

**Minutes**  
**Regular Village Board Workshop**  
**Glen Ellyn Village Board of Trustees**  
**January 25, 2010**

Time of Meeting: 7:00 P.M.

Present: President Pfefferman; Trustees Comerford, Cooper, Hartweg, Ladesic, Thorsell Henninger; Village Clerk Connors; Attorney Diamond.  
Staff present: Village Manager Jones, Schrader, Batek, Caracci, Hulseberg, Norton, Pekarek, Collison.

**1. Call to Order**

President Pfefferman called the Board Workshop to order at 7:00 P.M. with a roll call Trustees Comerford, Cooper, Hartweg, Ladesic, Thorsell, and Henninger responding "Here."

**2. Public Comments?**

None.

**3. CBD Snow Shoveling**

Public Works Director Joe Caracci reviewed the Village's policy regarding Central Business District sidewalk snow shoveling. The Village clears a 4' path on sidewalks in the CBD after a 2" snowfall. Any less than 2" of snow or a wider pathway and clearing to the entrance to the doorways are the responsibility of the property owners. Some property owners do not shovel at all. Public Works Department survey indicated that other municipalities have different ways of handling the problem; Lombard and Wheaton do have ordinances. Pros and cons of removal were presented. Clear sidewalks give a welcoming look to the downtown. Ordinances require enforcement procedures for failure to clear the sidewalks. A question was raised about liability on the part of the Village if for clearing sidewalks more often. Attorney Diamond responded that there may be a potential for an additional burden on the pool to which the Village belongs. Additional questions were raised regarding the cost, how the ordinance would have to be worded and other legal aspects that would have to be investigated.

Another suggestion was perhaps an informal poll of residents would be in order to determine what sort of clearing they would like. Can additional sidewalk clearing by the Village be charged back through SSA or some other way? Are funds going to become available through State or Federal programs? In the next budget it is hoped better pieces of equipment can be purchased to clear sidewalks. Director Caracci mentioned that it is hard to find seasonal employees to do the sidewalk clearing work. Regular employees are usually plowing. 18 is the age requirement to operate the equipment. Contracted service would be coordinated through the Public Works Department.

The approximate total cost to clear the sidewalks in the Central Business District in an average winter season is \$40,000. Adding extra personnel could cost an additional \$25,000. This is based on an average annual accumulation per year.

The Village Board agreed that the next step should be to determine where the problem is and how often it occurs (who the frequent violations are). Also an informal survey of the merchants as well as the costs to extend the program would be a help. The Public Works Department should not seek formal proposals since it is not known the extent of the problem. Public Works Director Caracci will gather further information and attempt to determine possible costs in response to this evening's discussion and report back to the Board of Trustees.

#### **4. School Zone Snow Shoveling**

Several years ago in 2007 and 2008, it was brought to the Village Board's attention that sidewalks near schools were not adequately cleared. Children were having difficulty getting to and from school. At that time the Village Board chose not to get involved, but sent information out through the Village newsletter, E-blast, etc. asking residents to be sure to clear their walks. In response to discussion between some residents and Village officials, Public Works Director Joe Caracci presented the obligation of residents or the Village shoveling Village-owned sidewalks in school zones. He offered the pros and cons if the Village shoveled the sidewalks in school zones. The pros provide safe walking path for students and in some cases for individuals walking to the train station. Some of cons include cost, distance, liability and which schools would be included. Questions raised as to what other municipalities do; how an ordinance would be enforced; what happens when residents are out of town when it snows. Naperville has an ordinance that residents have to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after it snows. There were no calls last year and only one call this year. The consensus of the Village Board was that this should be the obligation of the schools/school districts.

#### **5. Other Items?**

None.

#### **6. Adjournment**

At 7:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to the Regular Village Board Meeting in the Galligan Board Room.

Submitted by:

Suzanne R. Connors,  
Village Clerk