

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Workshop of the President and the Board of Trustees
Held on Monday, December 22, 2008
In the Community Room**

Mayor Waldorf called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Mayor Waldorf, Trustee Dement, Trustee Fay, Trustee Lamb, Trustee Manning, and Trustee Racich. Absent: Trustee Vaupel. Also present: Don Bennett, Interim Village Administrator; Jim Harvey, Attorney; Michelle Gibas, Village Clerk; Traci Pleckham, Management Services Director; Allen Persons, Public Works Director; Michael Garrigan, Village Planner; and Kevin Greco, Acting Police Chief. There were approximately 20 persons in the audience.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS

Mayor Waldorf requested a moment of silence in honor of past Mayor Dick Selfridge.

TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Trustee Fay wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New year.

Trustee Dement asked the staff to gather and distribute information on warming centers and elderly checks.

WORKSHOP MEETING

#1 POSSIBLE FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Allen Persons stated that over the past month, the Village has been researching the possibility of receiving grant funding for needed public improvements. It is our understanding that while a formal program has not yet been established, our Federal and State Representatives would like a condensed list of projects that could be under construction within a short period of time. The Mayor has drafted a list of projects that are ready or will soon be ready for bidding if funding is available. Staff is seeking Board input on the draft letter. Mr. Allen Persons then reviewed the list of projects that can be bid immediately, bid in three months, bid in six months, and bid within a year.

Trustee Lamb stated that 143rd Street extension, a traffic signal at Essington and Route 126, water main on Naperville/Plainfield, and Riverfront improvements are priorities. Trustee Manning stated that 143rd Street is a priority. Trustee Dement stating that prioritizing projects is an excellent idea. He felt that priorities include a traffic signal at Essington and Route 126, reroute of Main Street to James, watermains on Main Street sized to future commercial needs, and the Riverfront projects. Trustee Racich stated that 143rd Street and the bridge construction is a priority. Trustee Fay asked to give consideration to residents having hardships to the draft.

Allen Persons stated that staff will move forward with sending out the letter and will keep everyone informed of the progress.

#2 FINANCIAL/BUDGET DISCUSSION

Don Bennett stated that the Department Directors made individual cuts to reduce the shortfall in revenues/expenses. However, these initial cuts have not brought the gap close enough to really address the financial condition of the Village. Staff is seeking direction. After hearing the Board's input, the staff can put together concepts and ideas and bring it back to the Board.

Trustee Dement stated that it is too premature to increase fees. Each department should be analyzed for things that are necessary and things that are not. Bring that information back to the Board so that a decision can be made. Some employees can possibly be put in different roles that could help spur commercial growth. He agrees with furlough days, but it should be acceptable to the employees.

Trustee Fay stated that the Village Board should be apprised of finances throughout the year. The Village Board needs to be involved with finances and the budget. He agreed with Trustee Dement regarding analyzing each department. He would rather see employees volunteer to work one day less rather than see lay-offs.

Trustee Lamb stated that the criteria that should be used to make the analysis is the impact on the residents, safety, and health services. The Village also needs to look at protecting Plainfield's future. Determine what is desirable versus what is necessary. Be careful about furloughs because of the impact on the residents. Don't sacrifice what the residents have value for. Bring this information back to the Board to make the final decisions.

Trustee Manning stated that he agreed with Trustee Lamb about preserving a high level of service and keep that in mind while looking at the budget. The Department Directors should bring that the information to the Board.

Trustee Racich stated that reductions are difficult and staff needs to give the Board suggestions and analysis each department. If the Village Board is asking the employees to take salary cuts, perhaps the Board should lead by example, we are all given stipends for attending meetings.

Don Bennett stated that the staff will analyze the departments and bring back the information to the Village Board at a Workshop in January.

There being no further business, on a motion from Trustee Dement and Seconded by Trustee Lamb, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Michelle Gibas, Village Clerk