

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 12, 2011, 5:00 P.M.

Staff: Dave Fieldman, Village Manager; Stan Balicki, Asst. Director Public Works; Jeff O'Brien, Planning Manager; Tom Dabareiner, Director of Community Development; Janene Cerulli, Public Relations Specialist; Mary Van Milligen, Management Intern

Commissioners: Marilyn Schnell, Sean Durkin, William Waldack

Commissioner Durkin called the meeting to order at 5:10.

Commissioner Schnell welcomed attendees.

Dave Fieldman presented the staff's recommendation for annexations and asked council for any questions and comments.

Commissioner Schnell: Will the NW area be put into the stormwater master plan and prioritized that way?

Dave Fieldman: At this point, staff does not believe there is an issue of a high priority level that would need to be included in the stormwater master plan.

Commissioner Schnell: Whether or not staff includes these properties in the stormwater master plan may set the tone for annexations in the future. Commissioner Schnell says the Village should have an all or nothing policy. If the streets are being prioritized in the roadway maintenance plan, stormwater should also be prioritized in a similar manner.

Commissioner Schnell: Village Square properties have private roads, etc. What happens if these properties want their private roads etc. to be part of the Village?

Dave Fieldman: Believes the Village current policy is to not accept private properties. If this became an issue, staff would provide council with the policy option of accepting private properties.

Commissioner Schnell: Is this meeting intended to get a policy recommendation from Council?

Resident: Lives on 39th and Glendenning and the cattails are growing higher than the cars; resident called but the cattails were only trimmed, not eliminated. Doesn't the Village know there is a product that can be sprayed on the cattails to eliminate them?

Commissioner Durkin: Please, this meeting will address Council questions first.

Commissioner Waldack: At this time, Commissioner Schnell has addressed his concerns.

Commissioner Durkin: Addresses whole audience - who is from which area?

NW Area – no questions

63rd and Springfield – no questions

Condos – no questions

Fairview (south of 63rd Street) – no questions

Commissioner Schnell: Concerning 39th and Glendenning, this area floods, upon annexation would maintenance needs be addressed? If maintenance needs exist outside DG jurisdiction what happens?

Dave Fieldman: If the issue lies outside Village jurisdiction, the Village would work to partner with areas outside Downers Grove to address the maintenance issue. Staff would look to Council to direct staff towards policy decision such as intergovernmental agreements.

Resident: Why hasn't Downers Grove taken care of the drainage problem on 39th?

Staff: A culvert was installed to address the problem last week.

Resident: How were the properties on 39th and Glendenning chosen for annexation?

Staff: The properties are eligible for involuntary annexation because they are wholly surrounded by the Village and less than 60 acres.

Resident: Are the properties on School St. being included in the annexation.

Staff: No.

Resident: Lives at 3848 Glendenning which is a property that is included in the involuntary annexation plan. Her property has drainage/flooding issues that a contractor has estimated at \$25,000 and renders half of her property useless. This problem area is made worse because the Village named the property next to hers a wetland area and it cannot be fixed.

Dave Fieldman: Could be a localized floodplain; staff will look at your issue and speak to you after the meeting about the specifics.

Resident: Is the committee aware of the agreement the Fairview Homeowners Association has made with the Downers Grove Park District? Will the properties be double taxed?

Dave Fieldman: The Park District is an independent autonomous organization. Annexation should not affect the agreement with the Park District but we cannot speak for or make policies for the park district.

Resident: Fairview Home Owners Association would like more historical information about how these properties came to be eligible for annexation. They are concerned the annexation of these five properties is going to allow the Village to envelope their area.

Commissioner Schnell: Remember these properties are being annexed because they are wholly surrounded by the Village.

Dave Fieldman: This process is based on a fair and transparent process. The Fairview Fire Protection District cannot be annexed at this time due to state law; the properties are not wholly surrounded by the Village or under 60 acres. Rather, the Village wants to work with people in the residents of this area to ensure payment for fire services.

Resident: My home isn't being annexed, am I going to receive a letter to say we're not going to be annexed?

Commissioner Durkin: No letter regarding annexation will be distributed to properties that are not being considered for annexation.

Resident: The North Fairview Area is presenting a petition with 200 signatures opposing annexation. We are satisfied with current services.

Commissioner Durkin: This process is open and transparent. The only issue at this time with the Fairview Fire Protection District is the outstanding bill. Bad economic times have led the Village to need to collect on outstanding bills.

Resident: Why didn't the Village of Downers Grove do due diligence in the beginning a collect on their bills?

Dave Fieldman: The issue of the Fairview Fire Protection District will be discussed with them during a separate meeting where all parties can be in attendance. He indicated the existing agreement was made prior to the State's adoption of property tax caps.

Resident: What if the residents of the homes being annexed do not receive the letter because they don't reside there or are gone?

Dave Fieldman: Letter will be sent out May 18.

Resident: What about pre-annexation agreements that people sign in my area if they hook up to Village water system?

Dave Fieldman: Even with a pre-annexation agreement, homes can only be annexed if they meet the criteria – wholly surrounded by the Village and under 60 acres.

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Resident: Where can I find the criteria for annexation?

Dave Fieldman: In the report provided here at the meeting and on the Village website.

Durkin: Commissioner Durkin asked if any attendees had further questions. Thank you for coming we hope your questions have been answered and staff will be happy to talk to you on an individual basis.