

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STREETS, DRAINAGE & PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF KENILWORTH HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, 419
RICHMOND ROAD AT 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2005 AT 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Cristy Laier was present and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Attendance was as follows:

Present:	Cristy Laier	Chairman
	W. John McGinnis	Member
	Katie Dold White	Member
Others Present:	Max Slankard	Village Manager
	Craig Miller	Village Trustee
	Iggy Fiorentino	Public Works Superintendent
	Mary Cole	Mr. Slankard's Secretary

Chairman Laier noted the first item for discussion was street paving. Village Manager Slankard said the recently approved contract for MFT resurfacing has to go to Peter Baker Company for execution, then to our engineers, Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, then to IDOT. We expect the contract to get back to us about July 1st or so, with work beginning shortly after July 4th. The work should take about 17 days. Cumberland Avenue is a priority. There will be a pre-construction meeting with the contractor and engineer. Superintendent Fiorentino, Manager Slankard and the contractor will work out all the details, such as where the equipment will be parked, timing, etc., at that meeting. Craig Miller asked if Earlston Road is getting curbs. Mr. Fiorentino said that since Earlston currently has curbs, they will be doing spot repairs.

Next, Chairman Laier said the Committee needed to discuss sidewalk replacement. Superintendent Fiorentino came up with a list of the worst sidewalks in the business district. There have been some complaints from the business district about the condition of the sidewalk, particularly on Park Drive. Manager Slankard explained that if the Village replaces the sidewalk on Park Drive, the rest of the business district will want the Village to replace their sidewalks. The businesses traditionally have not participated in our 50/50 replacement program.

John McGinnis said the Village should talk to the business property owners about participating in a 50/50 program. He said we should not do anything with the Green Bay Road frontage, because we will be contracting with the State to resurface Green Bay Road, which would most likely do some damage to the sidewalks. He said that while the Village could always put asphalt down as a repair to the worst areas, the Village should try to get the business owners to share in the cost. He felt the Village should tell them they either share in the cost or the Village will patch with asphalt. Katie White said the Committee should look at the area. Manager Slankard explained that last year was the first year the Village paid 100% of the cost for bad areas in the residential areas.

Chairman Laier clarified that there is \$5,000 in the budget for sidewalk replacement. She said there is also a capital outlay contingency in the appropriation ordinance of \$10,000. Trustee Miller said that money is already earmarked. John McGinnis said obviously there is a financial problem, so the Village should tell the business owners to either participate in a 50/50 replacement program or the Village will restore the area as a parkway with dirt and grass.

Superintendent Fiorentino explained that the \$5,000 was meant to deal with remaining residential offsets.

John McGinnis said that close to 100% of residential sidewalks are fixed. He said there is a problem in areas where new homes are going up in that the Village is funding half the cost. An example is one person took out the drive and replaced it with sidewalk in our 50/50 program. He felt we should only be fixing offsets because of risk management considerations. Chairman Laier asked about who has liability. Mr. Slankard replied that, in the case of water puddling on a sidewalk and icing, the Village is only liable for unnatural accumulations of snow and ice. We are not responsible for a heavy accumulation of natural snow fall.

Chairman Laier asked about the sidewalk at 644 Abbotsford. Superintendent Fiorentino said it should be replaced because it is near the school and there are a lot of children using it. She talked about the new house on Earlston where water accumulates. John McGinnis felt that was more of a cosmetic issue. But Chairman Laier said it is a new sidewalk which should be right.

Katie White mentioned the fact that there is only \$5,000 budgeted for sidewalk replacement, and it is obviously already targeted. \$7,500 would be needed for Park Drive alone. She felt the Village should talk to the business owners. Chairman Laier said Helen's Cleaners put a mat out over the worst part in front of their store. Ms. White said we should give the business owners all the information. Mr. McGinnis said we should tell them that the Village wants them to fix their sidewalks. Ms. White asked if the Village should say we would manage the replacement and get the contractors.

Chairman Laier asked about the timing. She knew that Superintendent Fiorentino wanted to do all of the areas at the same time. John McGinnis said it is usually October when the replacement work is done. Mr. Fiorentino said it really depends on the contractor's schedule. Ms. White it sounds like we should start the process now. Mr. Fiorentino said it is a long process and explained the steps. Ms. White said we should go ahead and have Manager Slankard approach the business owners. Mr. McGinnis said the most visible areas really need to be fixed, and the problem is the Finance Committee says there is no money to do this. Ms. White said she is comfortable with the budgeted \$5,000 going to areas of Mr. Fiorentino's choice.

Next, Chairman Laier said the Committee needed to discuss the Skokie Ditch. She said there are several homes along the Ditch which will be re-developed. Some of the properties along the Ditch have culverts, and part do not. Superintendent Fiorentino showed the Committee a map of the Ditch and said the culverts have to be big enough to cover the water. He went on to say nobody claims responsibility for the Ditch. It discharges into the MWRD interceptor since 1972. Manager Slankard explained that it is man made for drainage and was created in 1869. The Village does maintenance wherever it crosses Village property. Before 1972, it drained into the lake; subsequently, under order from the MWRD, the Ditch was connected to the MWRD Sheridan Road interceptor.

John McGinnis said the Village is better off not claiming the Skokie Ditch. We need specifics about installing culverts. Manager Slankard said Superintendent Fiorentino has to be specific when people ask if they can install culverts. Mr. McGinnis pointed that this could involve engineering, because how are culverts affecting neighbors on either side. He thought the residents should pay any engineering costs. Superintendent Fiorentino said he is really uncomfortable letting people cover the Ditch. Residents do not take responsibility, so the Public Works Department has to and how do they get in to clean it with the culverts in the way. Mr. McGinnis said we need to have a contract with the homeowners saying if they do not clean the Ditch, the Village will and the home owner will get a bill for the work. He said we need to consult our attorney so we know what we can and cannot do. Chairman Laier said partial coverage is the hardest situation to deal with. She suggested considering no more culverts. Mr. McGinnis said maybe we cannot refuse home owners legally. We need to consult Attorney Adams. Manager Slankard added that the Skokie Ditch has never flooded any property; it has never overflowed its banks. Chairman Laier said Manager Slankard really needs to talk with Attorney Adams. Manager Slankard said the

MWRD, at one point, was going to investigate the Ditch and maybe change their policy with regards to responsibility, but that idea was dropped. Mr. Fiorentino explained that the IEPA will not allow the Ditch to drain into the lake. Mr. Slankard said the Village recently has been involved in the Coastal Management Plan and he will try to get some more information from them concerning the Ditch.

Chairman Laier said the next item for discussion is mosquitoes and West Nile Virus. She said Superintendent Fiorentino has information on the tablets the Public Works Department is putting in standing water. Mr. Fiorentino explained that for the past three years, the Village has been using the briquets. The briquets are good for 30 days. They do 4 applications each year. They put them in manholes, in the Skokie Ditch and in Com Ed vaults. Mr. Fiorentino went to a seminar to learn how to use them. He said they are a larvacide. The Public Works Department cannot go into private yards. The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District gives out flyers about the briquets. Also, if a homeowner has standing water on private property, they can call the NSMAD who will come out and treat the area. John McGinnis asked if the Village gets results if we need to be sprayed. Manager Slankard said their service is much better than it used to be. Chairman Laier said they have a calendar of their spraying schedule on their website. Mr. Fiorentino said they are concerned that people do not like spray. Mr. Slankard said the spray is not that effective anyway. Chairman Laier suggested that the Village put this information on our website. John McGinnis said we are not obligated to use the briquets, but the Board chose to do so as a supplemental effort to protect residents. Superintendent Fiorentino said each application costs about \$375.00.

Next, Chairman Laier brought up the new Tree Ordinance which dictates that mature trees that are removed must be replaced. She also asked for a Dutch Elm Disease update. Manager Slankard said the Building, Planning and Zoning Committee is meeting again on July 13th and will also be addressing this issue. They have asked for Village arborists from other communities to attend their meeting. Mr. Fiorentino reported that so far we have had seven dead elms and three more are sick. We have used up \$8,800 of the \$12,000 budgeted for tree removal. If two big trees need to be removed, that could cost at least \$1,000 each. Chairman Laier wanted to make sure that the Village contacts resident about private sick elms in their yards. She also asked Mr. Fiorentino how often he checked the Village for Dutch Elm Diseased trees. Mr. Fiorentino said three times a week. Then injecting of elm trees was discussed. It costs \$360 per injection, and each injection lasts approximately 3 years. Chairman Laier suggested injecting elms in a high impact area such as on Ridge Road or at the Village Hall. Trustee Miller said injections are not proven, and there is no evidence that such injections work over the long term. John McGinnis said trees need to be injected three times which is about \$1200 per tree. Trustee Miller asked if there was any new information on injections. Mr. Fiorentino said it is the same information which is that injections will not save trees which already have the disease, but may prolong their lives. Injections may protect healthy trees. Manager Slankard said the economics dictate that there is no sense in doing injections on a large scale. The results are inconclusive. There is also evidence that a number of injections, in themselves, can hurt a tree.

Manager Slankard noted that last year, in our tree planting program, for the first time, we listed a Morton Accolade Elm, which is Dutch Elm Disease resistant. Trustee Miller asked if we knew how many ash trees are in town. Mr. Fiorentino did not know, but said the ash borer has been found in Detroit. Chairman Laier suggested waiting for the Arborist's Conference to see if there is evidence supporting the success of injections. Mr. McGinnis asked what our neighboring communities do. Manager Slankard reported that Lake Forest had injected only a few trees. Chairman Laier pointed out injecting a few trees costs the same as removal of a tree. She thanked Mr. Fiorentino for all his information.

Superintendent Fiorentino then reported that the cable on Woodstock is scheduled to be removed very soon. It is a priority.

Then, Manager Slankard reported on a request from Woodstock Avenue to cut down trees adjacent to the driveway. Chairman Laier said she and Mr. Fiorentino had looked at the area and there is a tree right by the driveway apron which could become an issue. The new ordinance addresses such a situation. Fear of the ordinance is probably dictating this request. Mr. McGinnis said a resident on Leicester did cut a tree down by their driveway. Mr. Slankard said it was a situation in which the homeowner had to go on his neighbor's property to get into his driveway.

There being no further business, John McGinnis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Laier seconded the motion which was unanimously carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cole