



**THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS
SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING
HELD AT
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN SCHOOL & CHURCH
24500 N. OLD MCHENRY ROAD, HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Mancino called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Mayor Mancino, Trustees Ponzio, Riess, Morgan and Corrigan. Absent were Trustees DiMaggio and David.

Also present were Chief Operating Officer Pamela Newton, Chief Administrative Officer and Village Clerk Donna Lobaito, Public Works Director and Village Engineer Erika Frable, PE, Community Development Director Michael Cassata, AICP, and William Rickert, PE, RHMG Engineering.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PRESENTATION

A. Informational Presentation Regarding the Proposed Route 53 Expansion Through the Village of Hawthorn Woods

Mayor Mancino began the presentation by discussing the Village's concern for the impact of Route 53 through the Village. He noted that the Village's intent for this meeting was not to debate the road, but to provide the history of the roadway and recent information the Village has learned about the impact to the community. He noted that questions should be written down on forms provided at the back of the building and that staff would circulate to pick up the completed forms.

Mayor Mancino reported that last year an internal task force was formed, consisting of himself, Michael Cassata, William Rickert, PE, Erika Frable, PE, Kelly Corrigan, Pamela Newton, Donna Lobaito and Amy Scholz. This task force has been reviewing documents and attending meetings to garner an understanding of the impacts the roadway will have on the Village.

Mayor Mancino first discussed the history of the road extension, which dates back to the 1960's. Land was acquired beginning in the 1970's and CMAP was formed in 2005. He then reviewed the main issues facing the Village: The BRAC Report, alignment of the road, financing, land use and environmental concerns.

BRAC Report

Mayor Mancino outlined the concern that the BRAC included transportation representatives, selected government officials, and business/environmental groups; however, it did not include a representative from any of the five communities in the actual Route 53 corridor path, including Hawthorn Woods, Long Grove, Kildeer, Mundelein and Round Lake. The BRAC also did not include the preferred alignment from 2001, and it contemplates a raised roadway over sensitive areas in Hawthorn Woods, thus dividing the community. The BRAC also recommended a regional development plan impacting only corridor communities in Lake County. Lastly, the BRAC report recommended local funding for a regional Tollway which is contradictory to other Tollway funding programs.

Alignment

The proposed Route 53 extension provides for an elevated roadway through the Indian Creek Marsh with anticipated elevated roadway at Old McHenry Road, Gilmer Road, Indian Creek Road, and the Canadian National railroad tracks, with impact to homes on the adjacent Right of Way.

Financing

It is estimated the expansion of Route 53 will cost \$2.3 - \$2.65 billion dollars in 2020 dollars. A \$0.04 per gallon gas tax is proposed in Lake County, with \$0.02 per gallon gas tax being remitted to Lake County for improvements to Route 41. The proposed financing also calls for a multi-jurisdictional TIF district in the corridor communities only, with all other Lake County communities being exempt. This TIF district would capture 25% of new non-residential development property taxes. Villages, school districts, fire districts, townships, library districts and other taxing entities in the corridor will lose dollars from the TIF district imposition. Lastly, congestion pricing is proposed with tolling rates being the highest in the entire state and region. The Route 53 extension will be the most expensive road in the country, averaging \$200 million per mile.

Land Use

Mr. Cassata spoke about the land use concerns. He noted that the land use plan is prescriptive, and will dictate what can and cannot be developed in the corridor communities. The plan also calls for a Start-up Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the end of 2015, which is a "pre-agreement" with certain obligations for municipalities; however, the Corridor Land Use plan will not be presented until the end of 2016. This Plan will provide for an addendum to Village Comprehensive Plans, and it is to be prepared by outside stakeholders and special interest groups. It calls for the capture of 750 acres of private land for open space and property owners with future plans for their property may not be aware of this plan. There is also proposed an

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between corridor communities to enforce the Corridor Land Use Plan.

There will be the creation of a Corridor Planning Council to oversee the Land Use Plan. Mayor Mancino expressed his concern over the additional governmental layer of approval and the challenges this would create for the corridor communities only; thus pushing development to the non-corridor communities. He expressed concern about politicizing the development process by allowing for bias decisions from outside stakeholders on local projects.

Environmental Concerns

William Rickert, PE, President of RHMG Engineering, spoke of the many concerns with the elevated roadway. The main concerns center around noise, ambient light, salt spray, visual pollution, piers in marshes, future potential expansion from four to six lanes, and wetland impacts on flora and fauna habitats. Mr. Rickert noted that in 1992, a site assessment study was conducted, and the findings indicated the wetlands to be extremely high in quality, and that impacts should be avoided. He noted that the Village hired a company to assess the wetlands in 2015, and the findings were the same; that the wetland was still high quality, containing a variety of plants, birds and animals. Mayor Mancino noted that the BRAC report states environmental impacts should be minimized.

Mayor Mancino also noted that once recommendation is made to the state and leaves the local arena, there is \$100 million scheduled to be spent on phase I environmental studies, and it will be harder to have our voices heard.

Next, Mr. Cassata presented a variety of photo simulations of how Gilmer Road, Lisa Lane, Edward Lane and Oneida Lane look now, and how they may look after the extension of Route 53, with elevated bridges, street lighting, signage and traffic.

Mayor Mancino then reviewed the actions by the Village to date, which included letter writing, meetings with Governor Rauner, CMAP, Lake County, Task Force, and the Village voting no to the Finance Committee funding package recommendation to the Tollway, and voting no on the Working Group recommendation to create a Corridor Planning Council. The Village engaged five corridor communities and hosted meetings to discuss strategies on how to address concerns.

B. Staying Engaged in the Process

Mayor Mancino asked the residents to get involved and to contact the Tollway Authority, Lake County representatives, CMAP, IDOT and Governor Rauner. He noted staff would have contact information available at the end of the meeting.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

After collecting the question forms from the attendees, Ms. Lobaito read a series of questions for Mayor Mancino and the Task Force to answer. The questions related to environmental concerns about the impact to drinking water and salt spray, flooding concerns, noise concerns, whether the expansion of Route 12, Gilmer and Midlothian roads had been considered, when the final route would be established for the roadway, financing of a roadway when the state is so short of money, interchange ramps, sound walls, the current FAP signs, the proposed 45 mph speed limit, the use of TIF money locally, home values, benefits to Hawthorn Woods, and the possibility of the state purchasing homes within 50' of the road.

After answering questions, Mayor Mancino encouraged residents to get involved, and thanked them for their time this evening.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Riess, second by Corrigan to adjourn the Town Hall meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously and the Town Hall meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Lobaito
Village Clerk