

Anti-Woodridge Signs



Rick Steck, a resident of an unincorporated subdivision in DuPage County, addressed the Board. He stated that Village of Woodridge workers have been in his subdivision surveying the streets and marking lots to determine if water can be provided. He noted that he and his neighbors have not been notified of the intention of this work. He asked that the Village enlighten him and his neighbors of what the Village is doing in this area.

Mayor Murphy thanked Mr. Steck for his inquiry. He pointed out that the Village will have a written report on Friday. He asked Mr. Modaff, Director of Public Works to provide that report verbally at this time.

Mr. Modaff stated that about two weeks ago, this Board approved a contract for engineering services for the purpose of determining if, how, and at what cost water main could be extended to the Pleasantdale Subdivision. He asked the Board to recall boundary line agreements approved in the last two years with both Lemont and Darien. He stated that these boundary line agreements placed the Pleasantdale Subdivision within the planning area of Woodridge. He indicated that there were no plans, and are no plans to force annex the Pleasantdale Subdivision. He explained that, someday, as most unincorporated areas eventually do, the Pleasantdale Subdivision may request, require, desire public utilities, most notably water and sanitary sewer.

Mr. Modaff stated that, recently, the Village has had inquiries from a handful of Pleasantdale residents asking if the Village could get water to them. He noted that, given the Villages intention to be the utility provider in an area that would eventually be incorporated Woodridge, the Village scheduled engineering work to find out where water main could be placed and at what cost. He stated that the first step in the process is to hire the engineering services as was done two weeks ago by the Village. He explained that it was necessary for the engineering firm to locate the property lines in the front yards of these homes to determine where the right of way ends. He indicated that this will give the Village an idea of where a water main could go and what competing obstructions or utilities exist. Mr. Modaff stated that, before the Village can answer the question that a handful of Pleasantdale residents have asked, the engineering work has to be finished.

Mr. Modaff noted that a short time after the engineering work began, the Village started to receive calls from Pleasantdale residents. He noted that he, the Village Engineer and others from his staff have explained to the residents that called exactly what was explained this evening. He reiterated that, given the Village's boundary line agreements, the Pleasantdale Subdivision is within the Village's planning area. He further explained that, given that the Village has the ability and is the most likely utility, this work needed to be done to answer the questions of Pleasantdale residents. He stated that the Village's intention is that, if the Board decides to put water main in the Pleasantdale Subdivision, any resident that is adjacent to this water main and desires water service may connect to the water main. He explained that part of the connection would include a water service agreement and an annexation agreement. He noted that this would be an agreement for annexation for some day in the future. He explained that the Village has entered into water service and annexation agreements with residents of another unincorporated subdivision known as Suburban Estates. He stated that, in the case of Suburban Estates, this Board deferred annexation for 10 years. He clarified that if Pleasantdale residents do not want water, they have the option not to take water. He stated that, if residents of this area do not take water, annexation is not an issue. He noted that once information is available via the engineering service, information would be made available to the residents of the Pleasantdale Subdivision.

Mr. Steck asked if it was cost effective for the Village to conduct this engineering study when only a handful of Pleasantdale residents are requesting water.

Mr. Modaff stated that that is a decision that this Village Board will make. He stated that once the information is available regarding how much a water main extension will cost should the Village decide to extend water to the Pleasantdale Subdivision, it will be made available to residents.

Mr. Steck asked if the Village has any certified engineering plans.

Mr. Modaff stated that that is the work that the Village is doing now.

Mr. Steck asked if Illinois American is aware of the Village's plans.

Mr. Modaff noted that they are.

Mr. Steck pointed out that Illinois American would have to approve the Village's control over the water mains.

Mr. Modaff stated that the Village has an agreement with Illinois American.

Mr. Steck asked why the homeowners were not notified of the engineering services.

Mr. Modaff explained that, at some point, the Village needs to do the engineering study. He noted that the Village has to determine if, how and at what cost the Village would be willing to in bring water to the Pleasantdale area. He explained that, whether the Village is responding to one (1) person, five (5) people or 350 people, this is work that the Village needs to perform. He noted that the Village has selected this time to perform the work and that the Board will make a decision and that once information is available to the Pleasantdale Subdivision residents, it will be provided.