

Minutes
Regular Village Board Workshop
Glen Ellyn Village Board of Trustees
June 28, 2010

Time of Meeting: 6:30 P.M.

Present: President Pfefferman; Trustees Ladesic, Cooper, Hartweg, Thorsell, Henninger; Village Clerk Connors; Village Attorney Diamond arrived at 7:00 p.m.
Staff present: Village Manager Jones, Schrader, Hulseberg, Batek, Caracci, Deputy Chief Bob Acton for Phil Norton.

1. Call to Order

President Pfefferman called the Board Workshop to order at 6:30 P.M. with a roll call. Trustees Thorsell, Hartweg, Cooper, Ladesic, and Henninger responded "Here." Trustee Comerford was excused.

2. Glen Ellyn Historical Society Debt Request

President Pfefferman gave an outline of the value and background of the Glen Ellyn Historical Society to the Village and the relationship between the two bodies. He introduced Historical Society President Bill Peterson, Former Village President Joe Wark and Historical Society Board Member Dan Anderson and Finance Commission Chairman Randy Parker. He thanked the Finance Commission and the others mentioned for their time and effort.

Finance Director Jon Batek spoke about the property owned by the Village and operated by the Historical Society and the relationship of the History Park to the Comprehensive Plan. He specifically identified 800 N. Main, 810 N. Main, 553 Geneva and 820 N. Main. The current agreement allows for the Village to own and maintain the properties and the Historical Society to operate them. Over time some modifications have been made to the original agreement, and recently the Historical Society asked for forgiveness of the balance of the debt owed the Village for property purchased to develop a History Park. This request was reviewed by the Finance Commission. The Finance Commission recommended: sole use of private donations - no use of public funds; the Historical Society should reevaluate their ability to raise money; the Village should not be involved in getting money to develop the History Park; consider resizing the History Park. In order to resize, the Finance Commission presented alternate finance outcomes: the Historical Society could consider: either pay \$486,000 for 820 N. Main to the Village immediately or return it to the Village for its use; giving up some of 810 and 820 N. Main and keeping some of 800 N. Main; and make sure capital needs are provided for.

Historical Society President Bill Peterson recalled some history of the Historical Society, why the properties cost what they did, and why properties were purchased as they were. The Society needs to address the current debt situation – donations are down. He stressed that the Glen Ellyn Historical Society has never missed a debt payment. As a counter proposal, the Historical Society agrees that, as painful as it is, getting rid of the King property would be acceptable. Also, 2/3 of 810 N. Main can be relinquished, but the Society needs to keep the garage in back. 820 N. Main is needed to beautify the northern gateway and provide a link for outdoor historical artifacts. If 820 N. Main property was let go, the State grant would have to be returned which would be embarrassing. The Society has \$250,000 for the development of the 820 N. Main property and is asking the Village to absorb the other 50%. The Society is also requesting the Village lower the interest rate which they perceive as very high.

Mr. Peterson proposed that the History Park would be a means to bring a cultural area to Glen Ellyn, produce increased sales tax revenue, and encourage people to visit Glen Ellyn. He said the Society would like to retain 820 N. Main and 810 N. Main, come to a new agreement with the Village, and keep the entire property at 553 Geneva. He said that the Society realizes that they cannot achieve all their goals. They are willing to give up the front portion of 810 N. Main

President Pfefferman read a letter forwarded to him from Attorney John Mulherin from an anonymous donor offering \$200,000 to the Society for assistance in retiring the 820 N. Main property debt. The \$200,000 is contingent upon a resolution and with conditions outlined in the letter presented to the Village Board. This donation is in addition to the \$250,000 landscaping donation already received and in addition to the \$235,000 from the Glen Ellyn Historical Society reserves.

Trustee Cooper thanked and complimented the Finance Commission for their work and remarked that they were called on to see the financial aspects of the situation only and not make a public policy recommendation. Trustee Henninger remarked that there was no rancor, but the three groups worked together and cooperated to find what was best for the Village.

The following individuals spoke in favor of support of the Glen Ellyn Historical Society and the History Park: Vic Carapella, 853 Crescent; Lee Marks, 475 Hawthorne; Joe Wark, 626 Roger Road; John Schreiber, 561 Hillside; Jean Enright, 344 N. Main.

At 7:58 p.m. it was announced that the Pre-Board was going to continue and the Regular Village Board Meeting would be delayed.

Village Board discussion ensued regarding various financial situations and proposed possible uses of the 810 N. Main and 553 Geneva properties. The Village Board agreed that a decision would not be made at this meeting.

A straw vote taken by President Pfefferman indicated that the Village Board may be in favor of the Village retaining the front 2/3 of 810 N. Main; accepting the \$200,000 donation under the conditions stated for 820 N. Main; and demolish 553 Geneva. Also renegotiating an agreement between the Village and the Historical Society. Jon Batek was asked to assist working out the details including estimated future costs.

At 8:35 it was announced that the Regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting scheduled for 8:00 p.m. was being delayed to finish the Pre-Board meeting.

At 8:40 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Manak, 4th of July Committee Chairman, who spoke about the activities planned for July 3 and July 4.

3. Hill Avenue Bridge Discussion

President Pfefferman gave background information regarding Lombard's request for \$300,000 from Glen Ellyn toward repair of Lombard's bridge west of Findley east of I-355. He noted that there has been regular inspection of the bridge.

Village Manager Jones continued with additional background on the request for those present noting that the school districts that had previously used the Hill Avenue route for larger buses not longer do so and would not participate financially to begin using large buses again. The Village of Glen Ellyn conducted an online survey and 63% of those responding were not in favor of the Village's participation; some said they wanted the bridge closed; a few wanted it left open. Lombard requested a yes or no answer regarding Glen Ellyn's \$300,000 participation. Lombard indicated that if Glen Ellyn does not contribute 50% of the non-grant cost (\$300,000), Lombard will close the bridge on July 1, 2010. Attorney Diamond held that a letter to the Village of Lombard indicating the Glen Ellyn Village Board's general consensus should be enough to answer the yes or no question as to the Village of Glen Ellyn's intention.

The following members of the public asked to speak:

Rob Elliot, 21W171 Hill, spoke in favor of a 2nd opinion since the weight limit of the bridge did not allow his trucks to use it at this time. He was in favor of paying \$300,000 to Lombard and leaving the bridge open.

Ginger Wheeler, 765 Hillside, presented written information on research from other towns, counties, and states with intergovernmental agreements regarding bridges and suggested Glen Ellyn and Lombard do the same to keep the bridge open.

Adam Costello, 165 Exmoor, presented a petition with 187 signatures requesting Glen Ellyn participate with Lombard to keep the bridge open. He suggested a second opinion as to the safety of the bridge as reported.

Al Heidorn, unincorporated Hill Avenue business owner, spoke in favor of keeping the bridge open.

Jim Ackerman, 294 Spring Ave., and owns a property on Whittier, who spoke in favor of keeping the bridge open.

Joel Johnson, 1054 Acorn, spoke in favor of keeping the bridge open.

Tim Loftus, 296 Woodstock, spoke in favor of possibly allowing the bridge to close unless unincorporated properties annex.

Chris Kowalski, 639 Forest, spoke in favor of keeping the bridge open.

Dan Hagen, a Wheaton resident who works for Elliot Construction, wanted to see a copy of the survey and suggested that if people wanted to keep the bridge open, they donate money toward the cost.

Chris Wilson, 537 Phillips, whose husband also owns a business in the Hill Avenue industrial park, spoke in favor of keeping the bridge open

Sarah Lynch, 663 N. Park, was in favor of keeping the bridge open

Derrick Janes, 450 Phillips, spoke in favor of keeping the bridge open

Village Trustees discussed the possibility of a positive response that might be an opportunity to allow for further discussion with Lombard about alternatives. The Village will draft a letter to the Village of Lombard which will include the conditions mentioned during discussions at this meeting.

4. Other Items?

None

5. Adjournment

At 10:08 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to the regularly scheduled 8:00 p.m. Regular Village Board Meeting in the Galligan Board Room.

Submitted by:

Suzanne R. Connors,
Village Clerk