

**VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
AUGUST 31, 2023 REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

President Hettermann called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Attendees

Trustee Tom Curry
Trustee Beth Foreman
Trustee Kyle Frost
Trustee Josh Hagen
Trustee Greg Klemstein - absent
Trustee Scott Letzter
Village Administrator Claudett Sofiakis
Assistant Administrator Vinny Lamontagna
Special Project Coordinator Rick Quinn
Attorney Michael Smoron
Chief Keith VonAllmen
Deputy Chief Jason Greenwald

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - Chairman Hettermann reported that Chief VonAllmen has submitted his resignation effective the end of September and he will stay on until January in a part-time capacity to help with the transition. Deputy Chief Greenwald will be appointed Interim Chief at the next meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE PARK PLAN - Committee Member Foreman reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding existing park properties and plans for improvement in the near future. The importance of analyzing needs, preferences and benefits was discussed and how it is used to develop a prioritized plan for the Board’s consideration to adopt and implement. Trustee Fouke discussed vacant properties owned by the Village and how those properties could be improved or sold if not feasible for improvement. Mr. Hartnett provided input on soil conditions and properties that should be retained for future utilities. He suggested maintaining an easement on the lot on Riverview Drive and maintaining a utility easement along the south and west property line for future sewer extensions. He suggested placing piers on the properties owned along the water and allowing the use of the piers by lottery for a fee. Committee Member Fouke asked for additional information regarding the unused lots on Sandalwood that were donated to the Village. Discussion was had regarding the Solon Road property which the Village chose not to sell when low bids were received. Chairman Hettermann explained that the Village had thought to use the property to trade for additional land by Hiller Park.

NON-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PATH NETWORK – Committee Member Letzter reported that discussions are ongoing with another property owner west of Dutch Creek Estates to try and acquire an easement continuing towards the western portions of the Village. He clarified that in order to cross Route 31, permission has to be obtained from IDOT. Assistant Administrator Lamontagna discussed the status of efforts to pursue a designated pathway by the Junior High School. The school will be discussing the option at an upcoming meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & MARKETING OPTIONS - Committee Member Hagen reported on an audit of the Village’s marketing efforts. He reviewed the second quarter report from the firm and discussed the results of the social media efforts which reflect an increase in interest in the Village’s website and social media. Committee Member Morris added that the website does not provide much information on what events and other interests the Village has to offer. Discussion was had regarding utilizing the Village’s staff to handle the social media posts. Committee

Member Hagen expressed concern with staff's ability to consistently handle the posts. Ms. Sofiakis suggested that staff be provided the opportunity to handle it as it can be done more efficiently since staff is aware of what is happening. Committee Member Hagen discussed the need to improve communications. Discussion was had regarding the use of the newsletter in the past. President Hettermann stated that he does not believe local marketing to our residents is the problem. He expressed the need to have the marketing firm attend a meeting to discuss what they can offer the Village. Committee Member Fouke expressed support for having staff handle the local social media to free up the budget to use marketing specialist for targeting development and business interest to the Village.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Administrator Sofiakis reported on the status of the Redwood and Workforce Housing developments as well as a proposed car wash on Johnsburg Road.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Assistant Administrator Lamontagna reported on the status of the Church Street Road Realignment, Sunnyside Beach Road Improvement and Lions Park projects.

ADJOURNMENT - Trustee Fouke moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Foreman seconded the motion. All Trustees voted aye. Motion to adjourn was carried at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Claudett Sofiakis
Village Administrator*