



RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

6:15 p.m.

(Meeting conducted via Zoom)

ROLL CALL: Beshara, Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Philipppbar, Stoppenhagen and Waszak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Wheeler, Service Director Papp, Planning and Zoning Director Frantz, Law Director Cortes.

WORK SESSION TOPICS

Capital projects

Wheeler asked Council for their input on the list of Quarter 2 capital projects to determine whether they should Keep items in Q2, Hold until later, or Cancel.

Traffic control signal – Papp said Keep. This a labor-saving device, as two workers are not needed to control traffic during major work on a busy street such as Hawkins Road. Waszak recalled that a traffic-control worker was hurt in front of his house 25 years ago. Beshara and Lyons also said Keep. Papp noted that the signal runs on solar power.

Library driveway design – Frantz said Hold. Council members said it could wait until Q4.

Richfield Woods basketball court – Wheeler said Hold until Q2 of 2021, because that is when construction will begin. Domanick said something is needed for kids to play outside, but it is not a top priority.

Turk discussed income tax revenue, noting that ADP withholdings are down \$130,000 from April 2019 to April 2020. Motel taxes are up because one establishment caught up on its taxes, but Beshara and Waszak said that motel tax revenue would decrease. Wheeler said we cannot count on that figure because it is unknown.

Richfield Woods baseball field resurfacing – Wheeler said Hold until Q1 of 2021.

Heinle House Demolition – Frantz said Hold.



Town Hall interior lighting LED upgrade – Turk said that after a grant, this would only cost \$5,000. Wheeler said Keep, and Council agreed.

Cemetery Base and Monument Repairs – Papp said the governor is allowing this to proceed, but it does not qualify as critical infrastructure. Beshara said the work so far has been impressive, and she doesn't want it to get behind. Wheeler said in order for the work to be done correctly, the Village must Keep it in Q2.

Ground Penetrating Radar in West Richfield Cemetery – Hold until next year. Papp said there are not a lot of available spaces. Beshara said the Cemetery Board should meet.

Carter Pedigo Trail accessibility update design – Wheeler said Hold until Q3 of 2021.

Additional lights in the Center of Town – Wheeler said enough lights are there to avoid a safety issue. Philippbar suggested Hold until Q4. Papp noted that lights have some ordering lead-time, and Q4 is not a great time to install them.

Kinross-Wheatley sidewalk design – Frantz said Keep, but hold off on landscaping. Council agreed.

Annual paving program – Wheeler said Keep, because now is a good time to do the work with less traffic on the roads. Waszak said asphalt could become inexpensive like oil has recently. Papp said bids will be opened next week.

Motor Road drainage improvement and ditch elimination – Council said Keep. Papp said the plans are 90 percent finished, so the project could go to bid quickly. The project would involve enclosing a ditch and installing catch basins. Beshara said residents are anxious for the project to be finished. Philippbar said she would like to see more specific numbers. Frantz said the required \$253,000 is in the bank, but NEORS D collections may be down. Papp said \$253,000 should be enough to cover the project. Beshara said that if the project is delayed, contractors' calendars would fill up, and the cost would rise.

Glencairn sanitary sewer line repair construction – Waszak said that if the Village gets a huge rain, it could cause an expensive environmental problem. Papp said he could talk to NEORS D to see if the Village is eligible for a grant. Lyons said Council should see the plans for clarity before making a decision. Council agreed to Hold the project.

Motor Road sanitary groundwater mitigation project – Papp said he was working on plan development and would get back to Council. Waszak asked if this could be bid with the other Motor Road project, and Papp said yes. Wheeler said that is what the Village should do.



Wheeler said Chief McLean had asked to replace the Fire Department's rusty Car 2. The Chief is asking for \$46,000 for the car this year, because it is not safe. Wheeler agreed, but Philippbar and Domanick advocated waiting until later.

Wheeler thanked Sherwin Williams for donating N-95 masks to the Village, as well as everyone for pulling together during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beshara noted that a Gofundme page has been created to raise money for more masks for the Richfield Fire Department.

Briarwood overview and update

Frantz displayed a Powerpoint presentation about the history of the Briarwood subdivision. The current condominiums and houses were annexed to the Village in 1984. Another 125 acres of the Briarwood property are still located in the Township. Richfield Furnace Run acquired the property in 2000.

Philippbar asked why the annexation took place. Waszak said it was proposed, and Council went along with it. Lyons said annexation was considered a good thing back then.

In 2004, Summit County approved the development of 148 housing units. Lyons said the area was plagued with poor water service, and Beshara said the water bills were high. In 2009, the Village extended water to residents of the existing Briarwood homes. Beshara said the Village has not asked for a rate increase since 2011. Lyons said the Village began designing a sewer extension in 2012 and bought land for a pump station.

Frantz said the Village worked with the township on the financial impact of the development. In 2018, the Village received a grant of \$891,500 for the force main and pump station project, which would cover half of its cost. Now, we need to execute the development agreement and bid the construction. Eliminating a land bridge from the plans would save \$1 million and would reduce the environmental impact. It would also reduce the number of housing units to 132.

Two studies (Finkbinder in 2000 and GPD in 2020) said that a 500-foot section of State Route 303 needs to be lowered. GPD representatives will be at the regular Council meeting on April 21.

Complicating matters are the lots that are connected to the system but are not planned for annexation. Some of these homeowners want annexation, and some do not. A pre-filing review of the annexation petition is complete. Payment arrangements have been made for the State Route 303 work, which should cost \$510,000.

Signing the agreement would lead to the transfer of the ownership of utility lines, the force-main construction and the annexation petition. Next would come the modification of Chapter 1128 to designate the zoning district, followed by preliminary and final plan approval.



Repairing the system would cost \$1.2 million, while replacing it would cost \$2 million. The road profile change on State Route 303 would cost \$3,900 per housing unit.

Beshara asked about the Township's opinion on annexation. Wheeler said Trustees Jeff Shupe and Janet Jankura know it will happen and want to work with the Village. Beshara asked about the agreement, and Frantz said attorney Todd Hunt is working with the attorney for Water & Sewer LLC.

Domanick asked when the Village needs to use the grant money. Frantz said the NEORS D people have been very patient, and the Village is keeping them updated.

Status of Memorial Day Parade and Community Days

Wheeler said we do not know if we can gather in the month of May, so he asked if the parade should be canceled. Domanick noted that the Garage Sale in June has been postponed, so maybe the parade should be postponed as well.

Beshara said AMVETS could have a virtual commemoration. Stoppenhagen suggested a parade could take place on the Fourth of July. Wheeler said we also need to think about Community Days, and Lyons added that the village could consider a pared-down approach.

Philippbar said the Kiwanis cannot get together to raise funds for Community Days.

Resident Kelly Clark said Council should table the discussion of canceling the Memorial Day parade until it contacts AMVETS.

Lyons adjourned the work session at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeff Gorman
Clerk of Council

Mike Lyons
Council President