

**MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
JUNE 26, 2008, MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF WHOLE**

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Dominguez called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Committee Members Present

Ed Hettermann
Harold May
William Sandell
John Huemann
Mary Lou Hutchinson
Bruce Bennett
Kim Husby

Others Present

Village Engineer Tim Hartnett
Attorney Michael Smoron
Chief Ken Rydberg

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - Chairman Dominguez informed the Committee that an ordinance will come before the Board formalizing the “No Thru Truck Traffic” restriction on Fairview Avenue and adding the same restriction to Broadway. McHenry Township Road District has made the request due to concerns about heavy truck traffic traveling on Broadway. Committee Member Sandell stated that he does not see similar damage to the roadway on Broadway as was experienced on Fairview Avenue. He questioned if the restriction is necessary. Committee Member Huemann urged that we should make certain that McHenry Township intends to place the same restriction on their section of Broadway. The Committee agreed that more information was necessary before a decision could be made.

JOHNSBURG ROAD IMPROVEMENT – Tim Hartnett reviewed road improvements proposed by McHenry County for Johnsburg Road from Route 31 to Chapel Hill Road. No changes are proposed for the intersection of Route 31 and Johnsburg Road. A three lane rural section will then continue east to Spring Grove Road. The hill just before Riverside Drive will be lowered approximately two to three feet to meet federal requirements. Traffic signalization will be included at Riverside and Johnsburg Road and the left turn lane will be extended to permit additional stacking of vehicles. The Board questioned how pedestrians will cross the creek by Riverside Drive since the bridge will not be widened. The Committee discussed the possibility of incorporating a pedestrian bridge in the future. The Committee agreed that sidewalks or pedestrian trails should be implemented throughout the project area. Committee Member Hettermann suggested that a six foot paved path be considered in the rural section separate from the roadway if more cost effective. Committee Member Huemann stated that the ideal situation would be to include a sidewalk on one side of the road and a paved path for bikes on the opposite side. After further discussion, the Committee agreed that inclusion of sidewalks and or paved paths should be requested to move pedestrian and bicycle traffic from Route 31 to the downtown area. The three lane section will continue west towards Chapel Hill Road. Ivy Lane does not include a right turn lane as traffic studies do not support it. Curb and gutter will be used from Spring Grove Road to Chapel Hill Road. Traffic signals will be added at Spring Grove Road with turn lanes.

Mr. Hartnett reviewed four different options considered for the intersection of Johnsburg and Chapel Hill Road. Two of the options incorporate signalization while the other two options incorporate the use of a roundabout. Mr. Hartnett explained that the speed limit within a roundabout is typically 15mph. One roundabout includes three roads (three legged) coming into the roundabout while the other includes four (four legged). The Committee agreed that the three legged option would not permit St. Johns Avenue to remain open for full access. The Committee then viewed a movie of how roundabouts function. Committee Members Hutchinson, Hettermann, Bennett supported the four legged roundabout. Committee Members May and Sandell preferred the signalization option. Committee Member May stated that the Public Works Committee and Public Works staff recommended the signalization option. Committee Member May stated that he hopes the Village does not support the roundabout simply to be the first community with a roundabout. Committee Member Hutchinson stated that she grew up in areas where they were used all of the time and they functioned very well and did not pose an imposition to pedestrians. Tim Hartnett explained that the Village needs to think of how the intersection will function in the future with the other traffic improvement changes that will occur. Committee Member Hettermann stated that the traffic signalization improvements at Spring Grove Road and Riverside Drive along with the new traffic signal at Chapel Hill and Bay Road will help to control the amount of traffic going through the intersection of Chapel Hill Road and Johnsburg Road at a given time. Mr. Hartnett explained that there is a potential savings of \$300,000 utilizing the roundabout option. Chairman Huemann stated that he would support a roundabout at the intersection. Chief Rydberg stated that he does not believe the amount of accidents will be affected. If there are currently four accidents per year, the roundabout may reduce the amount by one. Mr. Hartnett explained that the speed reduction to 15mph begins before the actual roundabout. Committee Member May stated that he is not completely opposed to the roundabout he is primarily concerned with pedestrian movement. Mr. Hartnett explained that the pedestrians will actually only have to watch traffic coming from one direction at a time as there would be an island separating the different directions of traffic. The Committee agreed to make a recommendation to the County supporting the improvements to include the four legged roundabout.

STREET NAME SIGNAGE – Upon reviewing the different street signage options, the Committee agreed that the “L” shaped staggered signage with a black background and white lettering is to be used throughout the Village. The posts are to be solid. Committee Member Hettermann stated that replacement of signs should be done with the new signage immediately and that the three existing samples need to be replaced with the approved signage.

DOWNTOWN PLANNING - Committee Member Huemann discussed the need for a comprehensive downtown plan to include sidewalks, lighting and other amenities. The plan should tie together the park and Community Club properties, schools and other downtown areas. He explained that all of this information should be put together for a presentation to our residents so that we may gain input from them on how they would like downtown properties to develop. Committee Member Huemann suggested having a meeting similar to that held by McHenry County for the Johnsburg Road project so that public input could be obtained. Chairman Dominguez questioned what planning has been done to date and asked that the data be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

PARK SHELTER - Committee Member Hutchinson explained that the Community Affairs Committee has been planning for improvements for the property located next to the Community Club. The Committee recommended that the park be named “Johnsburg Community Park”.

Meetings were held on site with input from some members of the Community Club. Drainage and access were considered to determine the best location for a park shelter. Committee Member Hutchinson explained that a \$25,000 grant has been received to construct the park shelter, but it is site specific and must be used at the Johnsbury Community Park. The cost of the shelter must be expended and reimbursed before the end of the year. Committee Member Hutchinson described the type of shelter the committee would like to pursue. Costs range from \$32,000 to \$68,000 depending upon what materials are used and what amenities are included. By not pursuing a kit and using bids from local suppliers, a 24x34 structure could be built for \$32,000 with steel columns, a hip roof and cupola. The cost does not include decorative rails, lighting or removal of trees. Mr. Swartzloff is getting some costs for wood rails. President Dominguez informed the Board that there are additional dollars in the parks budget to cover any cost not covered by the grant. Committee Member Hutchinson explained that the committee does wish to pursue something that is aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. Additional dollars should be considered to dress up the structure and include walking paths and landscaping. Committee Member May stated that he believes it is important to perform a proper clean up of the property to include removal of all of the scrub trees on the property as it will enhance the appearance of the shelter. The Committee agreed that the shelter should be enhanced so that it is aesthetically pleasing.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Committee Member Huemann to adjourn. Seconded by Committee Member Hutchinson. All Committee Members present voted aye. Motion carried at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Claudett E. Peters
Director of Village Operations