

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
ZONING AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012
MEMORIAL HALL
7:30 p.m.**

Present: Chairman Saigh, Trustee Angelo, Trustee Haarlow, Trustee Elder

Absent: None

Also Present: Dave Cook, Village Manager, Sean Gascoigne, Village Planner, Brad Bloom, Police Chief, Mike Kelly, Fire Chief

Trustee Saigh called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes – November 2011

Trustee Elder moved to approve the minutes for the November 28, 2011 meeting as written. Second by Trustee Haarlow. The motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports – December 2011

Fire Department

Chief Kelly reported that the December 2011 monthly report contains the year end numbers for statistical purposes. The numbers reflect a slight increase in the total number of calls handled by the Department in 2011, with a slight decrease in the total number of ambulance requests for 2011. The call volume for 2011 was very similar to the call volume for 2010. There were no further questions from the Committee on the report.

Police Department

Chief Bloom discussed the new railroad cameras that were installed at all of the grade crossings, platforms and railroad depot interiors. Chief Bloom stated that this project was funded by a grant from the West Suburban Mass Transit District which paid for 2/3 of the project cost. Chief Bloom indicated that the cameras which are wireless and monitored at the police department have already resulted in alerting officers when cars have turned onto the railroad right-of-way at the Monroe Street crossing. Since that time the railroad has installed raised lane markers to better differentiate the crossing. The Police Department has also released a public education video running on Channel 6 that focuses on pedestrian safety. The video was produced at no cost by Hinsdale resident John Sachanda.

Chief Bloom briefed the Committee on the department's efforts to inform citizens via the e-mail notification system, Facebook and Twitter on recent burglaries and crime prevention tips. Chief Bloom stated that there have been three residential burglaries in the Village since December 2011. Chief Bloom stated that the total number of residential burglaries are down as compared to previous years but speculated that the increased sensitivity of burglaries by the public is from the recent Indian Head Park incident. Chief Bloom stated that the department is seeing an increased number of suspicious persons calls which he said is a good thing and something the police department encourages.

Community Development

Dave Cook gave a summary of permit and inspectional activity in the Community Development Department for December and stated that the department was busy for this time of year and that there was

still a fair amount of inventory in house. He also stated that the department was posting revenues that were significantly higher than last fiscal year when the hospital permit was backed out.

Trustee Elder asked about the vacant property registry and asked about how problem properties were handled and the amount of time that it took to prosecute these. Dave Cook responded that it was a lengthy process and routinely takes months, especially if a foreclosure is involved.

Request for Board Action

Approve an Ordinance Approving Site Plans and Exterior Appearance Plans for Modifications to a Commercial Building at 53 S. Washington Street

The architect for J. McLaughlin presented the changes that were considered and approved at Plan Commission. The changes were minor and included three awnings, signage, and four planters along the west side of the store front.

Chairman Saigh added that this was approved unanimously at Plan Commission and asked for a motion. Trustee Elder made a motion to approve an Ordinance Approving Site Plans and Exterior Appearance Plans for Modifications to a Commercial Building at 53 S. Washington Street. Seconded by Trustee Haarlow. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve an Ordinance Approving a Major Adjustment to a Planned Development for Façade Changes at 10 N. Washington Street

Chairman Saigh gave some background on the item and why the petitioners were back in front of Committee. Sean Gascoigne explained in detail what exactly was being requested and why, based on the building review and certain code requirements. The changes involved the addition of an elevator and hoistway on the west elevation, some changes to windows, and a cornice wrapping the perimeter of the building.

Sean Gascoigne stated that he had confirmed with the Plan Commission Chair that the changes discussed in the field with the architects on the Plan Commission and the petitioner's architect were in fact what was illustrated on the plans. Chairman Saigh gave the background on this to add some clarification on how and why the resident architects on the Plan Commission met in the field to discuss the proposed facade improvements.

Mitch Hamblet summarized the changes being requested and restated that the majority of the changes were being driven by code. He answered questions on the materials being used and stated that Fypon moldings would be used for the exterior trim and around the bays. The color would be in a crème or off white and not stark white. He clarified that the main entry on the East elevation would not change and that the ornamental iron work at the entry would not be installed.

Approve an Ordinance Declaring Certain Personal Property Owned by the Village as Surplus and for Sale at Public Auction

Chief Bloom stated that the Police Department is requesting that a seized semi-trailer dump truck and tractor be declared surplus and sold at auction. The seizure occurred in 2007 and the vehicle has been in storage awaiting adjudication. The vehicle will be sold on E-Bay.

Trustee Angelo moved to recommend that the Village Board approve an ordinance declaring property as surplus and approving the sale of the surplus property at the Internet website E-Bay by public auction. Seconded by Trustee Elder. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve an Ordinance Allowing the Installation of Multi-way Stop Signs at the Intersection of Garfield and First Streets

Chief Bloom presented the findings of a traffic study conducted on the intersection of First and Garfield. In summary, the study was initiated following a recent crash involving a pedestrian and after receiving multiple requests from residents requesting the installation of a multi-way stop sign.

Chief Bloom stated that the data collected for this study shows that the warrants for the installation of a multi-way sign have not been met related to crashes and vehicular volumes. However, the study found particular sight obstructions are in place that are not correctable. This, coupled with increased pedestrian use that peaks during times when we have experienced crashes meets the optional guidance section 2B.07 of the MUTCD related to multi-way stops. Additionally, the study showed that the installation of a multi-way sign would likely address the uncorrectable sight obstructions thus making the intersection safer and preventing additional accidents. It should be noted that in three (3) of the last five (5) crashes sight obstructions were a noted factor. The site obstructions come from two areas, the first from the presence of delivery trucks and the second from vehicles queued in the roadway awaiting to turn. The width of the roadway also makes it possible for cars to pass a stopped vehicle on the right.

Additionally, Garfield is the busiest N/S street in the Village with over 10,000 cars a day using it. Moreover, Chief Bloom further stated we have seen a significant increase in middle school pedestrians due to a hot dog stand on the corner. Chief Bloom stated that the only way to address the site obstructions and improve the safety at the intersection is to install a multi-way stop sign. One concern however is the potential for southbound traffic to back up on the railroad right-of-way. This was also a concern prior to the installation of a multi-way stop sign at First and Lincoln. Although there is a greater distance between the tracks and First and Garfield there is also a higher traffic volume and with no accurate way to predict the impact of this change it is something that we will monitor following installation of the multi-way stop sign.

The Committee had a brief discussion and supported the recommendation.

Trustee Haarlow moved to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve an Ordinance Allowing the Installation of Multi-way Stop Signs at the Intersection of Garfield and First Streets. Trustee Elder seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Parking Regulations on Third Street between Grant and Vine Streets

Mr. and Mrs. Bemiss requested that the “No Parking Between Signs” that were installed to address the issue of cars blocking their driveway be removed. The Bemis’s also requested that the curb be painted on the corner to better indicate the no parking area and, lastly, requested that parking space lines be painted on the street to better designate parking spaces.

The Committee had a brief discussion and directed staff to have the signs removed and parking spaces lines be painted on the street on both sides of the Bemis driveway on Third Street.

AT&T Co-located Cellular Antennas

Though not on the agenda, Chairman Saigh raised the issue of the application from AT&T that was withdrawn for the installation of cellular antennas on ComEd utility poles. He gave some brief history on the application and why it was withdrawn. He stated that a resident had researched this and contended that the Village did have some authority over the installation. He stated that the Village Manager was having the village attorneys research the matter. He stated that the resident

that raised this wanted to make sure that the Village Board was aware of this and that this residents fear was that other carriers would try to locate their antennas on ComEd poles as well.

Trustee Elder stated that the Village should look into means to control these installations moving forward.

Trustee Angelo asked about permits and why they were issued, or even applied for, if AT&T did not feel that approvals were required. Trustee Haarlow concurred with this.

Dave Cook mentioned that permits were issued based on the legal opinion proffered by the Village Attorney.

Bill Haarlow stated that matter should have come back for further discussion before the permits were issued whether requested or not.

The Trustees agreed that given the elements of confidentiality tied to this issue, that it be tabled for now.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Saigh asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Elder made the motion and Trustee Angelo seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert McGinnis, MCP
Director of Community Development/Building Commissioner