

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

**August 19, 2014**

Mayor Martin Tully reconvened the meeting at 7:49 p.m. in the Committee Room at Village Hall, and welcomed everyone to the last of the long range plan meetings.

Council Members Present: Mayor Martin Tully; Commissioners Sean 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; Nan Newlon, Public Works Director; Stan Popovich, Planning Manager; Allison Deitch, Performance Manager; Doug Kozlowski, Communications Director; April Holden, Village Clerk

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

Dave Fieldman, Village Manager, said tonight's meeting will focus on the status of the 2014/15 action items. He displayed a chart representing the work plan in terms of length of time, stating that implementation is occurring over an 18-month period from January 2014 through May 2015. Tonight, Council is being asked to review and modify, if necessary, the priority action items to be addressed from now until May 2015. Work has been undertaken on 14 of the 15 items and all action items are proceeding on schedule. No new projects have been identified. Mr. Fieldman provided a list of the projects and their status to date.

Mayor Tully said he does not disagree with any project on the list. He noted that it was this Council that came to a consensus as to what is on the list. He would add a project with respect to mobile food vendor licenses.

Commissioner Durkin noted that there is actually a children's book all about food trucks.

Commissioner Olsen said he is very pleased with the staff progress. It is important to stay on track and he is reluctant to add any new projects.

Commissioner Neustadt asked when staff anticipates a new priority action list.

Mr. Fieldman said he anticipates that to happen after the new Council is sworn in; in June or July.

Commissioner Neustadt asked if the items pertaining to collective bargaining, leadership role in partnerships and leveraging our membership in DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) could come off.

Mr. Fieldman said the leadership role as it relates to partnerships could come off as it is part of the day-to-day activities. He recommended that the item regarding leveraging our membership in DMMC stay on the list as a significant amount of staff time is invested in this activity and it is not a day-to-day activity.

Mr. Fieldman noted that communication is also an on-going activity, but staff is working on a project that will continue through 2015.

Commissioner Neustadt said that this process and review allows everyone to see where we were, where we are, and where we are going. Updates are important to him. The list is good. He added that the concept of the food truck ordinance is interesting and he would like to hear staff's suggestions; however, he does not think it rises to the level of a high priority action item. He would like to see a timeline for this matter.

Mr. Fieldman said the ordinance is easy to write as long as there is agreement, but it will take time to set the policy if there are discussions about the details.

Commissioner Barnett said he was unhappy with the time it took to pass the hen ordinance. He feels this list is stagnant and we are not doing the best by our community by having a stagnant list. He would like to know what it would take to do 35 items instead of the 15 listed here. He said he feels the Council is in the same spot they were about six month ago. He thinks the Council is not doing a good job, and he sees little purpose in this meeting.

The Mayor said a big issue is to get consensus. Council should set good policy and then get out of staff's way.

Commissioner Barnett said Council is not doing enough if this is the limit of what we are doing. He would like to seriously talk about what it would take to get two or three times as much completed.

The Mayor noted that adding projects involves new revenue streams, more personnel and more facilities.

Commissioner Barnett said there may be tradeoffs, but it does not necessarily require more revenue.

Commissioner Neustadt asked if Council can get more information as to what it would take to do more projects.

The Mayor said Council needs to know what those projects would be. The projects need to be identified.

Commissioner Barnett said the conversation has not been extended to add more projects. He believes the items on the list should be changing.

Commissioner Olsen said his understanding was Council identified priority items for a two-year period and that the purpose of this meeting is to check in on how we are accomplishing the projects we set forth. He is pleased with the progress. He noted that these are projects that take a long time to finish. The issue of food trucks will involve community engagement. He feels it is important to recognize the intent of the plan.

Commissioner Barnett said it is unreasonable to think that there is no room to write a food truck ordinance. He does not want to have multiple public hearings about food trucks, and the hen ordinance should have served as a learning lesson for the Council.

Mayor Tully said he felt everyone would have liked to have done things differently with respect to the hen ordinance, but there was a lot of public engagement. When the public expresses an interest, it takes time and Council must stop and listen. Council responded to the opinion of the community.

Mr. Fieldman said that if Council members want to change or add projects, staff will research it and will include it in the budget. The key to our success is understanding the scope of each project. Bring projects you want to add to the Manager first, and staff will determine the scope and plan.

Commissioner Barnett said the Village has been operating with fixed resources and Council has not had a conversation about that.

Mr. Fieldman said staff has tried to do the same amount of work with fewer resources.

Commissioner Barnett said there is a need to discuss service levels which prevents Council from pursuing some opportunities.

Commissioner Rheintgen said it is hard to explain to a citizen that they cannot have a stop sign because it is not on the list of priorities. She thinks Council does not have the opportunity to change quickly.

Commissioner Olsen disagreed and gave the example of the April flood and staff's response. Staff is able to react to needs of the community.

Commissioner Rheintgen said when the food truck issue was brought forward, Council told the petitioner that this item was not on the list.

Commissioner José said if Council told staff to do this, staff would report back if something had to come off the list in order to take on this new project.

Commissioner Barnett said people are reluctant to forward something because of the list. There is not enough flexibility.

Commissioner Olsen responded that staff is allowing Council to operate in a lean manner. We are controlling costs and the tradeoff is that we cannot do everything. He recommended continuing with the plan and move forward. He said he is pleased with the efforts to control costs and he is pleased that staff is mindful of the economic environment.

The Mayor said that if there have been lost opportunities, Council should identify them and talk about them. If a development opportunity is lost due to insufficient staff in the planning department, that needs to be identified. He noted that staff reacts on a day-to-day basis. Not all projects have the support of four Council members. It is not always a matter of capacity.

Commissioner Durkin noted that communication is an everyday event. The list can be scrubbed.

Mr. Fieldman said the Village has not been in a financial position to expand capacity. If Council wants to remove the constraint of resources, staff can show that in the budget.

The Mayor noted that Council and staff could stay within the same resources but review service levels.

Commissioner José said he thinks Commissioner Barnett is asking if staff is being efficient with the resources we have. Council should know if there are any opportunities to reorganize or exchange service levels so they can make a determination.

The Manager replied that this is done at the staff level. We have applied lean approaches to government whereby we are always running lean events to look at how we can maintain the service level and do it for less against ever increasing personnel costs.

The Mayor urged Council members to define items if they have them in terms of time, dollars and resources.

Commissioner Barnett commented that the cuts made several years ago were very reactionary, though appropriate. He feels Council is limiting itself to only look at existing revenues. Payroll costs will continue to increase. We need to recognize costs, as it costs more to get more done. He does not think Council is being realistic by not having the conversation about how to get more done.

Commissioner Olsen said expenses will go up and revenues will eventually have to go up. We have been able to control costs to deliver excellent services.

Commissioner Barnett said Council has not, to a great degree, entertained questions of value.

Mayor Tully said he takes issue with that comment. It has not been his experience and he does not think that staff operates that way. He said that if someone sees an opportunity, they speak up. If Council members have additional items that go beyond the capacity of staff, time and resources, they should bring it to the Manager and have a conversation about tradeoffs.

Commissioner Rheintgen said she has felt she cannot bring up an idea because something will have to come off the list.

Commissioner Barnett said the premise has been that new ideas will result in a tradeoff with high priority action items.

The Mayor said no one should feel they cannot bring up new ideas.

#### Public Comments

Genevieve Murphy asked if Council discussions are always contentious. She does not feel her thoughts are represented. She does not see a consensus or understanding of others. She is shocked and it is depressing. It is unfortunate to see this.

The Mayor said he did not see this as a contentious conversation, and is sorry that this is her perception. Sometimes Council is more passionate and vocal than at other times.

Commissioner Olsen said this conversation has been much different from those of the past year. He hopes everyone can continue to communicate more. Perhaps Council members have not been expressing their ideas, and he would like to hear them. He suggested additional dialogue. He asked if there are better ways to work together. It is a call to action to have residents feel this was contentious. He feels the Village is well-run and he is pleased with the work of the Council. He would like to move forward in a productive manner.

Commissioner Olsen said his assumption is that if he proposes something under New Business on the Council agenda, staff will let Council know if staff resources will need to be redirected to address the issue.

Mr. Fieldman said that is exactly what is done. Staff does not set the workload. Staff talks about setting expectations and using resources. It is not about controlling, as much as having everyone on the same page in terms of priorities.

Tom LeCren, 545 Chicago, suggested that Council consider a retreat before the budget process starts. He feels the purpose of tonight's meeting was lost.

The Mayor agreed that a retreat is overdue.

Commissioner Rheintgen asked about the communication project and whether it will include a mobile app.

Mr. Fieldman responded affirmatively and said Council will see this in the budget.

Commissioner Rheintgen then discussed exploring options for the methadone clinic.

Mr. Fieldman said the range is from voluntary to involuntary options. Staff could go to the business owner and start the process if directed by Council to do so.

Commissioner José asked as to the status of the stormwater management regulations and whether there is an opportunity to accelerate this item.

Mr. Fieldman said staff has researched this matter. This project is to consider whether the Village should change its regulations based on the County's regulations. The opportunity to accelerate this involves changing the review process.

Mayor Tully asked Council members if they wanted to remove any items not yet finished. The Commissioners did not recommend removing any items.

The Mayor suggested that staff move forward with discussions regarding the methadone clinic issue and Council agreed.

The Mayor asked that the Commissioners provide the Mr. Fieldman with any new items by Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

There being no further discussion at this time, Mayor Tully thanked those in attendance, and adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.