

Minutes
Special Village Board Meeting
Monday, July 12, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Maple Bluff Village Center

Members Present: President Eric McLeod, Trustees Teri Bruns, Eric Larson, Peter Duff, Greg Rice, Jim Schuler, Jim Yeager and Village Attorney Tim Fenner.

Also Present: Brian Berquist from Town & Country Engineering, Chief Tim Krueger, Clerk-Treasurer Sandy Wilke, Eric & Suset Monat of 432 Farwell Drive, Jack & Marian Bolz of 424 Farwell Drive, Silvia Jackson of 603 Farwell Drive, Robert Godfrey of 228 Lakewood Blvd., Rick Petershach of 307 Farwell Drive, Katie Reuhl of 431 Farwell Drive, Dave Sugar of 913 Magdeline Drive, Denis Vogel of 4 Bayside Drive, Sheila Young of 523 Farwell Drive, Kris & Heather Warren of 200 Farwell Drive, and others that did not sign in.

President McLeod called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing on Assessment for Underground Projects.

Brian Berquist detailed the scope of undergrounding project and the assessment report.

Attorney Tim Fenner described the special assessment process.

Chief Krueger reviewed the history of the resident's desire to bury utility lines.

A motion was made by Trustee Rice and seconded by Trustee Schuler to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Brad Binkowski spoke regarding his support of the Village moving forward with the undergrounding and establishing a fair and equitable assessment policy.

Rick Petershach spoke regarding his concerns stating that it did not seem fair that there were no assessments for the 2005 improvement projects and that burying the utilities is a small benefit.

Jack Bolz congratulated the Village Board taking on the project, but questioned whether other communities have had the same issue.

Attorney Fenner explained the difference between acting as a taxing authority or acting under police authority. He stated that most municipalities assess under police powers.

Katie Reuhl inquired whether there are long term plans for assessments and why some residents were notified by registered letter and others not.

Chief Krueger stated that notification for all residents was included in the last Village Newsletter.

Eric Monat expressed his concerns regarding notification and that other property owners behind him clearly benefit from burying utilities at his expense.

Robert Godfrey described his concerns about the lack of leadership for the project, equity of assessments, and MG & E's processes.

Dave Sugar questioned whether the Board has a master plan for utilities.

President McLeod stated that the Village Board has tried to identify projects while doing road construction. Burying all wires in the Village would be very costly.

Chief Krueger spoke regarding improving technology and back yard line burial.

Trustee Rice spoke about coordinating utility work with all the entities involved.

Trustee Schuler stated that he is in favor of a policy to underground wherever possible along streets where there are easements, and having property owners decide for themselves about work in back yards.

Denis Vogel described his experience with the process and the desire for a master plan.

Sheila Young asked where the measurements were obtained from.

Brian Berquist stated that the numbers came from County records.

Kris Warren inquired whether Village residents have ever paid for line burial.

Trustee Yeager stated that they paid 100% for the work done in his neighborhood.

Chief Krueger stated that the work done on the 600 block of Farwell (off road) was paid by the residents.

Brian Berquist stated that they have deferred to MG & E as to the number, size and location of boxes that are needed.

A motion was made by Trustee Rice and seconded by Trustee Yeager to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Dopkins
Deputy Clerk