

Minutes
Regular Village Board Workshop
Glen Ellyn Village Board of Trustees
January 11, 2010

Time of Meeting: 7:04 p.m.

Present: President Pfefferman; Trustees Comerford, Cooper, Hartweg, Henninger, Ladesic, Thorsell; Village Clerk Draths
Staff: Acting Village Manager Norton, Schrader, Batek, Caracci, Hulseberg, Minix

1. President Pfefferman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Public Comments?

None.

3. Administrative Analyst Kristen Schrader reviewed new Village Board meeting and packet changes. President Pfefferman responded to Trustee Comerford that a recommendation is in the process of being sought from the management team regarding a new meeting and memo format. Trustee Henninger suggested adding comparable information/processes from surrounding communities when appropriate to the supplemental information list currently prepared for Village Board topics. President Pfefferman reviewed changes to the Village Board agendas.

4.-7. President Pfefferman stated that Agenda Items 4, 5, 6 and 7 are all possible enhancements to existing public works services.

4. Public Works Director Joe Caracci presented information regarding leaf collection in the Village. Caracci reviewed the current leaf collection process that utilizes stickers on bags. Caracci described three additional leaf collection options that include a monthly fee attached to the solid waste fee in lieu of stickers on bags, contracting out leaf pick-up from the parkways that would occur three times during the fall months, and having Public Works personnel pick up leaves from the parkway. Caracci presented a list of pros and cons regarding the options. Regarding Option 3, Caracci stated that the Village's branch and brush pick-up contractor offers that service in three other communities and that contractor recommends that the Village invest in a 5-year program to cover equipment expenses. Caracci calculated that Option 3 would add approximately \$2.33 per month to each resident's solid waste bill.

Caracci responded to Trustee Thorsell that he does not know where the Village's current waste provider takes the leaves but that the current brush and branch pick-up contractor recycles and sells the material. Caracci stated that the Village currently takes leaves from street sweeping, etc., to a landfill. He added that he is

not in favor of raking leaves into the street for safety reasons and because catch basins could be blocked. He also stated that landscaping companies have been known to dump their materials into the street because they know it's a "free" pick-up. Caracci also added that adding staff for a 6-week period of leaf pick-up would be a labor intensive and equipment intensive process. Caracci responded to President Pfefferman that of the six communities with which he has regular contact, 3 use or are anticipating using contracted work, 1 is in-house, and the other 2 have sticker-free bag programs with removal provided for a fee by a waste hauler.

Trustee Cooper stated that he has received feedback that residents do not want leaves sent to landfills. Caracci assured Trustee Cooper that residents will be allowed to bag green material during non-peak periods. Police Chief Norton responded to Trustee Cooper that public safety is still a concern regarding leaves in the street and that issues include cars' catalytic converters starting leaves on fire, cars racing through leaves, and rocks and boulders hidden in leaves. Caracci responded to Trustee Comerford that the Village does not provide leaf pick-up in unincorporated Glen Ellyn.

Trustee Hartweg preferred containing leaves and hauling them away without stickers because he feels residents would then be encouraged to remove more leaves from their property and leaves would subsequently not blow onto their neighbors' properties, however, he also was in favor of researching all options. Trustee Henninger was not in favor of incremental leaf pick-up in the street because of added traffic, added pollutants in the environment and wear-and-tear on the streets. He was in favor of the current sticker system where residents pay for the service they use and commented on the inequity of residents who mulch having to pay for a service they don't use. Trustee Henninger also suggested the possibility of a drop-off program for residents. Trustee Thorsell agreed with Trustee Henninger's comments and suggested that the Environmental Commission research an incentive program to encourage residents to be more environmentally friendly. Trustee Comerford was in favor of the current leaf collection program with education to the public. Trustee Cooper was opposed to an in-house leaf program due to the lack of capital for equipment and manpower and recommended researching all proposed options. Trustee Ladesic suggested including surveys on residents' water bills regarding leaf collection and other issues. President Pfefferman was in favor of researching all options and also suggested the possibility of trading the amnesty garbage program for a leaf collection program. Caracci added that the leaf collection cost is approximately 5 times more than the garbage amnesty day cost. Caracci responded to Trustee Comerford that the Village's current brush and branch contractor has requested a decision from the Village by May 1 so that they have time to purchase equipment for Glen Ellyn before fall. The Board decided that surveys would be sent to the residents after which Caracci would conduct research.

Cam Page, 206 Hill Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois commented that she mulches everything but noxious weeds and prefers the existing leaf program. Ms. Page also was opposed to adding additional charges to the water bills.

5. Public Works Director Joe Caracci presented information regarding holiday lights in the downtown district. Caracci stated that the lighting done in 2008 was very full canopied and artistic but that some complaints were received regarding the 2009 season. He stated he would like to have the same quality of holiday lighting as provided in 2008 and that the contractor from 2008 is available for the 2010 season if she receives notification by the beginning of February in order to purchase materials. The cost would be \$34,500 for next season which is \$12,500 more than the lowest bidder, and competitive bidding would need to be waived. Caracci stated that because of the electrical limitations in the downtown, LED lighting would be required if the Village wants to add more lights. He described a 3-year LED program and stated that LED lights are 6-8 times more expensive than incandescent lights, however, use less energy. Caracci reviewed pros and cons of enhancing the current lighting system. Caracci responded to Trustee Thorsell that the budget line item for lighting in 2009 was \$20,000.

President Pfefferman suggested using the contractor from last year for the 2010 holiday season and felt that good results could be achieved through the use of an RFP and careful monitoring. Trustee Ladesic also suggested using the same contractor as in 2009 for the purposes of cost savings and making sure they understand the Village's expectations. Trustee Hartweg was in favor of the 3-year LED program which would enable the Village to use lighting for various occasions in the downtown and would reduce energy costs. Trustees Cooper and Henninger were opposed to signing a contract for \$34,500 for the 2010 holiday season but were amenable to the status quo with clear expectations. Trustees Cooper and Henninger also recommended researching LED lighting. Trustee Thorsell was in favor of returning to using the previous specifications and President Pfefferman agreed. Trustee Ladesic also suggested including a survey on residents' water bills regarding holiday lighting.

Cam Page, 206 Hill Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois commented that it is unrealistic to light the downtown trees as they have become so large over the years, and she suggested lighting every other tree or lighting just the light poles. She was in favor of lighting the poles for Village events year round.

6. Due to time limitations, the item regarding school zone sidewalk snow removal was deferred to a future meeting.

Although a presentation was not made, President Pfefferman asked for public input, and Kathy Dibadj, 323 Cottage Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois expressed her concern regarding safety issues related to sidewalk snow removal. Ms. Dibadj stated her children walk to school and sometimes must walk in the street because some residents don't shovel their sidewalks. She suggested that the Board create an ordinance that would require all residents to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after a certain amount of snowfall, and she submitted a petition with approximately 200 signatures to that effect.

7. Due to time limitations, the item regarding Central Business District sidewalk snow removal was deferred to a future meeting.
8. Item 8 regarding Strategic Plan resolution to be presented by Village Manager Jones was not discussed.
9. Other items?

There were no other items brought before the Village Board.

Adjournment at 8:02 p.m. to the 8:00 p.m. Regular Village Board Meeting in the Galligan Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Utterback
Administrative Secretary