

**SPECIAL MEETING
VILLAGE OF WESTMONT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Town Hall Meeting Event
Saturday, October 17, 2015, 1:30pm
Harvest Restaurant, 339 W. 63rd St., Westmont, IL 60559

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor Gunter at 2:10pm.

Westmont Village Board meeting roll call: PRESENT

Mayor Gunter

Trustees:

Addington

Nero

Staff:

Manager May

Communications Director McIntyre

Assistant/Acting Deputy Clerk Mielcarski

Economic Development Director Forssberg

Chief Mulhearn

Lieutenant Bocek

At the beginning of the meeting Mayor Gunter discussed the Open Meetings Act requirements of 3 elected officials being present to discuss village business, explaining to the public why we made Lunch with the Mayor an official meeting.

Mr. Bill Tanglis of Harvest Restaurant & Mr. Tom Kost were introduced as the sponsors of the lunch, and thanked for their hospitality and dedication to the community.

Mayor Gunter presented topics for discussion and questions in all the exciting changes on the south side of town:

- Mariano's - hopefully to open in time for Easter
- 63rd Street Farm presenting pumpkin composting
- Cumnor Road as the 1st permeable concrete road in the state of Illinois
- Assisted living facility that will be opening on 63rd Street
- Urban Legends
- Westmont Yard

- Connecting with the Village and each other - introduced Communications Director McIntyre who discussed an internet site, www.nextdoor.com, allowing for residents to connect with each other based on their neighborhood-even an online garage sale. Reminded everyone about NotifyMe on the Village website, Neighbors magazine, and the village facebook page as great ways to connect with the village.
- Stormwater Referendum - Unique solution to the issue to have a sales tax and not a utility. Gives the opportunity to move forward with solutions.

Mayor Gunter noted that the Village is in a new phase, new board with Trustee Nero being the senior member and a new staff with a recent retirements. Where are we going? The strategic Plan was very successful with a great deal of community participation by both residents and businesses. Draft copy of the strategic plan will be presented in November. A five year vision will put us right in the 100th anniversary of our community in 2021. The Mayor is forming an ad hoc committee to begin next year in planning that celebration, in the tradition of the 75th anniversary committee and promote Westmont.

Manager May and the Mayor discussed the financial security of the Village. Mayor Gunter commented on the healthy reserves due to the previous board having a pay as you go philosophy. The bonds sold for street resurfacing catch up were enabled by the motor fuel tax and the places for eating tax. Mayor Gunter stated that the past board made many difficult decisions that have kept the Village on track.

Resident question on brush pick up, and another resident answered it.

Manager May stated that the issue of stormwater is the top 3 of resident concerns. The Village ad hoc committee had an engineering study done and did a lot of research on the issues. The pervious concrete was one of the areas that the ad hoc committee researched. This unique tax to address the issue was passed with a lot of community involvement and education.

Resident Question: Is the tax a long term solution? Mayor responded that the tax enabled the village to address issues, allowing for a revenue stream for bonds.

Mayor introduced Larry Forssberg, Executive Director of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership. The four distinct business areas were discussed: Pasquinelli Drive, Ogden Avenue, Central Downtown, and 63rd Street. The comprehensive plan and the tax increment financing districts were reviewed. With the coming of Mariano's and the other new businesses, we will see 63rd Street grow to an Ogden Avenue environment.

Resident Question: Did Marino's get a tax incentive? Answer: Yes as it was a part of the TIF area.

Resident Question: Will 63rd Street be widened? Answer: No one at the Village has seen any plans from the county to widen 63rd Street; it is not a village road but a county road.

Resident Question: Will we ever get a Starbucks? Answer: We have one inside the Jewel on Ogden Avenue. It is about a year old and a top performing Starbucks.

Executive Director Forssberg asked that people reach out and let the Village know if there are businesses that residents believe would be a good fit for our Village. Staff will contact the business and discuss the possibilities.

Resident question: Thank you for all the street resurfacing, Waste Management is doing a great job with the brush. Is Westbrook Market going out of business? Answer: Yes Resident comment: Wish we could have a Menards.

Resident Question: Will Waste Management do free leaf pickup in November? Answer: Yes, 2 free bags of landscape/leaves will be allowed in November.

Closing of the meeting with reminders:

- The WCCTB Scarecrow Contest has 32 entries to be voted on - vote often!
- Parade and Holly Days is coming up fast with November right around the corner.
- Resident Question regarding Park District Events for Holly Days, Superintendent of Recreation Golembiewski answered with all the dates and times.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m. with the Mayor thanking everyone for participating.



Village Clerk's Office

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ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Virginia Szymski, Village Clerk
Dated this 10th day of December, 2015.

Ronald J. Gunter, Mayor