

**VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
OCTOBER 26, 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 Mike Fouke
Trustee Beth Foreman
Trustee Jamie Morris
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 the Village will be including sidewalks along the north side of Ringwood Road when it is resurfaced in 2027. At that time, a mid-block crosswalk will be added at Lake Dawnwood Drive as the the location has been determined to be safer as it requires the crossing of only two lanes of traffic rather than five lanes as is the case at Skyhawk Lane. In the mean time, additional warning signage can be incorporated.

COMPREHENSIVE PARK PLAN - Committee Member Foreman reported that in follow up to the last COW meeting, it has been determined that many of the Village’s vacant parcels considered for sale should be retained. Committee Member Fouke added that the Village may want to look further into the property on Solon Road. Chairman Hettermann sought concensus that the Village should retain the waterfront property on Riverview Drive to provide for more water access and keep the property across the street for additional parking. He added that the Golf Course was purchased to retain open space and the extra lots included in the acquisition should be retained to see if a future driving range can be accommodated. If that does not occur a future board can decide if they should be sold as they will be more appealing to purchasers once sewers are available to the properties.

Chairman Hettermann stated that the Remington lot will be a neighborhood park and explained that the Village tried to sell the Solon property in the past but was not pleased with the bids received. He remarked about past discussions with another property owner about exchanging the Solon parcel to obtain more land by Hiller Park and suggested we still pursue that effort or try to sell it again. All members concurred. Trustee Foreman questioned the property on Brorson. All agreed that it makes sense to publish to sell and to hold of on selling the property in Shiloh Ridge until it is determined how much area is needed for the water tower.

NON-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PATH NETWORK – Committee Member Klemstein reported that he has been working to obtain an easement from a property owner around Johnsburg Farm/Dutch Creek Estates and is waiting on a response from the property owner. It was noted that complaints have been received that the opening to the path by the school is too narrow and mirrors are hitting the post. It was confirmed that the opening is adequate but that the post may need to be shortened to better accommodate mirrors.

MARKETING INITIATIVE – Committee Member Hagen reported that he looked into other local marketing firms and explained that they are smaller and will give more personal attention but they won’t have the reach that a larger firm like American Eagle can provide. Committee Member Hagen discussed Fox River Grove, Crystal Lake and McHenry’s websites which he feels are more intuitive. Discussion was had about how to direct people to the Village’s website. Ms. Sofiakis suggested that the Village further develop information available on the website before directing people to the site as a marketing initiative. President Hettermann suggested the Village permit American Eagle to try to implement some changes and simultaneously interview other firms so we don’t lose time.

Committee Member Klemstein agreed. Committee Member Hagen suggested that we wait a bit to give American Eagle a chance. President Hettermann suggested the Village pursue additional proposals at the beginning of the new year. Committee Member Foreman suggested we move forward with our marketing initiatives while we check into the costs associated with upgrading the Village's website. All members concurred with having other firms submit proposals on both marketing initiatives and website improvements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - Committee Member Morris reported that the Committee has been discussing the commercial use of the Village's boat launch and suggested that it would have to be used to launch on behalf of a Village resident. A separate permit would have to be secured for each launch and a time limit would need to be adhered to. The Committee discussed notifying known contractors and providing them a copy of the ordinance so that they are aware of the requirements. The Committee also discussed incorporating weight limits on the launch.

Committee Member Morris further reported that the Committee has been discussing requiring seatbelts in Non-Highway Vehicles. He explained that they are currently not required but manufacturers recommend seatbelts in carts traveling at greater speeds. Committee Member Morris recommended that the Village require seatbelts on all golf carts. Committee Members Foreman and Letzter expressed that they do not agree with the requirement as it should be a personal choice as is the case with helmets and motorcycles. It was noted that the State does not require helmets when riding a motorcycle nor do they require seatbelts in non-highway vehicles. The Committee discussed adding the language as a suggestion or having cart clubs encourage the use of seat belts.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Committee Member Klemstein reported that the Finance Committee is recommending utility rates be increased annually by the CPI. He discussed the Village's rates which are low compared with other communities.

PUBLIC WORKS – Committee Member Letzter reported on status of the Church Street realignment project, 2023 road program, and Sunnyside Beach road improvement project. He added that the sanitary sewer extension project is schedule for bidding in November.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Committee Member Fouke thanked Vinny, Beckey, and the public works and parks employees for their help with Celebration in the Park. He also extended thanks to Committee Member Hagen for his donation to the event. Plans for the upcoming Holiday Magic event were discussed and the new parade route starting at Johnsborg High School.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Ms. Sofiakis reported on the status of the Redwood, Workforce Housing and Car Wash developments.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Lamontagna reported on the status of the Church Street realignment and Sunnyside Beach road improvement projects as well as the Lions Park project.

ADJOURNMENT - Trustee Fouke moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Hagen seconded the motion. All Trustees voted aye. Motion to adjourn was carried at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Claudett Sofiakis
Village Administrator*