, particularly on the major corridors, so drivers know they are in Lincolnshire. He said the Village Green is a mess, and feels that is the result of the past owners, and hopefully, the new owners are addressing the concerns. They recognize the problem and they are dealing with it. It is a tragedy that nothing has been done on the northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Route 22. What we formerly thought the downtown would be probably isn't now. Initially it was Village Green North and Village Green South. Village Manager Irvin said he has a meeting scheduled with owners of the southeast corner of Milwaukee and Route 22. Part of the discussion will be about a general clean

up of the site.

Ms Goldman brought up the roundabouts and asked if that was “for sure”. The Village Manager said nothing is “for sure” until it is actually designed, put out for bid, and built. However, Lake County is holding a public meeting on May 28, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Lincolnshire Village Hall. Village Manager Irvin said the experts state that roundabouts can alleviate congestion better than a four-way stop and, in many cases, better than a signalized intersection.

Ms. Francine Harris, 1222 Riverwoods Road, said it is shocking to her that a church will be something of interest to the Village. The bulk of its members are not residents of the Village. Because she lives in the 250' area, it does affect her. One reason is the parking issue. People also park on Riverwoods Road. They have expanded the church’s population, there are police officers there until 1:00 p.m., flashing lights and a bus that is transporting people back and forth. There is Sunday School, etc. and now there are plans to move the church further south, which ties into the Banner Day Camp issue, and also the roundabout. It is getting visually very busy. She is concerned about safety. She is sure she is not the only one with these concerns. She loves where she lives but she is concerned about some of these changes, and how they will impact the community. She asked if the zoning was switched on Dr. Delatore’s property. Director of Community Development McNellis said that in 1999 the property was in the County. It was zoned Estate, which would have been residential. The Village was informed that the Greek Orthodox Church was looking at a zoning change to permit a religious facility. At that time, the Board may have told the church it was going to object to it and the Church came to Lincolnshire and asked what would they have to do to get the Village’s “blessing”. Staff worked for a year to get an annexation agreement with the Church to make it a Lincolnshire church. What we had then was a plan with little detail. The church officials said that one day they wanted to build a bigger church, and we knew that would happen, but the architectural style was not discussed at that time. When it was annexed into the Village, it was as a church, so it was never going to be residentially developed in the County. It came into the Village as a church and was permitted in the R1 Zoning classification. Ms. Harris has concerns about noise and traffic and garbage. She asked the Board to take this into account, and keep a close watch on what direction the church’s Board goes.

Ms. Lenna Scott, Executive Director of the Greater Lincolnshire Chamber Commerce, wanted to address the fact that the Village Green’s new management has really been stepping up and trying really hard. The Chamber has also been in constant contact with the management company that the owner has hired, to make sure the tenants have the support from the Chamber and the business community.

Trustee Brandt said the Board received an email regarding playground equipment being permitted in rear yards or within the set back of a side yard. The resident is asking for screening requirements. The resident recommended applying the same standards that the Village has for parking of recreational vehicles. She said this issue was addressed about two years ago. Village Manager Irvin said there are no screening requirements or setback issues for playground equipment. It can be in any rear yard but only in the side yard setback. Considering these pieces of equipment, such as trampolines, it would require hundreds of dollars worth of vegetation to screen all of the playground equipment in the Village.

Trustee Brandt also said the Board was asked to review residential lighting, and she advised that it is currently under review.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Saltiel moved and Trustee Brandt seconded the motion to adjourn. The voice vote was unanimous and the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

VILLAGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE

Barbara Mastandrea
Village Clerk