

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 10, 2008**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Larry Yandow (Village President); Deb Billado, John Lajza, George Tyler, Peter Gustafson.
ADMINISTRATION: Dave Crawford, Village Manager.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Village President, Larry Yandow, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

There were no changes to the agenda.

III. GUESTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Chittenden Solid Waste District Budget
Tom Moreau, CSWD General Manager, reviewed highlights of the FY09 CSWD operating and capital budget. The budget is higher than last year (21%) increase because CSWD may take over the compost operation at the Intervale so there is money (\$1.2 million) in a contingency account. It is anticipated there will be \$1.2 million in revenues from the compost operation to offset the cost of operation. Also, CSWD plans to do three studies, one on organics, one on franchising, and one on biosolids. Mr. Moreau briefly outlined each study. The capital budget includes money for the landfill site, however, it is anticipated CSWD may expend the landfill funds at the next board meeting based on a recent court decision. The capital budget also includes money for maintenance at the Drop Off Centers and equipment and process updates.

Larry Yandow expressed frustration at the delay in the landfill project due to the lawsuit against CSWD by a group of residents in Williston. Essex Junction has to bear the brunt of many tractor trailer trucks filled with trash traveling through Five Corners each day, stated Trustee Yandow. Tom Moreau acknowledged the frustration, noting CSWD is working hard to resolve the matter. The Town of Williston defended the host town agreement which was part of the lawsuit as well. John Lajza commented positively on the environmental standards upheld by CSWD in conscientiously monitoring the existing unlined closed landfill in Williston to prevent leaching into the river, and the planned state of the art landfill which will be under their watch. George Tyler spoke in support of the planned studies mentioned by Mr. Moreau. Tom Moreau observed the municipal waste business has gone from a garbage industry to a resource industry. CSWD made over \$800,000 at the MRF due to sale of commodities. Positive comment was made on the compost program and the executive summary of the budget provided to municipalities.

MOTION by Deb Billado, SECOND by George Tyler, to approve the FY09 budget proposed by CSWD in the amount of \$9,140,763. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

2. Taft Street Project

Residents of Taft Street in attendance included:

Jerry and Conni Rafoul, 9 Taft Street

Michael Lalancette, 5 Taft Street

Stephen and Sharon Wille Padnos, 6 Taft Street

Keith and Pam Blake, 10 Taft Street

Jade Wolfe, 1 Taft Street

Margaret, Alan, and Matt Reed, 12 Taft Street

Michael Bleau, 11 Taft Street

Dave Crawford reviewed impacts on the budget (basic expenses increasing, decrease in tax dollars from IBM) and efforts by the Board to cut expenses (deferring purchases). In sum, the Village does not have the revenue stream it has had in the past. The Board is wrestling with how to do outstanding projects within existing financial constraints. With regard to Taft Street, review of how the street compares to other in the village, potential impacts of future development, and repair alternatives need to be considered. The condition of Taft Street is ranked “very poor”. The street is in the worst condition of all streets in the village. Reconstruction of the street was set in 2006, but not done. There are other streets in the village ranked “fair” or “poor”. There is potential for the high school to develop some of the land by Taft Street (no plans made as yet, just exploratory work being done). This should be kept in mind when deciding on what to do on the street. The area is zoned residential with an education overlay.

Rick Hamlin, Village Engineer, reviewed the current condition of Taft Street and showed models of the streetscape under different repair scenarios:

1. Full reconstruction with sidewalk on one side, new roadbed and new curbs. Construction cost is \$370,000.
2. Full reconstruction with Public Works removing the existing curb and sidewalk. Cost is \$358,000.
3. Full reconstruction except leave sidewalk on north side of road as is (no repair). Cost is \$307,000.
4. Full reconstruction except no curbing on street, sidewalk on one side (like an historic village street). Cost is \$327,000.
5. Full reconstruction except leave sidewalk on north side and no curbs. Cost is \$275,000.
6. Grind up old pavement, re-crown and resurface the road (do nothing to the curbs, sidewalks, or road base). Cost is \$40,000.
7. Apply paving overlay only (do nothing to curbs, sidewalks, road base, or existing pavement). Cost is \$36,000.

Mr. Hamlin briefly explained the insulating foam that would be used in the roadbed to keep frost movement to a minimum rather than doing a traditional roadbed rebuild on the road. All repair options include storm water drainage except the grinding and overlay options. The cost of the sidewalk is approximately \$50,000. Sidewalks are concrete in the

village because asphalt did not last long enough. There was brief discussion of paving materials.

There was discussion of the average lifespan of the resurfacing application. Rick Hamlin said he would not promote this approach because the sub-grade of the road is where the problem lies and that is not being addressed by resurfacing. Dave Crawford noted the life expectancy with the shave/shim option is short (five to eight years) compared to reconstruction (probably not have to be done again especially with the low traffic volume on the road). Residents noted Taft Street was re-topped eight years ago and the pavement started to break up within two years. The worst part of the street is at the intersection with Main Street. Taft Street was built in 1985 to village standards at the time which required 16" of gravel base topped with 2.5" of pavement. The soils are heavy clay. The road is 30' wide, curb to curb. The standard road width in the village is 28' (some roads are 24'). Narrowing the road will save some money. If the road is narrowed to less than 28' the curbs should be removed, advised Mr. Hamlin. A narrow road will promote slower speeds. Also, sidewalks may not be necessary (or one sidewalk may be adequate) because the street is residential and a cul-de-sac with low traffic.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM TAFT STREET RESIDENTS

Keith Blake stressed the road needs to be done right so the problems do not return three or four years in the future. Removing the curbs is fine provided drainage is properly installed. Mr. Blake noted the Tech Center is seeking to build a few houses only. Another resident added each house takes a couple of years to complete. Trustee Lajza observed knowing what is to happen on the street in the future will have an impact on the decision for the repair work. Perhaps some costs can be covered by the developer. Mr. Blake acknowledged money is tight, but the project needs to be done right and if done right the road will be able to handle the trucks from the school's project. Taft Street was to be redone two years ago. The street is in the poorest condition in the village. Residents of Taft Street are taxpayers like everyone else and have been very patient. To do a band-aid repair will be a slap in the face. All the residents on the street except those who are away are present. There is agreement that the least expensive reconstruction option is acceptable. John Lajza acknowledged input from residents is valued and there is agreement the street is in the worst condition, but there may be alternatives, such as rebuilding the first 300' where the major problem exists and overlaying the rest of the road.

There was mention of the impact on property value with/without curbs on the street (no impact because appraisals are based on the square footage of the house, not street amenities), and parking on the street/lawn if there are no curbs.

Peg Reed urged the Board not to wait on the school's plans. The residents need relief from the poor condition of the road. Drainage by Main Street is bad creating ice build up and a dangerous situation in winter.

A resident recalled at a meeting three years ago the Village Manager indicated the money for the road work on Taft Street had been set aside. Dave Crawford confirmed there is

money in the Capital Fund, but some internal borrowing would be needed to cover the remaining need.

Mike Lalancette pointed out the houses on the street were built by students in the vocational trade school. The construction is high quality and should be showcased by the Village, but the street condition is a detraction.

Another resident stated if the road is rebuilt correctly it will hold up to future development. The Village has been lucky this year that no cars have slid into Main Street.

Mike Bleau echoed the comments by the other residents, but spoke in support of at least one sidewalk and curb on one side of the street because his children ride their bikes. Mr. Bleau said he would prefer no further development on the street.

3. Pearl Street Water Line Extension

Gabe and Diane Handy provided background information on the installation of an 8" water line on Pearl Street to meet the approval condition for fire protection and a sprinkler system in the 35-unit building on Pearl Street. The Village felt the existing four inch line was not adequate to supply fire protection to the building. Problems and increased costs were encountered (\$60,000 increased to \$174,000) with the 8" water line which will be installed along 840' of Pearl Street. Mr. Handy felt the burden of the water line should be shared since others will benefit from the installation. Options could include allowing the impact fees for the development to be applied as a credit toward the cost of the line and charging a flat fee to the individual lots which have the advantage of the 8" water line when they are sold. Mr. Handy pointed out the area is zoned for high density, but this will not happen without the water line being in place. It is likely once the water line is installed the single family lots will be sold to developers for other projects on the sites. There was further discussion of an assessment on the other eight properties to be connected to the water line. In the past the Village charged by the linear foot to connect to municipal water service, but the houses under discussion already have water service (via the existing four inch line) and the pressure is satisfactory. The 8" water line is mainly to serve the apartment building. Mr. Handy suggested another option is to bring the 8" line to the new fire hydrant on the street and tie into the apartment building only. Future developers (of the other lots) would bear the cost of tying into the 8" line themselves. This will reduce the cost of installing the water line to \$130,000, calculated Mr. Handy.

Dave Crawford noted the legal aspects of a tap-in assessment ordinance and process need to be researched. An ordinance will take at the very least 60 days to adopt and be implemented, and this is being very optimistic. There was further discussion of the request (i.e. Mr. Handy installs the 8" line to his property and the fire hydrant, but does not do the hook ups to the houses on the existing four inch line; the water line becomes the property of the village), legal issues, and connection by other residences. Mr. Crawford will further research the matter and report to the Board.

4. Comments from Public on Items not on Agenda

None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Appointments

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by George Tyler, to make the following appointments as presented:

Andrew Boutin – Essex Junction Planning Commission

Ron Gauthier & Jim Moody – Essex Junction Zoning Board

Dale Arango – CCMPO

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

It was noted there is still vacancy on the Regional Planning Commission for a representative and alternate from Essex Junction. George Tyler expressed gratitude to Tom Weaver for his service on the RPC. Tom Weaver is not seeking reappointment.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY09 Water and Sewer Rates

Dave Crawford noted the large user rate with IBM is presently being negotiated and not included in the recommended water/sewer rate.

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by John Lajza, to establish the water and sewer rates for residential use as presented, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

DISCUSSION: It was noted the minimum fee for 2,000 c.f. water and sewer usage for six months is \$86.06. Water rate is \$0.01949/c.f. Sewer rate is \$0.01422/c.f. Sanitation rate is \$0.00932 for a total of \$0.04304 (increase of 3.2%). Usage is going down (good water conservation practices). Rates are increasing to cover basic operating costs.

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

VI. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Verbal/Written Report

- Thank you note was received from residents of Countryside for the work done by Public Works.
- Budget transfers are to cover the Fire Department work and work in Lincoln Hall.
- CVE signed the noise agreement.

2. Trustees Meeting Schedule

- Meeting with Planning Commission set for June 26, 2008.
- New start time of Trustees meetings is 6:30 p.m.
- Work session meeting to be held each month (mainly for Executive Session) beginning on July 15th.
- July 1st meeting to cover economic development and ideas. Executive Session with the Planning Commission to discuss economic opportunities.

VII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS & CONCERNS

1. Board Member Comments

George Tyler commented positively on the clean up of the burned out property on Railroad Ave.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (5/27/08)
2. Approval of the Warrants
3. Accept Reading List (letters & communications)
 - Draft letter to Library Trustee and ad for replacement
 - Letter to CVE re: noise ordinance monitoring issues
 - Letter from CVE to neighbors/businesses re: 6/17/08 Neighborhood Meeting
 - Letter from CVE requesting noise waiver for additional fireworks at the fair
 - Letter to owner of 8 Railroad Ave.
4. Authorize Village Manager to sign Lincoln Hall leases
5. Authorize Village Manager to sell Fire Department Rescue Truck
6. FY08 budget transfers

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to accept the consent agenda as presented.

DISCUSSION: Dave Crawford explained the protocol for sale of fire equipment. It is felt the Fire Department got a fair price for the truck.

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Contractual Issues
2. Legal Issues
3. Personnel Issues

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Peter Gustafson, to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts, legal, and/or personnel matters. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:04 p.m.

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Executive Session was adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Deb Billado, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 p.m.

RScty: M.E.Riordan