

WILLIAMS BAY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE WILLIAMS BAY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND VILLAGE TRUSTEES
TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 2019

Board Members Present: K. Granberg, J. Lothian, K. Nelson, D. Ripple, D. Woss
Village Trustees Present: J. D'Alessandro, B. Duncan, J. Killian, J. McMannamy, D. Parker, G. Trush, G. Vlach
Absent: None
Administration Present: District Administrator Dr. W. Anderson
Middle/High School Principal Dr. W. White
Elementary Principal A. Bond
Guests: 27

I. CALL TO ORDER

Village Board of Trustees President B. Duncan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Theatre Road sidewalks and walking path

J. McMannamy presented an overview and history of this project, which started around 2008 when a parent concern over the safety of her child walking to school was brought to the village. The area that is being looked at for the sidewalks/walking path to go from the crosswalk to the gravel road at Lions Park. The current proposed project is smaller than the project that was proposed in 2017. There is a grant available that will pay approximately 80% of the cost. A survey of those impacted by the possible project was completed recently and a summary of the results was presented. J. McMannamy also stated that there is a meeting this Thursday to discuss the project.

B. Duncan stated that the project is complicated by the fact that the area falls within three different jurisdictions, the Village of Williams Bay, Town of Delavan and the Town of Walworth.

J. D'Alessandro questioned what the Theatre Road entrance to the school was designed for and if the School Board had ever discussed making it one way, using it as an entrance and the exit being on Highway 67. D. Woss stated that before the elementary school was built, the entrance was designed to be an entrance to the high school to access the back of the building as well as the staff parking lot.

G. Trush commented that because of the amount on construction that will be going on in Bailey Estates as well as the park and school being on Theatre Road, the project is critical for safety.

K. Granberg noted that she lives on Theatre Road and has seen the volume of traffic on the road. She also stated that the School Board, at their last meeting looked at the Unusually Hazardous Transportation Plan, that denotes Theatre Road as a concern. Bussing is offered to those students who live in the subdivisions along Theatre Road because of the unsafe conditions. J. D'Alessandro inquired about the two-mile rule – that students had to live 2 miles or more from school before bus transportation would be offered. K. Granberg explained that bussing is offered within the two miles when there is a hazardous condition, such as no sidewalks. The district is then reimbursed from the state for some of those costs.

B. Lighted sign for the entrance to the Middle/High School

J. Lothian gave a summary of the history of the board's actions to obtain approval to install a lighted sign at that entrance to the middle/high School

J. Killian commented that he believes that the sign would be permitted if the application is completed correctly with a narrow scope. He said he felt that the district's application was too broad.

G. Trush said he recently attended an association luncheon where a majority of the discussion revolved around not denying an upgrade in technology. He is concerned with the safety of the person changing the sign and would support a sign that looks like a stationary sign that would be turned off at night, with no bouncing letters and a white background. He imparted that he feels that the Planning Commission does not have clear direction from the Board of Trustees. He feels that there could be a carefully constructed, clearly spelled out ordinance of requirements that would allow the village to approve the electronic sign.

G. Vlach believes that the district and the Village should work together with an attorney to come to an agreement on an electronic sign that could be approved.

D. Parker said that the District did come to the Village with a specifically designed application. He also stated that the current ordinance should be looked at to see if it is still correct for the village.

J. D'Alessandro stated that village has met with legal counsel and had been assured that the planning commission had the authority to grant the electric sign under the current ordinance.

D. Parker also stated that it is hard to enforce current ordinances and questioned how a new ordinance would be enforced. He favors the Planning Commission designing a school-specific ordinance

K. Granberg asked how much the district has spent in application fees. Dr. Anderson stated he believed it was about \$300. Kristy reminded those present that we are pulling out of the same pockets.

J. McMannamy stated that the electric sign is for the school and it would benefit the community.

G. Trush would like to turn the issue back of to the Planning Commission and see the sign approved

C. Growth of Village

The village's Comprehensive Plan is revised every 10 years and is coming up to be reviewed in 2020. B. Duncan said that the biggest concern is the water plant and its ability to continue to keep up the water supply if the village grows beyond current plans. Dr. Anderson asked how many building permits were being issued. B. Duncan answered approximately 30 per year the last two to three years. Bailey Estates is currently halfway through their planned build out and will have 180 houses total upon completion.

G. Trush stated that he does not want to see more development and the state of the water plant is concerning when it comes to village growth.

J. D'Alessandro would like to have the School Board involved in the Master plan. He also feels that the village should not engage in annexation talks since the water is currently dedicated to the growth of planned subdivisions.

J. McMannamy asked what the school's growth has looked like. Dr. Anderson advised it has been about 15-20 students per year, mostly from new residents moving into the district.

D. Update on Yerkes

Diane Coleman from the Yerkes Future Foundation provided an update regarding the observatory. D. Coleman gave attendees an overview of all the items that the foundation has accomplished in the last year ranging from having their 501c3 approved, to hiring an attorney, accountant and partnering with architects, electricians and historic landscapers. The foundation met with the heirs of Yerkes and they are supportive of the foundation's mission. D. Coleman said that the foundation is trying to be as open as possible with the communication of information but does have a non-disclosure agreement with the University of Chicago. J. D'Alessandro asked if there was an anticipated date of closure. D. Coleman said that there is a solid date at this time. Her personal opinion is that within six months it should be completed. The next steps would be raising money. She is confident in the long-term funding of the property, but is concerned about the short term. It was noted that the foundation is unsure if lakefront property is included.

E. Update of upcoming large village expenditures

B. Duncan reported that the major expenditures that the village is looking at are:

- a. Water and sewer line replacement when Highway 67 is rebuilt from Harpoon Willies to Mercy Walworth.
- b. The water plant and Southwick Creek relocation
- c. Park plans for Lions and Theatre Road Parks
- d. Fire Department Relocation

F. Update on Homecoming

Dr. White gave an update regarding 2019 Homecoming. Homecoming will be held the week prior to the Centennial Celebration, October 14-19. This year there will be a varsity football game on Friday night and will culminate with the dance on Saturday night. The students would like to hold the parade downtown instead of around the school. The district is working with students, parents and the police department. The students agreed to not toilet paper the main street and the Community Service project will be held on Friday of Homecoming Week.

G. Update on possible school referendum in 2024

Dr. Anderson updated the village board of a possible school referendum in 2024. There are various projects that may be included, but the biggest would be the addition of a six classroom Science wing and remodel of the existing science rooms to traditional classrooms. In 2024, some debt falls off, so the impact may not be as much as if it was done earlier. There are some other small projects such as parking lot resurfacing and the replacement of some windows in the Middle/High school that will be completed using the fund balance, which is like a savings account. J. D'Alessandro asked what the cost of the referendum was going to be. Dr. Anderson advised that it is too early to tell. G. Trush asked if the elementary school would be paid off before 2024. Dr. Anderson advised it would not be as it was a 20-year note.

H. Theatre Road Park plan

Kelly Designs completed a plan for the park that is available to view on the village's website. J. D'Alessandro would like to work with the school district to share the four baseball/softball fields that the school district already has in place to save money on the design. He also would like to have school board representation at the planning meetings. K. Granberg said that she would volunteer.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Lothian commented on the discussion revolving around the village and not wanting to grow. He feels that this needs to be re-examined, should be expected to happen and should be planned for.

Citizen Rob Umans commented that he would like to “stop the bleeding” for the water infiltration happening at the water plant, he feels the water plant should be made a priority so the village can grow a little.

IV. ADJOURN

At 8:11 pm., K. Granberg/D. Woss motion and second to adjourn the meeting, carried 12-0.

Karolyn Nelson, Clerk
ds: 08/21/19