

Public Works Committee Meeting
November 9th, 2017
Minutes

Called to Order: @ 4:33 p.m. by Trustee Harold Barry

Present: Trustee Harold Barry, Trustee Jim Addington, Finance Director Spencer Parker, Clerk Jinny Szymiski, Mayor Ron Gunter, Manager Steve May, Trustee Bruce Barker, Trustee Linda Liddle, Trustee Steve Nero, Public Works Foreman Jon Yeater, Public Works Director Mike Ramsey, Village Engineer Noriel Noriega, Public Works Supervisor Jim Cates, Public Works Supervisor Virgil Viscuso, Sign Shop Tech James Wright, Deputy Police Chief Steve Thompson, Community Development Director Jill Ziegler, Municipal Office Supervisor Melissa Brendle, Administrative Assistant Jaime Hofmann

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 8/31/17 were approved by Trustee Addington

New Business:

- A. Public Works Director Michael Ramsey met with Clark Environmental who handles the Mosquito Management Program. Clark offered board members a tour of their facility. Some new services include a United States, County and Local report. Director Ramsey stated there is a new three year contract that will likely take effect May 1st, 2018. Director Ramsey stated there have been very few complaints and the residents are happy with services. Mayor Ron Gunter asked if Clark would provide services prior to special events and if that was part of the contract; Ramsey was reassuring. Trustee Addington expressed there are residents who do not find mosquito management useful. Trustee Linda Liddle stated that she knows people personally that have been affected by West Nile Virus in Westmont and believes the program is important. Trustee Liddle believes that it is imperative that the Village maintain this for the citizens. Trustee Barry had environmental concerns with the chemicals used and the effect on other insects and environment. PW Foreman Jon Yeater mentioned that Clark uses natural and organic products. Ninety eight percent of the product used is not harmful to monarchs. Clark Environmental only provides extra services when necessary, such as when a case of West Nile is confirmed or there is an increase in the mosquito population. Trustee Steve Nero commented there are other competitors out there and the Village does not have to use them every time. Trustee Addington added that if they are going to continue this program, he would like it to remain organic and natural. Manager May commented that there are nuisance mosquitos and then there are the mosquitoes that vector the diseases.
- B. Public Works Director Mike Ramsey and Village Engineer Noriel Noriega met with Downers Grove Sanitary District to discuss an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that Downers Grove Sanitary has with the Village of Downers Grove. Ramsey stated that the Village will be working with DG Sanitary to come up with an IGA regarding permit work. Village Engineer Noriel Noriega stated that every time the sanitary district has to perform work, they are required to get a permit. The permits are mostly just notifying the Village that work is being done. Noriega stated

that over the last 15 years, the Village has never had any issues with the DG sanitary district restoring their system. By having the IGA, this gives the Village an opportunity to perform repairs on DG Sanitary system without a permit and lifts the requirement for DG Sanitary to obtain a permit every time the district is working on their system. The agreement indicates the Village will repair to the Districts' standards and they will do the same for Village infrastructure. Manager May noted that it is similar to an IDOT agreement when working on water main breaks in IDOT right of way. Trustee Addington asked if this was possible with Flagg Creek Sanitary and several Village employees did not think that was a possibility at this time.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Director Ramsey discussed the future public works facility and explained that he had a meeting with AECOM and they looked at the facility location and design of the building. They are currently in a pre-design stage and in the next month they should have some designs to show the board. Ramsey stated that by this time next year, the Village should be breaking ground and testing soil samples. The goal is to have the facility complete by June of 2020. Trustee Addington said he was concerned with the height and appeal to the houses alongside the facility. Ramsey stated that one of their goals is to make sure both the front and the back are pleasing to the eye.
- B. Director Ramsey discussed mobilized cell towers, which are a hot topic with the local government, State, Senate, and House of Representatives. Manager May said the bill was passed by the House and the Senate. Ramsey stated this is not avoidable and high speed technology is a necessity. Ramsey stated the Village cannot necessarily stop this, but the Village can control and dictate what is done for the town. Mobilite has approached the Village and reached out to ComEd for permits to put cell towers on ComEd poles. The antenna attached to the pole will reach about 8 feet in height and can go as high as 10 feet. Currently, Mobilite does not need permission from the Village as no ordinance is in place. The next step is to see if Mobilite can begin installing these antennas on Village light poles. Ramsey stated that Mobilite provides the infrastructure and the cell phone companies buy the rights to use it. Ramsey stated that the Village Attorney is working on using a model ordinance Dupage Mayors and Managers recommend and are wanting the Village to adopt. Once that is in place, the Village will have an ordinance that Mobilite will have to follow every time they submit for a permit. Mobilite will be asking for a special use permit in the right of way. Trustee Barry asked if we will have the ability to attach a fee to the ordinance and if it will be an annual fee. Ramsey replied yes, the fee will be per pole annually at approximately \$300.00 per pole. Ramsey state the Village needs to be competitive with pricing because if not, they can go to ComEd and use their poles. Trustee Addington added the legislative committee has really been in opposition of this bill, not because they have a an issue with small cell towers, but it is taking local control away. Trustee Addington did state the majority of people would not even notice the cell towers. Ramsey replied that a fear is there are a lot of different designs, and these cell towers will need power. In this first case, they are using the ComEd poles which generate the power right there. If they are attaching to a pole that does not generate power, then it will be a whole different design. The Village will need to make sure they comply with what is being requested. Trustee Barker stated there could be more companies like this coming in. Trustee Addington added the Village needs to remain in control with costs even if they are legally allowed to install these cell towers.

Reports :

A. Public Works Director

- a. PW Director Ramsey discussed that for 16 weeks, Public Works experimented with a 10 hour work day schedule. Temporarily for winter work hours, PW will go back to 8 hour days for 16 weeks. After the 16 weeks, staff will reflect on which schedule works best and what the positives and negatives are.
- b. PW Director Ramsey has been working with the Principal of Westmont High School on a program for students to become water operators in training. The program is an alternative to going to college. The program is online, 1 hour a day, 64 hours total. If they pass the final exam, they will become operators in training. PW Director Ramsey stated that he will request in the budget for two intern positions at the Water Department for operators from the High School during the summer. The interns can then get their 16 weeks of experience they need in order to become class D State of Illinois Certified Water Operators. Trustee Barry stated since this is something the government is paying for, the Village should try to retain the people that have done internships and the program within Westmont versus other municipalities. Director Ramsey stated that all the paid internships in the past have been beneficial because you have people that really want to be there and want to make it a career. Trustee Nero suggested having a company sponsor the internship. The incentive would benefit the water industry. Trustee Barry suggested having opportunities such as this with other positions within Public Works. Ramsey replied that seasonal staff is a good opportunity for future permanent positions. Trustee Liddle believes that by starting this program in Westmont, it will lead to other programs getting on board.

B. Water Division

- a. Public Works Water Division Supervisor Jim Cates spoke about the water main projects for Richmond Street, Suffield Gardens, and East Richmond Streets. Supervisor Cates stated they are mostly completed. There are minimal items outstanding. There have been no complaints regarding water pressure or other issues so far.
- b. Supervisor Cates discussed the lead and copper testing throughout the town. They tested a total of 30 samples. The test results came back under reportable limits with no issues. The entire process took about two weeks. Trustee Barry asked if that included the samples from the schools and Cates replied that the school was tested during Spring Break. The water division did the physical flushes and made sure they took samples correctly and had the paperwork in line. Those results had one or two samples that came back bad and they have since fixed those fixtures.
- c. Supervisor Cates discussed projects that are underway include fire flushing and flow testing of fire hydrants. New homes require sprinkler systems and the Fire Department also needs flow testing for ISO ratings and accreditation. The Village has hired a company to test the hydrants in order to avoid residents and contractors from testing the systems themselves. Other projects ongoing are valve exercises and leak correlation.

C. Facilities Management Division

- a. PW Supervisor Jim Cates discussed ComEd's energy efficiency program having a rebate that expires January 1st. This includes LED retrofitting for Pasquinelli and Oakmont Street lighting. Switching to LED has brought the pole usage from 250 Watts to 68 Watts. Eighteen additional pedestrian lights have been installed on Burlington Avenue matching all lights from Cass Avenue to Roslyn Road.
- b. Supervisor Cates said that the Westmont Centre is in need of replacing or repairing one or both of the HVAC units which are both 20 years old. The committee came to a decision that replacing both furnaces would be more cost worthy. Manager May clarified the controls have not been budgeted for and that would be done at another time since they are still working. Trustee Barker commented the efficiency of the boiler would be much better if they just replaced both units.
- c. Trustee Liddle asked what the issue is on Des Moines Street, just west of Wilmette Avenue. Cates said there have been 10 or 12 water main breaks. Typically there are one or two water main breaks on Des Moines due to the fact that they are fairly shallow, older, and problematic.

D. Street Division

- a. Public Works Foreman Jon Yeater discussed stormwater projects and cleaning up 4.2 miles of sewers, 290 structures and 3,000 linear feet of ditches. One thousand miles of street sweeping was completed as well.
- b. Foreman Yeater updated the committee regarding sidewalk grinding at 300 locations in the Oakwood subdivision. There is a petition for sidewalk installation within Newfield Manor. Manager May discussed that all but two homes were supportive of the new sidewalks. The next step is to budget for the engineering designs. Trustee Barry feels that Adams Street and Newfield Manor need the most work. All Trustees seemed supportive and feel there should be sidewalks everywhere in Westmont. Yeater stated that work has been done on Cumnor Place through Fairview Avenue and Quincy Street is predominantly done as well.
- c. Foreman Yeater stated that 325 trees are scheduled to be planted this fall. There is speculation that a resident is vandalizing parkway trees in protest. Yeater stated the Village is completely caught up with all of the replacements. There are 200 ash trees left and none are requiring of removal at this time. The Village will be caught up with tree planting this coming spring. Trustee Barry asked what the ratio is for removal and replacement of trees and Yeater replied the goal is to replace every tree and add when allowed.
- d. Yeater discussed beautification projects including the Monarch initiative and providing a better Monarch Butterfly habitat. The landscaping for the curve along North Cass Avenue will be taken over by the Hilton project contractors. There will be an intergovernmental agreement with the county and maintenance will be discussed with the Hilton. If the Hilton project is approved, the money that was budgeted for the area could be used for other beautification projects.

- e. Trustee Barry expressed concern regarding the patch work on Cass Avenue to 55th Street. Assistant Director Noriel Noriega explained that the contractors are connecting to existing utilities, and the utilities are underground. There has been a request from Public Works to remind the contractors to finish closing up the road permanently.
- f. Director of Community Development Jill Ziegler stated another concern and portion of the beautification checklist is at 30 West End, which is in court. The Village has received complaints about the residence. Public Works staff went out and did patch work.
- g. Trustee Barry added that the watering of the flowers downtown has lead to the deteriorating of the bricks below them creating a public safety hazard. Noriega stated that impervious surfaces may be considered in the future.

E. 30 Year Recognition

- a. Jimmy Wright was recognized for his 30 years of service. He developed Westmont's Sign Division Program. Mayor Gunter stated that Jim has been a good ambassador for community and has established strong relationships with all the other government entities in town.

Meeting motioned to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. by Trustee Addington, seconded by Trustee Liddle