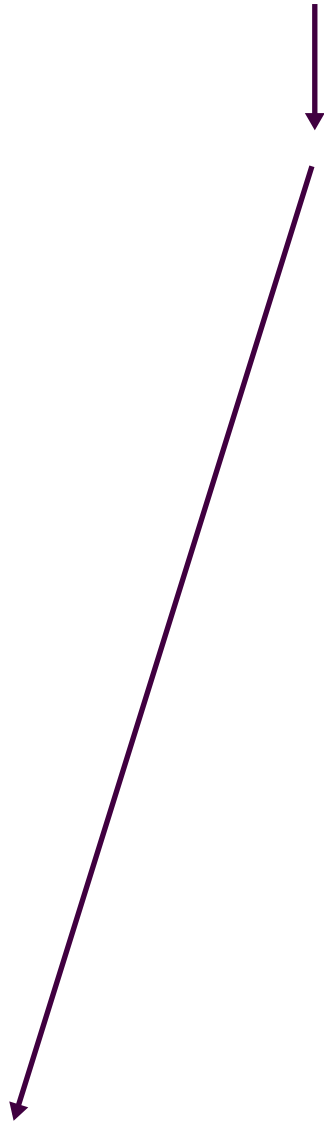


MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE, ILLINOIS, HELD ON MARCH 16, 2006 AT THE VILLAGE HALL



VI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Woodridge resident Robert L. Mathis of 1215 South Somerset Lane addressed the Board. He noted that he and his neighbors are addressing the Board to bring to their attention the problems they are experiencing regarding noise from Interstate I-55. He noted that expanding communities continue to build along roads such as I-55 and that these roads are experiencing more and more congestion and producing more noise. He indicated that, prior to purchasing their homes, he and his neighbors met with the developer, Gallagher and Henry, to discuss issues such as maintenance of the retention pond and any planned construction on the portion of I-55 that runs just south of their homes. Gallagher and Henry directed them to the Village where they were given information on

responsibilities of maintenance. He noted that the Village did not inform him of an expansion of I-355 or widening of I-55. He mentioned that he was surprised to learn that there was a noise wall planned for the south side of I-55 and not the north side.

Mr. Mathis noted that he was previously employed with the Village of Oak Park as Director of Environmental Health which gave him the responsibility of enforcing State and Local Codes pertaining to noise. He indicated that, according to State and Local Codes, noise is a pollutant because there are scientific studies that show the negative affects of noise on individuals. He listed many affects of exposure to noise. He explained that he and his neighbors are in attendance to inquire if the Village Board will join them as a partner in appealing to the interested agencies to have a sound wall approved between his neighborhood and I-55.

Woodridge resident Gerry Dominic of 9131 South Somerset Lane addressed the Board. She indicated that the sound wall that Mr. Mathis discussed would be a benefit to the entire Village. She recognized the sincere effort put forth by Phil Modaff, Director of Public Works, to get support for the sound wall. She noted the importance of the sound wall to the north side of I-55 along with the south and indicated that she is aware that the project would cost an estimated \$1.7 million. She reviewed the Toll Authority's policy that anything platted after April of 1999 would not qualify for Toll Authority funds for projects such as sound walls.

Ms. Dominic discussed her conversation with the Rocco Zucherro of the Toll Authority. In this conversation it was revealed that there are alternative options to a concrete sound wall such as wood or plastic walls. She noted that the cost of a wood or plastic wall is substantially lower than the cost of a concrete wall. Ms. Dominic indicated that she has done some research on an IDOT grant. She asked that the Village partner with Rocco Zucherro of the Toll Authority and the concerned residents to obtain this grant. She also asked that future developers building in this area contribute \$200,000 to the project. According to Ms. Dominic, if the reduction in cost of concrete alternatives, the full grant funds available, and the developer contributions are taken into consideration, the sound wall project would cost an estimated \$200,000 rather than the \$1.7 million dollars.

Ms. Dominic stated her interest in personally organizing events to raise funds for the sound wall project. She asked Mayor Murphy, the Village Board and Phil Modaff to bring the interested parties together for a meeting. She asked that Rocco Zucherro for the Toll Authority, representatives from Judy Biggert's Office, the developers in the area and Village representatives be included so that a funding plan can be established for a sound wall along the north side of I-55.

Mayor Murphy stated that he is aware that many present are aware of the Village initiative relating to the sound wall. He asked Mr. Modaff to recap Village efforts for the benefit of those who are not aware.

Mr. Modaff drew attention to the Department of Public Works Memorandum dated February 6, 2006 that was distributed this evening, a copy of which is attached to this set

of minutes. He noted that this memo recaps the Village's efforts to gain a sound wall along the north side of I-55. He reviewed some key points regarding the sound wall issue. He noted that the Toll Authority policy states that developments platted after April of 1999 will not be considered for noise abatement efforts at the expense of the Toll Authority. He indicated that experts agree that homes located beyond five-hundred feet (500') of a sound wall experience little, if any, noise abatement benefit. He explained that Toll Authority policy states that the cost of noise barrier must not exceed \$24,000 per benefited residence. He noted that, based upon the Toll Authority's April 1999 cut-off date, seven homes (located in the Vicente Subdivision) would benefit from the installation of sound wall. He explained that, based upon an analysis of the planned build-out of homes to the north of Interstate 55 between Woodward Avenue and Lemont Road, 33 additional homes in G&H unit 25 and Smoter would benefit from the installation of sound wall. He discussed that the estimated cost of sound wall installation on I-55 from Woodward Avenue to Lemont Road is in excess of \$1.7 million. He noted that to build this wall for the benefit of the seven qualifying homes (under the Toll Authority policy) would result in a cost of over \$240,000 per home. He also explained that to build this wall for the benefit of the seven Vicente homes and the additional thirty-three homes that fall within five-hundred feet would result in a cost of over \$42,000 per home, still far exceeding the Toll Authority policy.

Mr. Modaff discussed that in December of 2004 Mayor Murphy wrote a letter to the Illinois State Highway Authority's Chief Engineer expressing the importance of incorporating sound wall into the plans for expansion in residential areas. In this letter Mayor Murphy indicated that building sound wall after the completion of the project can be costly. Mr. Modaff pointed out that in February of 2005 Mayor Murphy wrote an additional letter to the Illinois State Highway Authority's Chief of Planning stating that he believes that a sound wall was mistakenly left out of plans for the area of I-55 from Woodward Avenue to Lemont Road on the south side of I-55. In this letter Mayor Murphy indicated that the Village approved a Planned Unit Development in 1989 that showed all residential development in this area. Mr. Modaff pointed out that, if the Toll Authority had consulted the Village for their Plan for this area in their environmental impact studies of 1989 and 1999, they would have been made aware of the plans for this area. Mr. Modaff noted that the 2005 letter from Mayor Murphy was copied to State Representative Bellock, State Senator Dillard, State Representative Hastert, State Representative Lyons, State Representative Meyer, State Senator Radogno, State Senator A.J. Wilhelmi and United States Representative Biggert.

Mr. Modaff continued that in May 2005 another letter was sent from Mayor Murphy to the Illinois State Highway Authority's Chief of Planning that again underscored Woodridge's position on the sound wall and the need for the Toll Authority to fund sound abatement for the north side of I-55, this letter was also copied to the earlier listed elected officials. He indicated that in June of 2005 the Village received the Toll Authority's "In Progress Plans" and was asked to submit any comments. At this time Mr. Modaff forwarded all previous letters and a letter insisting that the Toll Authority add a sound wall to these plans. Mr. Modaff explained that in July of 2005 the Village received an updated noise study from the Toll Authority. Mr. Modaff noted that close to this time

the Toll Authority formed an Advisory Committee including a Woodridge representative who continually stated Woodridge's position regarding the sound wall on record at Toll Authority Advisory Committee meetings. Mr. Modaff described the two years of work that the Village of Woodridge has put into the sound wall issue and explained that the Toll Authority has never, in all of his contact with them, offered to contribute any money to the sound wall along the north side of I-55 from Woodward Avenue to Lemont Road. He indicated that they offered to fund a noise study in the area, however that study was already a part of their budgeted plans in the area in question.

Mayor Murphy thanked Mr. Modaff and invited any further questions.

Woodridge resident Juan Garcia of 9127 South Somerset Lane addressed the Board and asked that the Toll Authority perform another noise study.

Mr. Modaff explained that the last noise study was performed in 2005, this involved approximately 12 noise receptors on the north side of I-55 in the stretch between Lemont Road and Woodward Avenue. Mr. Modaff reported that the Toll Authority recorded noise levels of 67 decibels. He noted that the Toll Authority is projecting that in 2020, when all additional lanes and ramps are fully constructed, there will be noise levels between 67 decibels and 70.5 decibels. He pointed out that this is an increase of, at most, 3.5 decibels.

Mr. Garcia noted that, in the ranges that are being discussed, the projected increases would double the noise.

Ms. Dominic addressed the Board again. She recognized the efforts put forth by the Village and Mr. Modaff. She pointed out that the Toll Authority will likely decline funding any portion of the project as they have done in the past. She asked that all parties be brought together to look into alternative materials to construct a sound wall for a reduced price. She noted that bringing the parties together is the way to solve the problem.

Trustee Brandt asked if the sound wall along I-355 near 83rd Street is a private wall.

Mr. Modaff noted that he believes this is a sound wall constructed by Gallagher and Henry built on private property.

Mr. Mays confirmed this.

Mr. Mathis addressed the Board again. He echoed what Mr. Garcia stated regarding the projected increase in decibels causing a double in noise levels.

Trustee Frank addressed the noise study and information provided by IDOT regarding the lack of noise abatement beyond 500 ft away from a sound wall. She asked if there was other research done to confirm this belief.

Mr. Modaff explained that he consulted with noise experts on more than one occasion. He noted that the scientific facts provided by IDOT were not contradicted by these noise experts. He reiterated that there are no sound abatement benefits 500ft beyond a sound wall.

Trustee Brandt asked Mr. Mathis if, in his experience, he found this to be true.

Mr. Mathis stated that he does not agree with this statement. He explained that any noise abatement efforts will depend largely on the density of the neighborhood.

Ms. Dominic asked if the measurement of the 500ft was done from the edge of the pavement or if it was done from the middle of I-55. She pointed out that, if the measurement was not taken from the edge of the potential lane, more homes will fall into the affected 500ft. She noted that, in her count, there would be 69 homes in the 500ft range if the measurement was taken from the edge of the potential lane.

Mr. Modaff noted that the measurement was from the edge of the existing pavement. He explained that the additional lane will add approximately 12ft to I-55. He indicated that a Civil Engineer for the Village of Woodridge worked with the aerial photographs to see if this additional lane would mean more households in the 500ft affected area. He argued that only a handful of additional homes would fall into the 500ft based on the new measurements. Mr. Modaff noted that in all of the work done by the Village of Woodridge the sound wall was assumed to be built at the edge of the pavement. He explained that there would not be any room to build a sound wall any further back from the edge of the pavement.

Ms. Dominic reiterated her earlier plea to bring all interested parties together for a meeting.

Mayor Murphy thanked those present for their comments and for being at the meeting. He stated his appreciation for the work that they did to contact the Toll Authority and look into alternative material sound walls. However, he expressed his fear that, even with the reduced costs of alternative material, the Toll Authority has put their foot down and indicated that they will not contribute funds to the project. He explained to the residents in attendance that he understands their concerns and that the Village certainly understands their concerns because the Village shares these concerns and has been working with the Toll Authority for over two years on this project. He stated that, over the years, he has learned the power of citizen groups and has observed citizen groups to have more influence than governing bodies.