

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD WORKSHOP OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE, ILLINOIS, HELD ON
NOVEMBER 16, 2006 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Murphy called to order a Board Workshop of the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Woodridge at 7:55 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Upon roll call by Clerk Nystrom, the following individuals were:

Present: Trustees Beavers, Frank, Brandt and Curran, Mayor Murphy and Clerk Nystrom

Absent: Trustees Kagann and Wood

Staff Present: Assistant Administrator Halik, Attorney Good, Ms. Freischlag, Mr. Mays, Ms. Cedillo, Mr. Bethel, Mr. Alwin and Ms. Bohse

III. ACTIVE AGENDA

Tollway Sound Wall

Mayor Murphy noted that the Board has for their review a matter pertaining to the Tollway Sound Wall issue. He indicated that the purpose of the Workshop is to review funding options that staff has identified for the construction of this project. He noted that the Board will be asked to come to consensus on the three questions brought forward in the staff report. Mayor Murphy turned the discussion over to Assistant Administrator Halik who asked Mr. Bethel, Acting Director of Public Works, to present the staff report.

Ms. Halik noted that the Board last discussed the sound wall issue at a workshop in February, 2006. She noted that, since that time, Chris Bethel and the Public Works Department have done an exhaustive review of available funding options for this project.

Mr. Bethel reviewed a staff report dated November 10, 2006, prepared for the workshop this evening. A copy of this report is attached to this set of minutes. This report identified the following workshop questions to address:

1. Should Village staff pursue the funding opportunity the Tollway has presented for a 50/50 cost share, along with presenting a request to Congresswoman Biggert for consideration to obtain funding through Federal Highway Transportation Funds, and a contribution from Gallagher and Henry in order to construct a 4,500 foot wood soundwall (which is the lowest cost option offered)?

2. Should Village staff request that the Tollway complete the engineering plans for the soundwall and obtain bids from the Tollway contractor for this work in order to have an actual project cost?
3. If a funding shortfall occurs between the bid cost for the soundwall and the amount of funding available, or if a funding source fails to contribute, should Village staff pursue a cost sharing arrangement between the Village and residents to split the remainder or shortfall?

Mayor Murphy invited residents and guests to address the Board and staff with questions or comments on the sound wall issue. He recognized State Representative Jim Durkin, for his attendance. He thanked Mr. Durkin for his attendance and his interest in this issue and the Village of Woodridge for a number of other issues.

Geri Dominic, 9131 South Somerset Lane, addressed the Board. She expressed her frustration that in February of 2006 the Village was nearly ready to be done with this project. She stated that it was not until the residents came together and demanded a meeting with Rocco Zuccherro, Deputy Chief of Engineering for Planning for the Tollway, that the Village became involved. She noted that the residents contacted Jim Durkin and Judy Biggert. She stated that Mr. Zuccherro made a promise to the residents and that he stood by that promise. She noted that the Village did not take action to contact these bodies, but that the residents did.

Ms. Dominic stated that she and her neighbors are residents that moved into the Woodridge community and that it is outrageous for them to be asked to contribute funding to this project. She stated that they were invited into the community and the Village asking them to pay a special tax is ridiculous. She noted that the Village should have worked with the Planning Department before her subdivision was constructed. She stated that the sound wall issue is not their problem, but the Village's. She indicated that there was no disclosure to the residents of the Tollway's constructions plans when she purchased her home. She stated that, if there was disclosure of the construction plans, she would not have purchased her home, nor would her neighbors.

Ms. Dominic praised Mr. Zuccherro for making a commitment to the residents to find fifty percent (50%) of the funding for this project. She stated that the Village should have to find the remaining fifty percent (50%). She suggested that this funding be found through a possible Amusement Tax or taken from the taxes that the Village currently collects. She stated that she and her neighbors were invited into the community and that the Tollway construction plans were not disclosed to them. She stated that it is the Village's responsibility to fix the problem of the increasing noise in her area for the health of the residents.

Robert Mathis, 1215 South Somerset, addressed the Board. He indicated that he and his neighbors held a community meeting last week. He stated that he was

elected President of the newly formed Neighborhood Association. He explained that he is putting together all of the paperwork to form a Not-for-Profit Association with the State of Illinois and that they are looking for attorneys to represent them moving forward with this matter.

Mr. Mathis stated the primary concerns of the newly formed Association are the soundwall issue and the retention area behind their homes. He explained that there are various birds and animals that inhabit the south portion of his subdivision. He stated that he would like to address the environmental concerns associated with those birds as well as the soundwall.

Mr. Mathis commended the Village for the Workshop and their efforts to bring this project to fruition. Mr. Mathis stated that at the June 12 meeting with Mr. Zucchero, Mr. Zucchero stated that residents can anticipate a five (5) to eight (8) decibel increase due to the expansion of the Tollway and the construction of the soundwall on the south portion of I-55. He explained that five (5) to eight (8) decibels means that the sound would double for each three (3) decibel increase. He indicated that this would more than double the noise that the residents are currently experiencing. He thanked the Board for the information that was provided prior to the meeting. He noted that he appreciates the opportunity to review the funding prior to this discussion. He stated that he is not happy with the recommendation of cost sharing with residents. He indicated that he and his neighbors were invited to live in Woodridge. He noted that the developer and the Village have made money off of residents. He indicated that he does not support the proposal to add additional taxes in order to fix this issue. He encouraged the Board to authorize staff to act on the proposals that were presented this evening.

Woodridge resident Patrick Murray, of 1185 Hillcrest Lane, addressed the Board. He noted that he is the Secretary of the Vicente Homeowners Association. He thanked Mayor Murphy for contacting him regarding his questions on this issue. Mr. Murray indicated that noise is an environmental pollutant and that it is increasing in his neighborhood. He expressed interest in the funding that was provided to Darien, Illinois for the construction of a soundwall. He stated that he was unaware that there would be an additional lane built in his area. He stated that the Village did not provide him with this information. He noted that not disclosing this information was a failure on the Village's part. He stated that this failure can be corrected by moving forward with the soundwall project at this time.

Ms. Dominic pointed out that Mr. Zucchero is in the room and that the residents owe him recognition.

Mayor Murphy welcomed Mr. Zucchero.

After hearing no additional comments from residents and the public, Mayor Murphy asked for the Board to provide guidance. He then reviewed the questions asked in the staff report. The questions are as follows:

1. Should Village staff pursue the funding opportunity the Tollway has presented for a 50/50 cost share, along with presenting a request to Congresswoman Biggert for consideration to obtain funding through Federal Highway Transportation Funds, and a contribution from Gallagher and Henry in order to construct a 4,500 foot wood soundwall (which is the lowest cost option offered)?
2. Should Village staff request that the Tollway complete the engineering plans for the soundwall and obtain bids from the Tollway contractor for this work in order to have an actual project cost?
3. If a funding shortfall occurs between the bid cost for the soundwall and the amount of funding available, or if a funding source fails to contribute, should Village staff pursue a cost sharing arrangement between the Village and residents to split the remainder or shortfall?

Mayor Murphy opened the floor up for general questions from Board members.

Trustee Curran asked if staff has contacted Gallagher and Henry and if they are willing to make a contribution to this project.

Mr. Mays indicated that the Planning and Development Department has contacted Gallagher and Henry and that they are willing to contribute 21% if the cost of the project is the estimated \$1.7 million. He noted that Gallagher and Henry was receptive to the concept as it was discussed in the staff report.

Trustee Curran asked, in relation to the funds being sought after from Judy Biggert's Office, if there is a possibility of not receiving a contribution from her office.

Mr. Bethel indicated that there is a possibility that no funding would be granted from Judy Biggert's Office and that the maximum funding that they can expect from her office is \$400,000. He noted that the Village will know in June or July whether or not the funding is in the Federal Bill. He stated that the Federal Bill will be approved in October 2007.

Trustee Frank inquired whether or not the Village would know what the total project costs would be before having to move forward with the project.

Mr. Bethel noted that the Village will know the bid cost around January and that the direction to move forward would have to be given in June.

Trustee Frank asked when the construction timeframe would be, assuming all funding was secured.

Mr. Bethel noted that the construction would occur around the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008.

Trustee Frank asked if staff has an idea of the cost involved in setting up a Special Service Area.

Ms. Halik noted that the cost would have to be investigated.

Mayor Murphy inquired if there was a way to get an idea of Federal funding before October 2007.

Mr. Bethel stated that the Village should be able to see if the project funding is in the Federal Bill in June or July.

Mayor Murphy noted the continual support that Judy Biggert has given the communities in her district. He stated that it would be appropriate for staff to set up a meeting between Judy Biggert, the newly formed Association and Village representatives. He encouraged residents to contact Judy Biggert's Office to show their support of this project and encouraging the allocation of Federal funding to this matter.

Trustee Brandt noted that the Village has the opportunity to take advantage of the cost savings associated with building a wall at the same time as the wall being constructed along the south side of I-55. He expressed his support for moving forward with this project as soon as possible.

Trustee Curran stated that there are significant legal costs involved in setting up a Special Service Area. He expressed his preference for saving those costs to apply towards the project and working on agreements with residents on cost sharing.

Mayor Murphy asked the Board to give feedback on question number 1, should Village staff pursue the funding opportunity the Tollway has presented for a 50/50 cost share, along with presenting a request to Congresswoman Biggert for consideration to obtain funding through Federal Highway Transportation Funds, and a contribution from Gallagher and Henry in order to construct a 4,500 foot wood soundwall (which is the lowest cost option offered)?

All Trustees present indicated yes.

Mayor Murphy asked the Board to give feedback on question number 2, should Village staff request that the Tollway complete the engineering plans for the soundwall and obtain bids from the Tollway contractor for this work in order to have an actual project cost?

All Trustees present indicated yes.

Mayor Murphy asked the Board to give feedback on question number 3, if a funding shortfall occurs between the bid cost for the soundwall and the amount of funding available, or if a funding source fails to contribute, should Village staff pursue a cost sharing arrangement between the Village and residents to split the remainder or shortfall?

Trustee Brandt indicated that he is not in favor of cost sharing agreements that are not legally binding. He stated his preference for moving forward with the project even if it increases taxes. He pointed out that the money obtained through Federal funding is all tax dollars as would be any money provided by the Village. He stated that it is the role of government to provide things that individuals cannot do or will not do. He stated that he would like to see the Village move forward even if a tax increase is necessary.

Mayor Murphy pointed out that, if the Federal funding falls through and the Village took sole responsibility for making up for that shortfall, it would increase the average Woodridge tax bill by one third (1/3). He stated that this increase is unacceptable to him and in terms of equity to other tax payers in Woodridge.

Trustee Brandt noted that the Village could follow other avenues than property taxes such as amusement taxes or increases in fees. He stated that he has always been able to provide funding suggestions for the proposals he makes to the Board.

Trustee Frank stated that she is uncomfortable in moving forward with this project if there is no cap to the amount of money that the Village would have to contribute to this project. She stated that, if the Village's portion is too large, then it would be unfair and inequitable to the residents of the Village that do not live in this area.

Mayor Murphy noted that, while the Village will not have a complete picture of the cost of the project, they will have the total project cost information provided by the bid before having to make a final decision.

Trustee Curran agreed with the Mayor that a big portion of the total project cost will be determined by the bid. He stated that the Village will be waiting on the approval of Federal Funding when they are required to make a decision. He stated that he is confident in the staff and their ability to find additional funding sources and that he feels that the Village should move forward with the project.

Mayor Murphy asked the Board to give their preference on question 3.

Trustee Curran indicated yes

Trustee Beavers indicated yes.

Trustee Frank indicated yes, but specified that she would need a cap to the amount of funding that the Village would provide and she stated that she does not know if she is comfortable with \$200,000.

Trustee Brandt noted that no option should be taken off of the table at this time and that it is important to get the wall built. He stated that, if this requires a cost sharing, then his answer is yes.

Ms. Halik noted that staff will take the information provided this evening and move forward from here. She stated that staff will have to come back to the Board for additional direction on the cost sharing agreement if it is necessary.

Mayor Murphy thanked the residents, Rocco Zuccherro and Jim Durkin for their attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Murphy entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Trustee Beavers and seconded by Trustee Curran.

Ayes: Trustees Beavers, Brandt, Curran and Frank

Nays: None

Absent: Trustees Kagann and Wood

All in favor: Motion is approved

The Board Workshop of the Mayor and Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:40 p.m.