

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
WITH
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 11, 2008**

TRUSTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Gustafson, John Lajza, Deborah Billado, George Tyler, John Lajza.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Waite-Simpson, Brenda Dawson-Crockett, Dave Riester, Charlee Day.

ADMINISTRATION: David Crawford, Village Manager
Mike Deweese, Superintendent of Schools
Judy Prince, Ass't. Superintendent of Schools
Grant Geisler, Operations Manager/CFO
Bruce Murdough, Director of Property Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Clemens

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Peter Gustafson called the Village Trustees meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PARK STREET SCHOOL

The Trustees and Prudential Committee members had a discussion regarding the Park Street School renovations. George Tyler asked what Park Street School will be used for and Linda Waite-Simpson indicated the top floor is currently occupied by high school's ACE Program and that the ground floor would be used for future Prudential Committee meetings and other CCSU meetings/overflow space as needed. George asked about the street end of the property, stating that the CCSU Administrators and the Planning Commission had agreed to revisit the site plan within a year to discuss future upgrades/aesthetics. Linda Waite-Simpson indicated that the voters set aside \$650,000 for renovations for Park Street School and at this time, those funds are nearly depleted. Work to date has been to get the building up to code both inside and out; replacement of the boiler/HVAC system; remodeling the restrooms to make them handicapped accessible; exterior drainage work to keep moisture away from the building foundation and installation of a handicapped accessible entrance ramp. With regard to using any other School District funds, the Board and Administration feel it is more appropriate to make capital investment in buildings where our students are located, such as Hiawatha which is in need of an elevator or several school district kitchens which need remodeling to comply with current Health Department code. Linda indicated that we would welcome and consider any financial offers to help. Deb Billado, referencing the current renovations in the Village at Five Corners/Park Street, said she would like to see the gap filled between Park Street and Park Street School. Linda indicated that administration has had conversations with the adjacent property owners to try to determine if they are willing to offer financial help to offset paving and ongoing maintenance of the driveway. John Lajza asked how the School District perceives itself as complying with zoning ordinances. Linda Waite-Simpson indicated she is not aware of any zoning issues. Deb

Billado asked if we could have Grant Geisler work with the Village Development Director in contacting adjacent property owners who would like to continue to use the school district property and who might be willing to help finance the paving and landscaping. Linda again indicated that we have fiscal limits regarding this project and at this time the big issue is who is going to help pay for the requested changes, but that the Prudential Committee would be more than willing to consider alternate means of financing the project. George Tyler asked the Prudential Committee what they saw as the long range plan for Park Street School, because that might help determine development strategies for the property. Linda indicated that as far as she knew, Park Street School would house the ACE Program long term and that CCSU has no plans to move any time in the near future. Deb Billado questioned if the \$650,000 budgeted is principal or interest monies. Linda indicated that the funds were set aside from the principal in the capital reserve fund. A discussion followed about the status of that fund and Linda indicated that at the PC's annual meeting several years ago, the community authorized the board to spend the principal from that account due to the possibility of losing the funds entirely had the unification of the school districts occurred. It was agreed the village manager and the development director will compile information about the boundary lines and the level of interest of the abutting property owners regarding mutually beneficial changes to the adjoining properties. The boards will have this information available before any further meetings between our two boards.

3. ESSEX JUNCTION RECREATION AND PARKS

Linda Waite-Simpson explained that under the advice of the council itself, EJRP Advisory Council has now been formed to provide advice directly to Recreation and Parks Department and is no longer considered a sub-committee of the Prudential Committee. Deb Billado expressed concerns that for the last seven years there have been a Village Trustee seated on the Advisory Committee and she had sent a letter to request being a part of the EJRP Advisory Council and was informed that they did not have a dedicated seat for a Trustee on the Council. Deb expressed concern about not having regular communications with the Recreation Department. Grant stated he was not aware that anyone had been turned down. It was decided that there was perhaps a misunderstanding and the village will send a letter to see if they could straighten out the miscommunication and continue to have a sitting member on the EJRP Advisory Council.

School-Village Agreement: Linda Waite-Simpson questioned if the Trustees continued to be interested in this agreement and re-formalizing it. John Lajza indicated the agreement expires in 2010 and they would like to keep an eye on it and continue to plan for the future. Linda replied that this had been researched during the municipal merger study and it was determined at that time to be cost neutral. Linda said since the Prudential Committee is a chartered school district with taxing authority, it is feasible to be a part of the Village school district but would not be legal in most other areas of the state.

Both the Trustees and the Prudential Committee agree that regular communication is ideal and necessary and agreed to meet again before budget season, possibly in December or January.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Deb Billado adjourned the Meeting of the Village Trustees at 7:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by David A. Crawford, Village Manager