

# MINUTES

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BOARD OR COMMISSION: Capital Improvements                      DATE: December 13, 2011

MEETING: Regular   X        Special \_\_\_\_\_                      CALLED TO ORDER: 7:40\* PM

QUORUM: Yes\*        X        No      \_\_\_\_\_                      ADJOURNED: 10:18 PM  
(at 8:33 PM)

## MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Commissioners Brugh, Colliander, Pryde, Ryne and Thelen (at 8:33 PM)

OTHERS: Trustee Liaison Hartweg, Public Works Director Hansen, Professional Engineer Minix

ABSENT: Commissioners Lindquist, O'Carroll and Popp

AUDIENCE: Residents to provide input on the Hawthorne sidewalk issue (John Huston, 588 N Ellyn; Mike Sorensen, 606 Glen Ellyn Place; Jim King, 605 Hawthorne; Tom Waters, 740 Grand).

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The December 13, 2011 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was started prior to a quorum being present by Temporary Chairman Pryde at 7:40 PM. A quorum was not present at that time so no official business could be transacted.

P.E. Minix gave a brief overview of some of the issues brought up at the November meeting: alleys, sidewalks and stormwater. The alleys in the Oak and Elm area will be looked at by engineers when preparing the broader roadway engineering in that vicinity; projects will be constructed in that area in both 2013 and 2014.

P.E. Minix recommended that the street master plan be redone, starting with 2015, as it will be significantly impacted by decisions made in the downtown area regarding street/sidewalk configurations and streetscape plans. Staff also wants to consider additional maintenance strategies such as microsurfacing. The 2012 through 2014 programs are in place, and by the end of 2013, all roads not initially having a PCI of 50 will have been addressed.

P.E. Minix gave an overview of the status of the Hawthorne sidewalks matter, which started with October's meeting focusing on the issue of new sidewalk on the south side of Hawthorne east of Park. He noted that sidewalk installation is part of a policy adopted by the Village Board in 2001 to establish design criteria associated with the reconstruction of roadways. The policy is that sidewalks shall be installed on both sides of the street; however an exception to the installation of new sidewalk can be reviewed by the Capital Improvements Commission, with a recommendation forwarded to the Village Board for a final decision.

A new sidewalk on Hawthorne that merely ends at Ellyn is likely not safe or particularly useful; therefore several possibilities exist to connect it and enhance pedestrian traffic around Glenbard West high school. Commissioner Pryde presented possible scenarios at the October meeting, meeting with high school personnel and the Police Department. P.E. Minix authorized engineers to do more field work along Ellyn Ave. Sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn has issues and would involve changes to the Glenbard West parking lot. In addition, as the sidewalk moves south, the challenges increase. Staff is looking for feedback from the CIC and residents, and then will meet with school officials again. The goal is for the Commission to craft a recommendation to the Village Board after a more formal hearing with the residents and input from the school.

Resident Tom Waters of 740 Grand expressed concern that meetings with District 87 personnel would not be held in the open, and that no one representing Glenbard West or the school district was at this meeting. Commissioner Pryde noted that, at this point, the Commission is still trying to formulate a plan to take to school personnel for consideration.

Resident John Huston asked if District 87's decision making processes would mesh with the timetable for Hawthorne reconstruction. Commissioner Pryde said that the Commission could recommend a plan engineered so that it could be implemented in one or two phases. A solution could be engineered to the south end of Mr. Huston's property, and the balance that impacts District 87 could be implemented later. The Village will be doing road reconstruction in the area in the next couple of years. The Commission is now just looking at ideas. Once the District has determined that a possible solution has merit in the District's eyes, the Commission will consider those comments and make a decision.

P.E. Minix said that July is the drop dead date at which time the Village must decide about the Hawthorne sidewalk. This Commission would have to make a recommendation no later than its June meeting. He expressed the opinion that it will probably be into February before feedback is received from the school. He would also like to have representatives from the school at these meetings as it is important for the Commissioners to hear them. This is an integral part of the plan, and it impacts access to the school, the park and the stadium/gym. Commissioner Pryde said that if District 87 is interested in some improvements but does not take quick action, sidewalk changes around the school could be made in conjunction with the Lenox Road project, although it may not be as cost effective as doing it in conjunction with the Hawthorne work.

Mr. Huston pointed out that some trees were missing or mislocated on the plan presented at this meeting. P.E. Minix said that this is a preliminary plan, and the final plan will be fine-tuned have the sidewalk meandering around trees.

There was brief discussion concerning the possibility of sidewalk on the south side of Crescent up to Ellyn and Park. This could be done independently of roadway work but it is usually a staff preference to do it in conjunction with a street project. P.E. Minix said that the reconstruction

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of Crescent in that area has successfully qualified for federal funding but that it might take three or more years to get the design done and IDOT approvals before it could be constructed.

Mr. Huston reviewed the results of personal observations of the number of pedestrians in the Hawthorne/Ellyn area. It was noted that the bulk of students accessing the school from the north were observed going through Lake Ellyn Park.

At this point, Commissioner Thelen joined the meeting at 8:33 PM, thereby making a quorum. Commissioner Pryde took the position of Chair pro tem and called the meeting to order. The meeting continued with discussions on the new sidewalk installation issue.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS – NEW SIDEWALK for the HAWTHORNE PROJECT:**

P.E. Minix reviewed the plans included in the meeting packet. The engineers provided a broad overview of the area of new sidewalk that includes all of Ellyn Avenue, Hawthorne and Glen Ellyn Place. The parking lot was reconfigured to provide for 24 foot aisles to provide a corridor for a sidewalk. There are questions south of the lot as to the extent of the Village right-of-way for sidewalk construction. Adjacent to Ellyn Ct., properties have extensive landscaping.

Commissioner Pryde expressed a concern that the Village may end up with sidewalks to nowhere. At a minimum, a crosswalk needs to be established on the east side of Park at Hawthorne because it is a walking path to downtown. The Commission should be looking for changes that can be positive, or at least neutral, in the long run for the next generations. P.E. Minix recalled the discussion earlier in the year to improve all the Hawthorne intersections, and the engineers are working toward that goal. Park's jog at Hawthorne will not be totally fixed, but should be improved.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of a porous concrete product for the sidewalk. It would not be used when passing through driveways. Grades are not an issue with this product. It would put runoff into the ground, and would go toward meeting the required storm water credits for water quality improvements.

Commissioners expressed the desire to hear input from school district officials by or at the January Commission meeting. Commissioner Pryde noted that they need to think of Lake Ellyn and the high school as destinations for events and the downtown area. District 87 is right between the Lake and downtown, and it would be difficult to make decisions about pedestrian circulation without its input. It is up to the Commission to look at the big picture. If ultimately the District declines to participate in the discussion, at least the Commission tried to engage it.

P.E. Minix will approach the District and find out whether or not a district board presentation will need to be made. Trustee Hartweg said that the Village Board is aware that this Commission is meeting with the school. P.E. Minix said that the Commission's February

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meeting might be a likely time to hear from the school officials. The Commission's consensus is that a decision can be made with the school's input in March. P.E. Minix suggested that the corridor residents could be invited to the meeting in February and at that point, the District can present its position. It would also be prudent for the District to have a representative at the next CIC meeting to answer questions. Ultimately, District 87 needs to be involved because while it is the Village's money spent on the improvements, it's the school's property. P. E. Minix will contact District 87 and invite a representative to the January CIC meeting.

Commissioner Pryde summarized concept planning for sidewalk into four elements: (1) the sidewalk from Park to Ellyn on the south side of Crescent because of positive impacts at Park and Crescent; (2) moving north from Crescent, looking at a pedestrian connection on the west side of Ellyn between Biester Gym and the GBW parking lot; (3) improvements to the parking lot and realigning the entrance, with a possible sidewalk connection to Glen Ellyn Place; and (4) new sidewalk on Hawthorne (south side) and Ellyn (west side).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Colliander asked about how the audience participants can have an opportunity to review minutes for accuracy. P.E. Minix said that the Recording Secretary prepares them, and he reviews them. Once approved and posted, a resident can raise any concerns. Commissioner Colliander moved to approve the November 8, 2011 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brugh. The Motion carried unanimously.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT:**

Trustee Hartweg reported that three Commissioners have been installed for another year: Commissioners Brugh, Colliander and Pryde. The Board has approved increases in sewer and water rates. The Board approved a resolution adopting economic incentive guidelines, as well as approved the concept of funding for the redevelopment of the Packey Webb property, extending Taft Avenue to the Wheaton border, and giving a partial break on first \$1 million of sales taxes. The Fresh Market is the key player in this development with a 10,000 sf food store. It will fit nicely in the Village. The site needs much work, and Wheaton needs to extend its end of Taft. P.E. Minix does not think the Taft extension will come before this Commission. Commissioner Pryde noted that it appears that capital improvements monies will fund it. If it impacts other projects then it will come before this Commission.

There was a long Board discussion concerning DuComm and other antennas on the water tower. The 1991 ordinance approving the tower calls for a "minimum" of antennas.

**PUBLIC WORKS / PROJECT STATUS REPORT:**

New Public Works Director Julius Hansen has been on the job about two weeks. Director Hansen said he has met with each employee, and toured the building to note repairs that need to be done. The quality of the equipment is high and he is impressed with the quality of the employees as well. He has been able to get out and inspect some of the Village infrastructure to date, mostly south of Roosevelt Road.

P.E. Minix said the Village has plenty of salt, and the Village now has a vehicle dedicated to spreading an anti-icing pretreating solution which is made up of 10% beet juice, 10% calcium chloride and 80% brine. It is applied in advance of a storm and is intended to buy time until the regular salting process can be started.

Public works projects are wrapping up for the year. ELOG is essentially complete but for some sanitary sewer work. There are several alternatives for the Hill Avenue bridge at the Lombard border. Construction of the bridge will not commence for two more years.

P.E. Minix met with residents along unincorporated Hill Avenue regarding utility construction. The meeting was required for an IEPA loan. Much feedback was received, with most residents apparently not in favor of moving ahead with a project at this time. Interest in extending utilities has waned with the real estate downturn, and the project will probably be closed.

There was discussion concerning cost overruns. P.E. Minix said that each occurrence is tracked and reviewed. Commissioner Colliander noted that such information is important for forecasting purposes.

In response to a question from Commissioner Ryne, P.E. Minix said that bidding for Hawthorne will probably commence in February, depending on the status of the engineering. It will be an attractive project, and he expects significant contractor interest.

Commissioner Brugh suggested that it is time to get the issue of bike paths back on track. There is some interest, and they are a nice benefit to a community. The questions are where do you want to go on a bike, and how to connect to different communities.

Commissioner Colliander reported that he has received feedback from residents not living in the Hawthorne corridor questioning the wisdom of so narrow a roadway for Hawthorne. These residents have noted the Western width is a "disaster". Trustee Hartweg was asked to report that sentiment back to the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Colliander moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brugh, and was carried unanimously. The December 13, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 10:18 PM.

Submitted by Karen Blake, Recording Secretary  
Reviewed by R. Minix, Village of Glen Ellyn Public Works