

Trustee Brandt noted that the second item he would like to discuss involves streetlights. He informed the Board that he has a sense of some frustration by members of the community that reside in a four street area in the Winston Hills Subdivision. He explained that these four streets are each ½ mile long with only one street light. He referenced a picture provided to the Board. He noted that the four streets he is referencing are Taylor Dr., Maxwell Dr., McArthur Dr. and Winston Dr.

Trustee Brandt also drew attention to a packet provided by Woodridge Resident April Clark, who has been diligent in gathering signatures on a petition begging for streetlights on those streets. He noted the frustration these residents are feeling because they are not getting the attention that they deserve from the Village. He explained that he feels these residents would be outraged to learn that Woodridge spent \$200,000 on 27 streetlights for an area only a few blocks long located at Janes Avenue and 83rd Street, and an additional \$100,000 on benches and trash receptacles, yet we cannot come up with money to light up the four worst, darkest streets in the Village. He noted that the word "outraged might be too strong." He highlighted the legitimate concern that the Village had when trying to revitalize the area at Janes Avenue and 83rd Street. He mentioned that he wishes not to neglect the areas of town that are not yet a problem.

Trustee Brandt likened this situation to when Comcast advertises a special offer for new customers. He questioned why these deals are not extended to old customers that have been loyal for years and years. He noted that he thinks this is how the residents in that area are feeling when the Village throws money at problems in a reaction mode and we are not seeking to be proactive in preventing problems. He expressed the need to pay attention to loyal residents who, year after year, go to work, play with their kids and pay their taxes. He explained that they are not asking for anything more than the rest of us. He noted that the request was not for lights every 100 feet but they are asking for lights every 200 feet which is the standards set forth by the current Village Code. He discussed that, letter after letter sent by the Village, comes up with every reason why we cannot do something for these residents. He expressed his want to turn this attitude around and find reasons why we can do something. He noted that this decision needs to come from the Board.

Trustee Brandt stated that the Board needs to start to come up with reasons why these streets need lights. He pointed out that there is a Fire Station at the end of McArthur Dr. He explained that McArthur Dr. serves as an access road to the northern portion of the area. He stated that this could be used as an excuse to put more lights into the area. He reiterated that these are the worst streets in town. He noted that if the Board were to prioritize streets, those four would be at the top. He explained that he does not want to ignore regular, loyal residents of Woodridge who are looking for what everyone else is getting. He stated that instead we are spending money on problem areas that are worthy, but we should not forget the other parts of town.

Trustee Brandt noted that he has done calculations on the cost of the streetlights. He explained that, if the streetlights were installed back in the 1960s when those houses were built, then they would have cost \$8,000 per street rather than the \$50,000 that they would cost today. He noted that he would not be averse to having those taxpayers pay the 1960s value because anyone with any common sense would put more than one streetlight in a ½ mile street. He stated that there has to be a way that we can figure out how to light those streets. He explained that he would like to get creative to solve the problems of those four streets. He explained that this issue will be number one on the next Community Needs Survey because it has been number two or three for many years. He noted that we will face this issue every year and that he would not like to wait 10 or 20 years before we solve this problem. He stated that he would like to put together a plan to take care of these four streets and eventually take a look at the entire Village as time allows, but these four streets should be our priority.

Mayor Pro-Tem Frank thanked Trustee Brandt. She noted that she believes that the Board has discussed this issue at previous Workshops and Goal Setting sessions. She stated that this is a topic that would be appropriate to discuss at an upcoming Budget Workshop.

Administrator Perry recounted that this item was discussed with the Board at the last Budget Workshop on March 3, 2005. He noted that, at that time, the Board gave direction. He stated that, if the Board would like to reconsider some additional general taxation revenue paid by Village residents for the streetlights, then we can have that discussion. He noted that an alternative to this solution would be the solution used at 83rd Street and Janes Avenue. This alternative is to have property taxes from that neighborhood pay for improvements in that neighborhood. He noted that this is a suggestion that the Village has encouraged those residents to consider. He reiterated that, if the Board wishes to look at general taxation of all Village residents to provide these streetlights, then they can do so. However, the decision the Board provided in the past was not to go in that direction. He noted that he would be happy to put this issue on the agenda for the March 4, 2006 Budget Workshop.

Trustee Curran voiced his support of discussing the issue at the March 4, 2006 Budget Workshop.

Trustee Brandt noted that the formula to use, determining by traffic, crime analysis and issues such as these, is helpful but does not give significant weight to the desires of the residents. He noted that there is real desire there. He noted that additional weight should be given to the intangibles. He explained that no formula would work, streetlights do not solve crime though they might help. He reiterated that intangible benefits should be considered as well. He noted that data cannot give you these benefits. He stated that these residents have enough signatures for ½ of the petition for a Mayor or Trustee. He pointed out that these are interested folks. He stated that he hopes to consider this issue and come up with some creative ways to solve the problem.