

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

*Minutes of Public Meeting
October 19, 2004*

Village of Downers Grove
801 Burlington Avenue
Committee Room

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioner Martin Tully
Commissioner Marilyn Schnell

STAFF: David H. Barber, P.E., Director of Public Works
Mike Millette, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works – Engineering
Stan Balicki, Assistant Director of Public Works – Operations
Scott Barr, Staff Engineer

VISITORS: None

Commissioner Tully called the Public Services Committee meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2004 Minutes - were approved, as presented, on motion by Commissioner Schnell, seconded by Commissioner Tully. Motion passed by voice vote of 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Review of Pavement Maintenance Program – Mr. Barber noted that the purpose of this item is to provide the Public Services Committee with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the presentation on the pavement maintenance program from the August 17 meeting.

In light of the ongoing paving work this year, Commissioner Schnell wanted to discuss the issue of how streets are chosen for resurfacing. In particular, Commissioner Schnell was interested in understanding how staff decides to terminate work at certain intersections. The resurfacing work on 39th Street was used as an example as work was terminated at Saratoga though a short section of 39th extends west of Saratoga. Mr. Millette explained that it was a budget decision since the small segment of 39th Street west of Saratoga is a dead end and carries little traffic compared to the portion of 39th between Saratoga and Highland Avenue. This is a general rule of thumb.

Commissioner Schnell was also interested in the instructions that the Village gives to contractors. More specifically, Commissioner Schnell was concerned about the driving and safety practices of the contractor's employees. There are some concerns about this year's contractor and their vehicles speeding or braking hard. Mr. Millette noted that the Village specifications instruct the contractor to abide by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) regulations as well as local traffic laws. Some of this behavior is a natural result of the low bid process as time is money for contractors. Staff does not condone this and will stop it if it is witnessed. The Engineering staff also relies on the eyes and ears of residents to help control things as well. Mr. Barber commented that the contractor performs work in multiple locations daily and it is difficult for the Village inspectors to be everywhere. Mr. Barr stated that short-term inconveniences such as blocking intersections will occur and cannot be avoided.

Mr. Barber suggested that a springtime DGTV show on the pavement program would be completed to better communicate the aspects of the work to our customers. Mr. Millette agreed that getting information out is important to make people understand all that is involved. Further, he noted that changes could be made to future contract specifications to help alleviate some of the inconveniences, but that these changes would come at a cost. This may take away from the quantity of road resurfacing that can be done. Mr. Barber commented that balancing the demands of project with the costs involved is a key consideration. This year for example the Village did specify nighttime crack sealing downtown. In other cases, the Village may decide to deal with short-term inconveniences. Commissioner Schnell agreed that letting our residents know what to expect in a road project is important. Commissioner Tully further commented that the way questions are phrased for the DGTV show is also important.

Commissioner Schnell asked how long it would take to catch up on delayed roadwork given current funding levels. Mr. Barr replied that it would take between 7 to 10 years to catch up assuming the current funding continues. Mr. Barber noted that besides scheduled maintenance, some streets such as 39th Street between Highland and Fairview should probably be constructed to wider cross sections to deal with increasing traffic demand. Several dead ends also probably need to be reviewed, as their current layout does not provide proper access for fire vehicles. Staff intends to identify these as CIP projects for consideration. Mr. Barber also believes that the Village needs to reexamine standards for road width and cross sections. Maple Avenue and Cornell Avenue were highlighted as examples of roads that need to be considered.

Commissioner Tully asked the question of how much should be spent on the resurfacing program each year to keep the streets in good condition. Mr. Millette responded that \$3.8 million per year for 10 years is necessary. Funding is right at \$2.0 million this year. Commissioner Tully asked if it was possible to look forward 10 years at current expenditures versus 3.8 million referencing industry best practices. Mr. Millette replied that the 70% rideability factor is considered an industry norm and that the \$3.8 million per year is based on this. Commissioner Tully was interested in the effects of intermediate funding amounts and asked if this could be shown. It is unclear what the community will support.

Commissioner Schnell asked about the most the Village has spent on roadway maintenance in one year. Mr. Barr stated that about \$2 million has been the highest expenditure for one year. Commissioner Tully asked if the charts were in actual dollars or adjusted for inflation. Mr. Millette responded that the charts were not adjusted for inflation and Commissioner Tully commented that there is a need to see the numbers adjusted. Mr. Barber also noted that there is a need to factor in the number of lane miles or total square yards of pavement in the Village of Downers Grove. This has increased over time and should be considered. Mr. Barber commented that staff could get the Public Services something on this by January. Commissioner Tully would like to see the contrast between adjusted dollars and miles of roadway over time.

Commissioner Tully noted that the roadway maintenance program is only part of the 5-year capital budget. Mr. Barber advised that staff is compiling a full list of potential capital projects this week. Commissioner Tully stated that a similar discussion needs to take place with other capital areas such as fleet, water and stormwater. Mr. Barber suggested that if the Public Services Committee plans to review all capital projects, they might need to meet before every regular Council meeting not including Workshops. Commissioner's Tully and Schnell agreed.

Mr. Barber noted that for the coming construction season the Public Works Department will be making more use of the Village's Internet home page with weekly project updates including photos. He believes that as staff we need to do a better job in this area. Commissioner Tully commented that a basic project log or scrolling project history is a good idea for the web site and was done at one time by the Economic Development Department. Mr. Barber noted that time to do this is

always difficult but that pictures are important. He feels that we can improve customer service by doing this.

Commissioner Tully asked if staff anticipates greater utilization of the Village's milling machine this year. Mr. Barber advised that Mr. Balicki would provide a report after this year's in-house paving operations are complete.

AMR Program – Commissioner Tully noted that the AMR program report answered his questions. He followed up by asking if the payback period was based on the debt retirement. Mr. Barber replied that it was more of a theoretical calculation. Commissioner Tully would like to know what the balance of the bond proceeds is and the status of the debt retirement. Mr. Barber stated that staff could get a report to the Committee. Commissioner Tully closed by noting that personnel expenses did not change much as some staff support is needed for the AMR program while other positions such as meter readers are no longer necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barber asked the Committee about the recently established Council goal for the Village's bus system. He finds it somewhat inconsistent with previous goal of increasing commuter ridership by 50% within 12 months of the opening of the parking deck. He is trying to set up a dialogue between the Transportation Advisory Commission and the Village Council on this. Commissioner Tully commented that some on the Village Council looked at next budget cycle while others looked at 12 months after opening of deck, and he can see the confusion on Mr. Barber's part.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

Commissioner Schnell made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Tully. Motion passed by voice vote of 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(as transcribed by tape)

/s/ Stan Balicki
Stan Balicki, Recording Secretary