

**Minutes of the
Committee of the Whole/Priorities Session Meeting
Of
January 16, 2017**

Attendees:

Mayor John Hucker
Trustee Richard Gust
Trustee Regina Miller
Trustee Don Jensen
Trustee Mark Ottersen
Trustee Larry Wells

Jon Kindseth - Administrator
Tracy Miracle – Assistant to the Administrator
Peggy McHugh – Finance Director
Jerry Nellessen – Community Dev. Director
Ken Marabella - Consultant

Absent: Trustee Linda Sittig

Roll call was taken and the meeting brought to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Hucker opened the meeting stating the purpose of this session is to establish the top three priorities and give clear direction to staff on what to focus on based on responses received from the Board. A presentation was prepared and Jon gave a review of the previous year's priorities including a 4-year recap of accomplishments, highlighting some of the top endeavors which include the following: The establishment of a Single Waste Hauler, 149 new water connections, 2,360 linear feet of new sewer main, the installation of a gazebo and dugouts at Founders Park, GFOA and CAFR awards for the last 4 years, several structure demolitions, plan review and inspection services for Wadsworth, Village-wide lighting switched over to LED's at little cost to the Village, over 470 rental properties registered, reduced consultant fees and receipt of over \$773,000 in grant monies over the past 4 years.

Beginning with the three highest priorities for the Public Works department for the current year, street paving and culvert repairs were indisputably on the list, as well as the continuation of preventative maintenance of existing infrastructure, and the monitoring of flooding and drainage problem areas including Green Bay and south of Yorkhouse. It was suggested that some of the priorities listed be reassigned as priorities under other departments, such as funding suggestions and adequately budgeting and funding repairs for the water/sewer system. These will be considered under Finance. Three year priorities for Public Works include addressing flooding issues in the Lyons Woods area and Maplewood Manor and research of a new water source including emergency/supplemental water connections to the Lake County Water District. A couple of priorities were combined to include exploring alternatives to complete the relocation of the Green Bay Rd water main and the connection of high and low water systems.

Economic Development priorities for the current year include supporting local businesses, attracting new business and promoting a business-friendly environment. Marketing available TIF and non-TIF locations and facilitating progress of the Retail Strategies agreement. Three year priorities include enticing new businesses to come to Beach Park, work on expanding networking initiatives independently and with other communities. Maintain an open dialogue with vacant property owners and share marketing options for projects per Village zoning. Make an effort to work with IDOT to revise the limited business access planned for the Green Bay commercial corridor as Beach Park has a significant disadvantage in attracting businesses as compared to Waukegan, which has many curb cuts for businesses. Jon mentioned the need of more contractor-friendly options (CS & LI Zoning) and suggested this as a priority when making zoning recommendations for uses not currently allowed in Beach Park.

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Updating of the Comprehensive Plan was briefly discussed. Per CMAP, there is no need for an update at this time. We can re-evaluate in 3-5 years per Jon.

Finance priorities for the current year as well as the next three years include long-term planning for asset maintenance and replacement along with provisions for funding. In reference to water/sewer rates, adequately budget and fund repairs/replacement as our system ages. Review water/sewer expenses, rates and fees and include reasonable provisions for water and sewer to enable pay-as-you-go in lieu of borrowing for these needs. Explore additional revenue streams and continue to monitor current. Track expense vs revenue for programs which should be self-sustaining such as building and zoning permits, business licenses and liquor licensing and regulations.

Priorities were identical for the current and three year outlook in the Community Development Department. These priorities include pursuing major violations and the continuance of aggressive code enforcement/property maintenance. Continue efforts to register all vacant and rental properties, and sustain proactive, consistent code enforcement on business and residential properties. Encouraging offenders to voluntarily come into compliance vs forced compliance with the legal system was suggested as well.

Administrative Department priorities include pedestrian safety improvements along Sheridan Road, primarily Beach and Sheridan. Pursuit of an ESDA replacement, and providing a positive work environment for all employees. Jon mentioned the re-evaluation of salaries. Staff is currently working on a salary survey/analysis. Three year priorities include the liquidation of Village ROW's as well as keeping a watchful eye out for investment opportunities to buy/sell properties. Continued evaluation of consultant's vs in-house personnel is ongoing.

Mayor and Council priorities for the current year include promoting customer friendly service by being responsive to resident issues and encouraging residents to ask questions and share feedback. Work with State, Federal and other governmental bodies to encourage the adoption of policies, regulations and laws in furtherance of the priorities for Staff to promote relationships with other Elected Officials. Three year: Coalition building; reach out to Senators and State Reps for assistance with Village projects, participate as needed. Acknowledge and support positive accomplishments of Staff.

Several current year priorities were combined in the Public Safety (Police and Fire) category. These include the following: Explore ideas to strengthen and maintain neighborhood watch groups and community policing initiatives as well as making better use of the neighborhood watch by prompt sharing of crime information and educating residents to look out for suspicious activity. Traffic/speed enforcement on Sheridan Rd to improve public safety; a radar speed sign was suggested. Assisting Administration in lobbying IDOT for priority treatment. Review, strengthen and possibly expand fire/life safety inspections. Three year priorities include improved information sharing between the LCSD and Staff, appropriate/adequate funding for special detail, and Emergency Management and Community Emergency Response Team – how that fits into Public Safety.

Parks & Rec priorities include developing a plan for improvements at Braim Park. The Cambridge Homeowners Association previously suggested facilities for baseball, soccer or basketball. Staff will explore options. Residents in the Green Bay Rd/Maplewood Manor area would like a walking path to Braim Park – this is currently under consideration. Other priorities are to improve activities for Beach Park Fest and to explore shared services. Because development of a plan for improvements was a current year priority, implementation of that plan is a three year priority, as well as the pursuit of grants

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for maintenance, repairs and improvements of park equipment as well as pursuing cost-sharing opportunities with Waukegan and Zion Park Districts.

Several additional priorities were suggested including the development of a funding mechanism to support charitable causes such as Kiwanis, High School Scholarships, Beauty Pageants, ZB Athletic Boosters, Little Leagues, etc... , the pursuit of getting the speed reduced along Sheridan Road, publishing the newsletter three times per year rather than four, advocate for the revitalization of IL Beach State Park and a Metra Station Feasibility Study. After discussion, it was decided that the Metra Feasibility Study is of interest to the Mayor and Board. This will be explored by Staff.

The Capital worksheet was reviewed. Some highlights include discussion of Village Hall improvements such as a new roof, computer expenses such as hardware, server, etc., Village-wide siren warning system (3-year plan), Street paving and repair, stormwater projects, additional lighting along Sheridan Road and water and sewer improvements.

Two additional questions were included on the questionnaire and asked of the Mayor and Board; One in relation to the recently amended Liquor Ordinance and the elimination of the sale of hard liquor by gas stations. Is this something they wish to revisit? 3 responded Yes, 3 responded No. Per Mayor Hucker, there is no clear picture of what would be revisited, would it be to repeal the entire ordinance or amend it and if so, to what? There was no consensus to revisit this issue.

Question two was regarding Video Gaming signage. Our current Ordinance prohibits the advertising of video gaming related signage. This is a concern by affected businesses. Does the Mayor and Board wish to revisit this issue? 1 responded Yes, 5 responded No. There is reason to revisit this issue.

Meeting adjourned: 10:11pm