

**MINUTES OF LONG RANGE PLANNING
VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

August 20, 2013

Mayor Martin Tully called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m. in the Committee Room at Village Hall, and welcomed everyone to the third long range planning meeting.

Council Members Present: Mayor Martin Tully; Commissioners Sean P. Durkin, Geoff Neustadt, Bob Barnett, Becky Rheintgen, David S. Olsen, Greg José

Staff Present: Dave Fieldman, Village Manager; Mike Baker, Deputy Village Manager; Enza Petrarca, Village Attorney; Judy Buttny, Finance Director; Nan Newlon, Public Works Director; Allison Deitch, Management Analyst; Doug Kozlowski, Communications Director; Tom Dabareiner, Community Development Director; April Holden, Village Clerk

The Mayor introduced Village Manager Dave Fieldman for tonight's presentation.

Dave Fieldman, Village Manager, said the long range plan will direct actions over the next 18 to 24 months and will be financially driven. Tonight staff is looking for Council direction to finalize the long range plan.

The Manager said the long range plan is outcome driven, financially focused and aligned with the Council election process.

Mr. Fieldman then enumerated the goals for 2013-2015:

- Steward of financial and environmental sustainability
- Exceptional municipal services
- Top quality infrastructure
- Strong, diverse local economy
- Continual innovation

The key themes guiding Village operations are:

- Improve residential engagement

- Take a lead role in partnership opportunities
- Increase and demonstrate community value of Village services
- Support the Comprehensive Plan

Key issues and solutions include:

- Loss/reduction of state shared revenues
- Infrastructure maintenance gap
- Facilities sustainability plan

Action items as prioritized by the Council are:

High Priority

- Facilities sustainability plan
- Continue to improve resident engagement
- Develop an employee compensation strategy
- Lead role in partnerships and cooperation
- Enforce Sign Ordinance compliance deadline
- Negotiate collective bargaining agreements

Medium Priority

- Explore options for methadone clinic relocation
- Consider amendments to the fowl regulations
- Update the new sidewalk construction plan
- Develop a standard for right-of-way improvements
- Consider amendments to stormwater management regulations
- Construct gateway signs
- Lead improvements at DMMC
- Continue to implement recommendations of the Downtown Parking Plan
- Update policy on sidewalks for Ogden Avenue

Low Priority

- Create emergency response volunteer corps
- Consider creation of leaf pick-up program
- Construct a green energy project
- Consider licensing mobile ice cream vendors

The Mayor asked Commissioner José to start the conversation.

Commissioner José said this plan captures what Council discussed at the last meeting. He noted that the items are prioritized as high, medium or low. This gives us a good idea of where we have been as a Village, steps taken to put us on a more sustainable path and to address

infrastructure needs for which Council has a fiduciary responsibility. Key items demonstrate that we are doing just that. We must take the same steps with regard to facilities.

Commissioner José said he looks forward to the Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) strategic plan. There are economic challenges. We want redevelopment and have to figure out how to do that on Ogden Avenue and other places. It is important to have a strong, diverse local economy that continues to grow. We need to give the EDC the tools they need in order to grow the local economy.

Commissioner José said he looks forward to the implementation of this plan over the next two years.

Commissioner Rheintgen asked as to proceeding through the list as the items in the categories are not rank ordered.

Mr. Fieldman said the high priority action items will be given highest priority and staff is already investing time and resources. The medium priority action items are important and staff will look for opportunities to move these forward. The low priority action items are not likely to be pursued.

Commissioner Rheintgen said the plan captures the comments made. She noted that the Village has invested between \$250,000 and \$450,000 annually in facilities maintenance since 2010. It is not fiscally responsible to continue to do so. It is important to address Village facilities. She emphasized the importance of community values.

Commissioner Durkin discussed using the 2015 bonding capacity. The plan addresses the third and final bond issuance in 2015 for \$25 million. He asked for an explanation of how this money will be used.

Mr. Fieldman said staff will amend the report to address this question. The 2015 bond is the solution to the infrastructure maintenance gap. The original plan was to issue three bonds for stormwater. When the stormwater utility was implemented, a revenue source was put in place that will be used for bond issuances necessary for stormwater investments. That allows us to take the existing revenues that were earmarked for the 2015 bond issuance and focus them on maintenance efforts. Those revenues will shift from debt issuance support to maintenance support. The 2015 bond capacity will be used for the water system and stormwater.

Commissioner Durkin said the report illustrates the need to address Village facilities. He suggested looking at lease buyback options. He said he supports the action items and feels that the structure is a good one. He said he has a serious issue regarding the licensing of the mobile ice cream vendors. He feels this item will take the least amount of time of all the items and he is worried about the public safety aspect of this.

Commissioner Neustadt said that with regard to exceptional municipal services, we have to provide municipal services and we are the only ones that will do this. It is a constant goal. Many items will always be high priorities. Two very important items to him are the lead role in partnerships and cooperation, and facilities sustainability plan. He spoke of the process of the long range plan. This allows us to have future plans. It gives staff the room to get things done. He looks forward to the next step.

Commissioner Olsen said one of the huge priorities continues to be economic development as it relates to revenue. He looks forward to the EDC bringing forward their strategic plan about how to further strengthen our commercial, industrial and sales tax base. With respect to facilities, he is looking forward to an open, deliberative process that fully considers the cost, as well as the cost of various options and being open to creative options such as the lease buyback. It is crucial to engage the public in this process. This must be done in a fiscally responsible manner.

Regarding prioritizing the action items, Commissioner Olsen said he is concerned about perception. Although the items are not in any particular order within the priority categories, people may assume the ordering of the items connotes priority. He asked that it be specifically denoted in the plan that the items are not in any particular order so as to set appropriate expectations for the public.

Commissioner Olsen said he strongly believes that considering amendments to stormwater management regulations is a high priority. Due to the current level of development it behooves the Council to think about this in a shorter time period. He is not recommending any particular course of action at this time, but consideration of amendments to stormwater management regulations to make them more restrictive than County regulations is something that should be looked at and in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Barnett said that in regard to the action items, he is uncomfortable with the ambiguity. We have to be flexible and creative to take opportunities as they come; however, items have made previous lists and have not been accomplished. He discussed prioritizing items within the ranges. There were four items in the high priority section, and one in the medium priority section that are not discretionary. He would like to see the items modified and perhaps have the non discretionary items in the high category and then actually prioritize all of the action items in the medium and low priority categories.

The Manager said the only item required is the collective bargaining agreements. This has to be done. All other action items are a choice and can be prioritized.

Commissioner Barnett said two other items are public engagement and lead role in partnerships.

The Mayor agreed that collective bargaining agreements have to be done. Some of the items are difficult to prioritize. Further, some items will take longer than others to accomplish.

The Mayor discussed the Sign Ordinance which is listed as a high priority action item.

The Manager said any amendments to the Sign Ordinance need to be brought forward quickly.

Commissioner Olsen said the treatment of digital signs is an issue for further discussion.

The Mayor said some of the action items are priorities due to practical issues such as deadlines. Some are specific items such as enforcement of the Sign Ordinance, and some are actually categories, such as resident engagement, which have a number of tasks to be undertaken by staff.

The Manager said that from the staff's perspective there are no apparent issues in the way this is prioritized. The rank ordering of action items changes the staff's ability to be flexible and nimble.

With respect to developing standards for right-of-way improvements, the Mayor said it is important to know how much can be accomplished with existing funds and how much would represent new funding. The Mayor asked that the action item to lead improvements at DMMC be changed to leverage membership in DMMC. We are talking about leveraging our membership in DMMC to generate partnerships to benefit from the wealth of information and resources of other governments to benefit our community as well as improve the organization overall.

The Mayor said he is comfortable with the action items in the current priority categories, but he is mindful that opportunities may present themselves to move items up or down the list.

Mr. Fieldman proposed a quarterly staff report to provide an update to the Council on the status of items.

Commissioner Barnett said he is not trying to constrict staff in any way. The issue for him is that of expectations. The question is one of messaging and he would like to see that done more clearly. He would like to convey the intention of the Council in terms of putting the action items in order.

Commissioners Rheintgen, José and Neustadt said they would support giving staff the flexibility to work on the action items as opportunities present themselves.

Commissioner Olsen said he would support general prioritization.

Tom LeCren, 545 Chicago, suggested adding a paragraph to the report summarizing staff's

flexibility to work on items as opportunities arise.

Marge Earl agreed with the need for flexibility. She would like to look at increasing the tree canopy.

Bill Waldack said he supports the ice cream vendor licensing. The issue of senior transportation can be addressed during budget hearings. He said human services are not on the list. He disagrees with the priorities.

Jo Potts, 216 Lincoln, said she interpreted this as everything is being worked on. She said she felt ice cream vendors are an important issue.

Bill White said he likes the idea of quarterly reports as it helps to focus staff.

Dr. Kari Cremascoli, District 58 superintendent, said she appreciated tonight's participation and the priority to nurture partnerships.

Mr. Fieldman said staff will make changes to the report. The report will be on a future Council agenda.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their comments. He noted that there were good comments and conversation, and good direction was given.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Tully adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.