

VILLAGE OF DOLTON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
March 16, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Trustees to order in the New Village Hall Board Room at 7:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Trustees were present: Cathern L. Bendell, Stanley Brown, Tiffany Henyard, Robert E. Hunt, Jr., Robert E. Pierson, Jr., and Sabrina G. Smith.

Also present: Village Attorney John B. Murphey, Village Administrator Stan Urban and Department Heads, excepting the finance director. Village Engineer Ronald E. Smith and Legislative Counsel James M. Vasselli were absent.

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
PRAYER

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. 50/50 Sidewalk Program

Trustee Hunt proposed taking \$50,000 from the bond fund for sidewalk repair matching funds, and up to \$2,000 to offer tree cutting on private properties.

Mayor Rogers said that a portion of the remaining bond funds have been allocated to installing cameras in police and fire vehicles as well as replacement of the departments roofs. Tree-trimming on private properties would require special equipment and incur additional liability costs. Administrator Urban said that after accounting for the additional expenditures from the bond fund, there would be approximately \$100,000 remaining.

Trustee Hunt advocated for the sidewalk and tree cutting expenditures to beautify the neighborhoods. Mayor Rogers responded that the village is presently working to cut back trees, eliminate low lighting, and hazardous sidewalks, citing the replacement of the sidewalks in front of the Aperia nursing facility.

Trustee Hunt pointed out that there is an existing ordinance providing for the village to replace sidewalks at 50% of the price with the homeowner to pay the 50% balance. Mayor Rogers said that he is not against the 50/50 program but that it is a matter of priorities.

B. Street Repairs

Trustee Henyard asked about the availability of Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds for street repair. Acting Supt. Superintendent of Public Works confirmed that the village has applied for \$400,000 in Community Block Grant Development ("CDBG") funds. Trustee Smith asked if the funds could be used to for infrastructure replacement and not just paving. Mayor Rogers noted that to replace sewers in addition to regrinding and resurfacing cannot be done with \$400,000. Administrator Urban suggested that the village engineer do a street study and establish grades 1-4 to identify greatest to lesser need. Trustee Smith asked if motor fuel tax revenue could be used.

Administrator Urban noted that motor fuel tax funds were used to pay for salting the streets, and are used to pay for diesel fuels for public works equipment.

Trustee Brown noted that the street near Menards and other streets on the east side of the village had been repaired in recent years. Mayor Rogers said that Dorchester, Woodlawn and Ellis were all resurfaced, but that some streets which had been allocated for resurfacing at that time were not. Trustee Brown suggested that because that work had been on the east side, it may be why some west side streets should be next. Mayor Rogers responded that Minerva and University south of 154th Street have issues, but some of the west side streets are in terrible condition.

Robert Pierson agreed that Robinson Engineering should do a study and determine the cost. Mayor Rogers urged immediate action if the grant funds are awarded. Discussion followed on whether further study is needed.

Trustee Hunt also agreed that the engineer should do a grading study, but said that the village should draw up a comprehensive plan to determine a target date for streets, so residents may know when their streets will be resurfaced. Discussion followed on whether the comprehensive plan recently passed by the Board of Trustees addressed this issue.

Trustee Henyard suggested also that there be a plan of action so that the village would be able to tell residents who to call to report their streets so that a list may be compiled of streets to repair when the funds become available. Mayor Rogers replied that all calls are entered into a data base and are evaluated by priority. In answer to Trustee Henyard's question, Mayor Rogers confirmed that the data base does not produce a list of calls for street repairs. He and the engineer toured the village and evaluated streets for needed repairs.

Trustee Hunt expressed alarm that the data base cannot produce a list. Superintendent Stacey noted that residents call to report potholes, not to request street resurfacing. Trustee Hunt said that the data base should be able to produce lists by requested repairs.

Trustee Pierson said that the next step is to let the engineer evaluate the streets.

Trustee Henyard said that a list would help the trustees at budget time decide how to allocate the funds.

Trustee Hunt confirmed with Superintendent Stacey that Public Works does maintain records of calls.

CITIZENS ADDRESS

George Jordan, resident, inquired about police response to an incident involving his niece, who called the police to report a man banging on her apartment door and exposing himself. When resident arrived, the responding officer said to him that he thought "they were both kind of slow." Resident visited the police station to inquire, he was told it would be looked into. When he did not hear back within a few days, he called the police department and was told that neither the chief or deputy chief were available. Mayor Rogers asked Chief Franklin to address the matter.

Mayor Rogers said that he was tired of getting these kinds of complaints and that something needs to be done.

Resident further commented that he objected to how he, his niece and her mother, were treated by the responding officer when they came to the police station.

Diane Lofton, resident, said that a comprehensive plan would be a waste of dollars. Everyone knows what streets need to be done. She also noted that both Michigan and Edbrooke Avenues are almost impassable. She agrees with the mayor that there are priorities other than the 50/50 sidewalk program.

Arthur Harris, resident, urged the mayor "to hang in there."

Lacey Rhodes, resident, commented that the village website has not been updated. Residents were not notified of the new village hall location. When she came to the new village hall to pay her water bills, a municipal vehicle was taking two places in the parking lot. When she inquired what benefits are offered to seniors, she was told that vehicle stickers are \$5 for seniors. Resident said that she feels that residents should be getting more benefits for their tax dollars. She said that in Chicago, there is a reduction in the sewerage rate.

Mayor Rogers responded that the village buys its water from the City of Chicago, which has increased the rates it charges every year. He noted that the billing includes water, sewerage and garbage pick-up.

Resident said that she has been to other villages where they assist seniors in snow removal. This year her driveway was blocked by the snow plows and she had to hire someone to shovel out.

Mayor Rogers said that the snow plows cannot remove the snow from every driveway, and further noted the unusually heavy snows of the past two years contribute to blockage. He would like to put a program in place that identifies residents with special needs.

Resident asked again that the village offer more for the taxes she pays.

Shelby Olaje, CHARTERS Youth Commission, with Mr. and Mrs. Crayton, presented 15 new plants for the new Village Hall which they will maintain, and thanked the village for its support of the youth commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Bendell to adjourn the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole, second by Trustee Pierson, Mayor Rogers asked for a roll call to adjourn.

Roll Call

AYES: 6 Trustees Bendell, Brown, Henyard, Hunt, Pierson, Smith

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

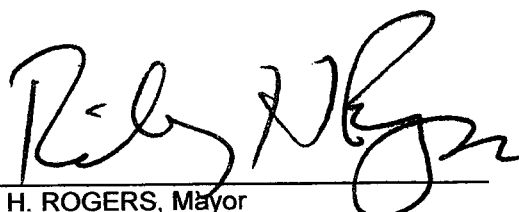
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.



MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 6th day of April, 2015.



RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor