

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD WORKSHOP OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE, ILLINOIS, HELD ON
AUGUST 17, 2006 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

B. Streetlights

Administrator Perry noted that the Board has had a number of discussions regarding the streetlight issue over the past few months. He asked the Board to recall the direction they gave to staff in the spring budget session to provide a policy on streetlights that would permit the inclusion and addition of streetlights in areas of the Village where residents felt that it was appropriate. He turned the discussion over to Phil Modaff, Director of Public Works, for a discussion of the draft policy for the incorporation of streetlights.

Mr. Modaff noted that the Board has been provided with a history of streetlight enhancement efforts made by the Village. He highlighted that in 1978 the Village adopted the current standards that provide for streetlights to be installed every two-hundred feet (200'), staggered on both sides of the street. He noted that a variation was made in 1989 for the Seven Bridges residential development which allowed streetlights to be paced four-hundred (400') apart and at all intersections, curb bends and at the end of cul-de-sacs.

Mr. Modaff indicated that, based on the direction that the staff received from the Board, a draft streetlight enhancement resident participation program policy was drafted. He noted that he hopes that this policy meets the input that staff received. He noted that he has tried to keep the program simple. He explained that a draft

agreement would need to be completed as well. Mr. Modaff acknowledged the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Woodridge residents, who spent time with Mr. Modaff in developing this program. He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Clark for their participation in this project.

Mr. Modaff highlighted that the program allows any property owner of a property adjacent to a Village-owned right-of-way to submit a written request for additional street lighting on the adjacent street. The request should indicate any specific concerns related to the request and any specific areas of the adjacent street where additional lighting is specifically desired. Mr. Modaff noted that there is no limit on the number or location of streetlights requested, except as follows:

- No new streetlight will be installed in a space that is less than two hundred feet (200') from the nearest existing or proposed streetlight.
- Where utility conflicts, trees, line of sight, or Village Code requirements would prohibit the placement of the proposed streetlight in that location.
- The Village will not participate in the installation of streetlights on any property not owned by the Village of Woodridge.

Mr. Modaff pointed out that, in regards to the first exception, the Village is currently reviewing their new subdivision requirements to determine if 200 feet is an appropriate distance between streetlights. He noted that the 400 foot distance in the Seven Bridges residential area has worked out well for those residents.

Mr. Modaff then stated that, upon receipt of a written request, the Village Engineer will make available to all interested residents a preliminary estimate of the project cost. He noted that upon receipt of a written request from residents to proceed and deposit of ten percent (10%) of the estimated project cost, the Village Engineer will proceed with final engineering and bidding.

Mr. Modaff pointed out that some standards would be followed including that streetlights will be constructed in accordance with applicable codes and standards adopted by the Village of Woodridge.

Mr. Modaff also discussed the engineering and construction requirements of the program. He stated that the project will be engineered and constructed under the direction of the Village Engineer.

Mr. Modaff highlighted the cost-sharing and resident commitment available in the program. He stated that costs will be shared 50/50 (including all expenses – engineering, construction and easements/right of way acquisition where appropriate) between the Village and participating residents. He pointed out that each resident who desires to participate in the program will enter into a payment agreement with the Village prior to the award of a contract for the project. The fifty percent (50%) to be paid by residents will be divided equally among all

residents who have entered into a payment agreement with the Village. Mr. Modaff indicated that the improvements will be owned, operated and maintained by the Village of Woodridge.

Mr. Modaff discussed the proposed financing plan. He stated that all costs would be initially paid by the Village. He explained that residents would reimburse the Village for their share of costs, either immediately upon completion of construction, or through a payment agreement with the Village. He indicated that the resident's portion of the cost may be paid over a term not exceeding four (4) years at an appropriate interest rate established by the Director of Finance and approved by the Village Board and amended from time to time. He explained that any financing charges related to the individual payment agreements will be borne entirely by the resident. He noted that each payment agreement will contain a provision securing payment through threat of termination of water service for non-payment.

Mr. Modaff concluded his discussion with information on billing. He stated that billing will be done via the bi-monthly water bills, the amount owed for the streetlight enhancements will be the first line item on the water bill. He indicated that failure to pay the entire balance will result in termination of water service in accordance with existing water payment processes outlined in the Village Code.

Mayor Murphy invited all residents and guests to address the Board regarding this agenda item.

Woodridge resident, April Clark, addressed the Board. She stated that she has talked to her fellow neighbors and they desire additional streetlights, but do not wish to be charged individually for them. She indicated that she has lived in the Village a number of years and that she and her neighbors pay taxes like all other residents. She stated that other areas in the Village have had additional streetlights installed without having to pay a portion of the cost. She indicated that these streetlights were installed due to high crime levels. She noted that, because her neighborhood has low crime rates, they should not be left out when the Village installs additional streetlights. She noted that because of the length of the streets of her neighborhood, the streets are very dark. She asked the Village to be proactive and address this problem before something unfortunate happened due to the inability to see at night on her street.

Trustee Brandt inquired how streetlights would be placed in this program.

Ms. Clark stated that this program would result in the sporadic placement of streetlights. She inquired why the two hundred foot (200') standard for placement of streetlights applies to some areas of the community and not others.

Mr. Modaff explained that the two-hundred foot (200') standard is in the new subdivision code. He noted that this is the standard required for new subdivisions

in the Village. He indicated that it is not unusual for codes to change. He cited a water main as an example. He explained that the requirements for materials used in water mains have changed as technology advanced. He pointed out that, after a change in the code, the Village does not replace all existing water mains, but rather requires that any new water mains installed meet the new standards.

Trustee Brandt inquired how the spacing would work if a resident wanted a streetlight in front of their home and this was not a logical place to install the light. He recognized that the program presented is what the Board requested, however, he noted that the program is unworkable.

Mr. Modaff pointed out that he did not contemplate a resident requesting a light in front of their house only. He noted that he would hope to get interest expressed by a group of residents on a street. He noted that a streetlight placed in front of a house would do little to improve the lighting on a street and would do little for the requestor once they left the confines of their property.

Trustee Brandt asked for other examples of cost sharing programs with residents.

Administrator Perry noted that the Village has a history of cost sharing with residents for planting trees and building sidewalks.

Trustee Brandt made the point that a sidewalk would run in front of a residents house and that the resident would be the primary beneficiary of this sidewalk. He noted that he would not want to pay for a sidewalk in front of his neighbor's house because he would not be the primary beneficiary of that sidewalk. He noted that, in this case, the Village would be asking residents to pay for a light that would not necessarily be in front of their house. He noted that the Village is asking residents to pay for public safety and that this is the job of the Village. Trustee Brandt reiterated that this plan is unworkable.

Ms. Clark agreed.

Mr. Modaff asked Ms. Clark for a clarification of what areas were give additional streetlights.

Ms. Clark specified the Janes Avenue area. She noted that her neighborhood is extremely dark and she fears for her children. She inquired if the distance between streetlights on her street was good enough for the Village when her home was built, why it is not good enough for the current code and new subdivisions.

Mayor Murphy recapped Mr. Modaff's earlier answer by saying that municipalities are constantly reviewing and reevaluating their codes. He reiterated that, when new standards are adopted, the entire Village is not reworked to meet those standards, rather they are required of new developments.

Ms. Clark noted that she cannot install a streetlight herself. She stated that she and her neighbors cannot provide adequate lighting themselves. She noted that it is unrealistic for the Village to expect them to share the cost.

Mayor Murphy thanked Ms. Clarke for her comments.

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Mayor Murphy turned to questions from Village Board members. He noted that Mr. Modaff has brought this program forward based on multiple prior Village Board discussions on this topic. He explained that this program is based on direction that was given from the majority of the Board.

Trustee Curran inquired if the determination of the cost of the streetlight program would include staff time.

Mr. Modaff indicated that staff time is not incorporated into the cost of the streetlight, but some of the engineering service costs would be included.

Trustee Curran pointed out that he feels that it is inappropriate for the Village to charge financing costs to residents who participate in this cost sharing program. He also pointed out that the Village would be covering over one half (1/2) of the cost of the streetlight due to the staff time that is paid in association with the proposed streetlight program.

Mr. Modaff agreed with Trustee Curran that the Village would be covering more than one half (1/2) of the true cost of the streetlights in the streetlight program. He noted that significant staff time will be spent on plans, specifications and bid documents.

Trustee Curran noted that he has one additional question. He inquired if utility costs are factored into the cost of the streetlights. He specifically mentioned the electricity cost of keeping the streetlight lit.

Mr. Modaff indicated that residents would not take on any of the utility costs, but that those costs would be covered by the Village.

Trustee Wood added a thought to the question asked by Trustee Curran. He stated that, if the Village installs fifty (50) or one hundred (100) streetlights, the cost of operating and maintaining these streetlights would be the burden of the entire community for years to come. He inquired what the difference in cost would be to the Village in operating and maintaining additional streetlights.

Mr. Modaff noted that he does not have that answer tonight but could get maintenance and operation costs for the Board's review.

Trustee Wood mentioned that this would likely be a substantial cost for years to come.

Mr. Modaff noted that there is also a pending energy rate increase that will need to be considered. He explained that the Village will have more information on the rising energy costs in the coming months.

Trustee Frank asked for clarification on the cost sharing issue. She stated that, if she wanted streetlights on her street, it would be up to her to garnish support from other residents to share the costs.

Mr. Modaff pointed out that the Village would not compel residents that do not want to be a part of the cost sharing program to participate in that program.

Trustee Beavers inquired what would occur if a resident participating in this program decided to sell their home.

Mr. Modaff pointed out that the remaining cost in the cost sharing program would be collected from the resident at the time their home sells.

Trustee Brandt asked the Board to assume that enough people would want a streetlight every two hundred feet (200'). He proposed instead that the Village pay for streetlights every four hundred feet (400'). He indicated that the cost to the Village would be the same and the cost to the resident would be none. He noted that this proposal would produce a product that would benefit the community as a whole.

Trustee Curran worked through the math of placing streetlights every three hundred feet (300') on the street in question. He noted that he feels that the resident portion is high. He thanked Mr. Modaff for all of his hard work on this program, but noted that he would like to see the policy re-worked to reduce the cost to the residents.

Mayor Murphy asked Board members if they feel the proposed streetlight cost sharing program reflects the previous direction given by the Board.

Trustee Curran noted that he would like to see the nuts and bolts of program in terms of financing. He indicated that, as this program is written, it looks like a 50/50 cost sharing. He stated that, in reality, the Village would be paying in excess of fifty percent of the cost. He noted that he would like to see that reflected in the program to educate possible participants on what the Village is offering.

Mayor Murphy asked staff to look at the refinements suggested.