

VI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Murphy noted that during this portion of the meeting residents and guests are welcome to address the Board regarding matters that are not on the pre-printed agenda.

Woodridge resident Patrick Murray, of _____ made comments regarding the request for a sound wall along a portion of I-55. He explained that he has been at a number of meetings regarding this request. He noted the presence of his neighbors this evening.

Mr. Murray stated that he began working on this issue in February of 2004 with a request to the Mayor's Office. He explained that he has been following his request since that time. He noted that he noticed that Darien is getting a sound wall for about 1.8 million dollars. He explained that the Darien project spurred his interest because, if Darien was able to get funding for a sound wall, so should Woodridge. He noted that he has forwarded information on the Darien project to a number of Elected Officials including Mayor Murphy, Illinois Representative Judy Biggert and Illinois State Senator Christine Radogno.

He noted the excellent response by the staff of the Village of Woodridge. He specifically mentioned the excellent response from Mayor Murphy, Administrator Perry and Phil Modaff, Director of Public Works. He noted that the Village worked on this project throughout the year. He indicated that the culmination of the project was a Board Workshop meeting on February 16, 2006.

Mr. Murray stated that during the February 16 Board Workshop, Mr. Modaff did an excellent job explaining the plat and the project as a whole. Mr. Murray stated that, despite the efforts put forward by the Village, he feels that the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority was not pushed hard enough to provide Woodridge residents with a sound wall. He recognized all the efforts including a letter writing campaign, but stated that this issue dropped off the Village's radar.

Mr. Murray noted that he met with Woodridge resident Gerry Dominic to discuss this issue and develop ways to put pressure on the Illinois Tollway Authority. He noted that he and Ms. Dominic met with the Tollway on June 12, 2006. He explained that the Village of Woodridge, interested residents, the Tollway and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) all came together for this meeting. He noted that they discussed the viability of the sound wall and how the different agencies could work together to make this project happen. He noted that, in his opinion, no single agency should be responsible for this project. He stated that to put this project together the Tollway, IDOT, the Village and residents need to come together.

Mr. Murray reviewed the individuals in attendance at this meeting. He listed: Rocco Zuccherro, Deputy Chief of Engineering of the Tollway, Phil Modaff, Director of Public Works of the Village of Woodridge, John Novak, a representative of Judy Biggert, Representative Jim Durkin and Arleen Casper, a representative of Illinois State Senator Radogno. He noted that there was a spirited exchange between the Village and Rocco Zuccherro regarding who is responsible. He noted that he was disappointed in this exchange and that he would have preferred to see all the agencies work together. He explained that Rocco Zuccherro made a commitment on behalf of the Tollway to complete an engineering study. He noted that this study will reveal how much money a sound wall would cost for this area. Mr. Murray noted that Mr. Zuccherro feels that the Tollway should not be the only financial contributors to this project.

Mr. Murray noted that State Representative Jim Durkin is in favor of this project and committed to adding a line item to the next Illinois State budget for this project.

Mr. Murray asked the Village of Woodridge to do the following: review the engineering study when it is completed, work together with the Tollway on the public works issue and report back to residents on any progress and show good faith by committing some funding to the project. He noted that he would like to see the Village come up with a portion of the costs.

Mr. Murray noted that Rocco Zuccherro explained to residents that the contractors of the project are currently working on the I-355 extension. He explained that if the project is addressed quickly it can be completed while the contractors are

mobilized. He noted that this would likely save some extra costs. He noted again his appreciation for all of the efforts put forth by the Village.

Mayor Murphy thanked Mr. Murray for his comments. He noted that the Board and the staff of the Village have made note of the specific requests made by Mr. Murray.

Woodridge resident Gerry Dominic of _____ addressed the Board. She echoed the comments made by Mr. Murray that the Village has provided exceptional service. She specifically mentioned the Building and Zoning Department.

Gerri Dominic echoed Mr. Murray's sentiments on the responsiveness of the Village. She reviewed the meeting regarding sound abatement held on June 12. She reiterated those who attended that meeting. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to review revenue sources for the funding of the sound wall. She indicated that those present agreed and acknowledged the need for sound abatement in her subdivision. She noted that the issue is how to fund it. She recalled Mr. Modaff's position that the sound abatement should be funded by the Tollway Authority.

Ms. Dominic reviewed the conversation between Mr. Modaff and Mr. Zuccario. She discussed Mr. Zuccario's position that the Tollway will consider allotting for funding but that they will not be at that table alone. She asked the Mayor and Board two questions. She asked if anyone has contacted other communities to see how they are providing sound abatement. In addition she asked if filing a lawsuit to gain sound abatement has been considered. She indicated that it is her belief that the Tollway put the word platted in their policy to protect themselves from any lawsuits.

Ms. Dominic discussed her recent correspondence with the Governor's Office. She noted that this correspondence indicated that the home owner should practice due diligence and that the developer had the responsibility to inform residents of any noise issues. Ms. Dominic explained that the residents were just made aware of the additional lane in March of this year. She pointed out that the Village was aware of this addition along with the developer. She stated that finger pointing would not be appropriate in this situation, rather, she hopes to see all the parties come together to complete this project.

Ms. Dominic stated that it is not the sole responsibility of the homeowner or the developer to fund the project. She listed all parties involved including the Village, the developer, the Tollway, opportunities for grants and homeowners. She referenced the sound abatement in Darien. She discussed the cost of the project. She discussed Mr. Zuccario's request that a proposal come from the Village. She explained that, in order to make that proposal, an engineering study

is needed. She state that Mr. Zuccario offered to fund the project with the expectation that the parties will come together to find a solution to the problem.

Ms. Dominic reviewed additional information that was presented at the June 12 meeting. She noted that any proposed sound wall would have to have a reduction of 8 to 10 decibels or a reduction in sound of about 50%. She indicated that the sound wall that is being constructed on the south side of I-55 will increase noise to her neighborhood of about 4-6 decibels. She noted that this would be a 50% increase in sound for her and her neighbors. She discussed the cost savings if the project if it is done quickly while contractors are working on the sound wall on the south side of I-55.

Ms. Dominic reiterated that all parties need to come together to fund this project. She asked the Mayor and Board to disapprove of any partial sound walls in her are and instead ask them to make a contribution to a sound wall for the entire community. She discussed the design challenges that any partial wall would present to the sound wall project proposed by her neighborhood. She asked that the Village hold the developer responsible and represent the residents.

Ms. Dominic discussed the price of the homes that are sold by the developer. She noted that they can write off any contribution that they make to the property. She noted that the developer charged an increased amount for the homes along I-55 due to the privacy of the back yard. She asked that the Mayor and Board come to her neighborhood to witness the noise first hand.

Ms. Dominic reviewed the homes that should be included in the 500 foot from edge of pavement. She noted that she disagrees with the numbers presented in the sound wall Public hearing. She indicated that she feels that 75 homes are included in the affected area. She suggested looking at this as an IDOT issue to gain additional funding and opening up the opportunity of using less costly material.

Ms. Dominic recapped by asking those involved to clarify what homes fall in the affected area. She asked the Village not to allow for any partial sound walls in the area of her neighborhood, but rather that contributions be made to a sound wall for the entire area. She asked the Village to plan on meeting again in October to review the engineering study. She asked that, based on the information in the engineering study, the Village needs to make a proposal the help fund the project. She stated that it is her expectation that the Village write for grants and also collect funding. She stated that she also expects that the Village bring the developer to the table. She noted again that all parties need to come together to fund this project.

Mayor Murphy thanked Ms. Dominic for her comments and work on this issue. He noted that she asked the Board to contact other municipalities to see gain

insight into how they are funding projects. He asked that she give the names of those towns to the Clerk so that the Village can follow up.

Woodridge resident Robert Mathis of _____ addressed the Board. He stated that his property backs up to the retention pond across from I-55. He indicated that he has spent a lifetime and career in public health. He discussed the various impacts that noise has on health.

Mr. Mathis noted that he requested and received copy of the traffic analysis report. He thanked Mr. Modaff for providing this document. He noted that he has also been in touch with the Northeastern Planning Commission regarding the framework of the plan. He discussed his specific interest in projects and recommendations to address growth in traffic patterns within the northeastern region of Illinois.

Mr. Mathis noted that in the traffic noise summary report, the noise that has been identified is a problem. He stated that noise that has been measured in his neighborhood has exceeded the federal criteria for highway noise abatement. He indicated that, based on various scenarios put together by the Highway Administration, traffic density is expected to increase that will add to the current level of noise.

Mr. Mathis explained that, if and when noise wall is installed on the south end of I-55, the amount of noise will be magnified. He referenced the many small children that live in that area. He indicated that the noise affects these children. He observed that children in his neighborhood are shouting to communicate. He stated that, not only is the noise impacting the ability to communicate, it is affecting the ability to sleep.

Mr. Mathis noted that this report also recommends that noise abatement measures be taken. He indicated that the report attempted to resolve the Tollway of any responsibility, instead shifting it onto the local community. He discussed his attendance at the meeting on June 12. He noted that the Tollway assumed some responsibility for this issue. He expressed understanding of the position that the Village is taking on the matter. He noted that the Tollway should be responsible for sound wall. He stated that he hopes that the Village is putting their foot down to gain support from the Tollway, but that the Village has intentions of putting some money towards this project.

Mr. Mathis noted that during this meeting they discussed the issue of sound abatement, he and his neighbors were told that they fully met the responsibilities that the Village requested of them. He stated that he and his neighbors had been asked to agree to fund some of the noise abatement. He explained that they are ready to do so.

Mr. Mathis discussed other improvements in his area. He specifically mentioned the trees and shrubs placed around the retention pond. He stated that these improvements were made and funded even though it will be years before a benefit is seen. He stated that, even though one opportunity has passed in terms of a sound wall, another opportunity is before us. He indicated that, when the study comes in, he hopes that the Village would be proactive to bring this project to completion. He reminded the Board that he and his peers will not go away. He stated that he understands the legal issues involved and noted that he and his neighbors will get a lawyer to review the matter if the Village takes no action. He concluded by reminding the Board that the noise is a health and safety concern.

Woodridge resident Phyllis Seibt of 9109 South Somerset addressed the Board. She stated that her home is currently for sale. She noted that it has been on the market for one year. She indicated that potential buyers complain of the road noise. She noted that she is marketing her home below a fair market value. She stated that the sound issue is hitting residents in her area right in the pocketbook. She stated that they need the sound wall and that they need it now. She reiterated that it is more cost effective to address this issue now while contractors are mobilized. She asked that the Village assist with this matter.

Jerry Dominic commented on the price that Ms. Seibt is asking for her home. She discussed the many improvements and the beauty of Ms. Seibt's home. She noted that she sat in on a Board discussion of the budget. She stated that the Village needs to dedicate funds to this project. She stated that no party should have to foot the bill alone.

Ms. Seibt discussed the price that she is asking for her home and the many upgrades that she made.

Woodridge resident Lucile Bologna of 9089 Westminster addressed the Board. She noted that her home is very near the expressway. She discussed the increase in traffic over the last many years. She stated that, because of the noise, she and her husband have become insomniacs. She discussed the elevation of the expressway and noted that this adds to the noise. She noted that the sound is worse and worse every night and that it has forced her and her husband to wear ear plugs every night.

Woodridge resident James Rustik of _____ addressed the Board. He invited the Board to come to his home to witness the noise first hand. He stated that they would have to have a yelling conversation. He asked the Board to listen to the requests for help and noted that they should exert the power that they have. He indicated that he and his neighbors need this wall. He reviewed that developers make a great deal of money developing property and selling homes. He noted that developers come in, make money and leave. He stated that he and his neighbors came to Woodridge to live. He noted that, by no fault of their own, he and his neighbors are having trouble living in the community. He noted that

they need State and Federal money. He noted that the residents should be that last ones to spend money on this project considering what they spent on their homes.

Ms. Dominic addressed the Board again. She noted that the Vicente area would have qualified for sound abatement funding due to the platted date that falls before the cutoff. She noted that, because there are too few homes, they do not qualify. She reiterated the need to look at the whole area. She noted that the Tollway is helping and that the Village needs to help too. She noted the she and her neighbors need the Board's help and that they expect help now.

Mayor Murphy thanked her for her comments and noted that he and the Board and staff will take this matter under review.