

Joint Meeting of Prairie Grove District 46 Board
And Village of Prairie Grove Trustees
Minutes
9/07/06

Board Members Present: Laura Domoto, Manish Shah, Dale Burnidge, Heidi Jessup, and Charlotte Kremer. Absent: Steve Todd and Karen Bowman

Trustees Present: Randy Baudin, Todd Greenwald, Mike Breseman and Stewart Connelly. Absent: Stan Duda, Bill Behm, and Dave Robak

The joint meeting of both bodies was called to order at 7:05 PM in the Prairie Grove Elementary Library.

Todd Greenwald and Manish Shah opened the meeting by establishing the format and rationale for coming together. They stressed the importance of both bodies coming together to communicate, have positive exchanges of information, and to explore ideas. They indicated many good things have come of working together in the past in order to provide the best education we can for the children of District 46.

Board President Laura Domoto spoke about different rules that govern day to day operations and finances of the two bodies, pointing out that laws govern that school district maintain monies in separate funds and sometimes that prevents the District from being as flexible and responsive as we would like.

David McArdle, Village Attorney, spoke about the open meetings act and Westminster-Swanson Land Partners as it relates to progress on the Terra Cotta and Tall Grass developments. He said the village has not been in contact with W-S for about two weeks, but they are continuing to pursue it. He believes that W-S is looking for builders to develop the properties and that they have not been successful thus far in selling off parcels. Mike Breseman indicated that Jeanine spoke to Rick Swanson this morning. He stated to her that he was trying to sell the property to an in between party which may change the timelines. Mike felt that Terra Cotta was more attractive than Tall Grass due to the fact that there are both sewer and water there.

Discussion ensued about the Tall Grass development status and the Seeger and Hacker parcels having not been purchased by W-S. Nobody knew when he might acquire the Seeger parcel. Estimates as to when sewer and water might come to the development were discussed, along with changes in the design with $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lots and a septic treatment system (pools and spray system supported by McHenry County). It was felt that W-S will attempt to go to Crystal Lake for sewer and water and Mike indicated the Village would fight that. If Tall Grass's design is changed as AES planned Terra Cotta it could take 6 months to a year.

Terra Cotta is nearing to preliminary plat approval, according to David McArdle, with final plat estimated by him to be 4-5 months away. The design guidelines, smaller lot sizes and open space work done by AES is the right thing in order to make it uniquely attractive, and maintain home values. The majority of the lots are 10,000 sq. feet. Mike said that the village is pleased with the new Terra Cotta plans. He added that there is an appreciation of the fact that the School District's lifeblood is EAVs.

Discussion ensued about several items: right of way along Barreville Road and it was noted that there are 40 landowners to be contacted, impact fees and 4 bedroom homes versus three or five, and a review of the many good things that W-S has done in designing these developments compared to the previous owners' direction. It is and will be a much better set of plans.

Encouragement by Heidi Jessup to get beyond issues that are in the past and back biting. Mike expressed dismay over the RTA communiqués, stated that he felt they should include names of participants. He felt that there was a board member participating in this. Manish Shah stated that every person has the right to do what they choose. Heidi stressed the importance of seeing the facts whatever side of the fence anyone is on.

Laura Domoto read a statement from Steve Todd asking that both bodies consider having Mary Fasbender and Jeanine Smith work together along with the Business/Finance person to forge a relationship and that that is most common among other school districts and communities with whom he has worked.

**** It was agreed that Mary Fasbender would initiate such contact with Jeanine.**

Stewart Connelly indicated that the reason we are all doing this voluntarily is because we are concerned about our community. He felt that both board need to avoid telling the other governing body what to do, instead we must communicate and respect what the other does.

Dale Burnidge asked for continued dialogue and exchange of ideas. He recognized that the schools are dependent upon the villages and city for support. He added that after Mike left the task force there wasn't the same exchange of info as with face to face meetings. Randy Baudin asked all the village boards to put their resources together, noting however that the Village of Prairie Grove has a large amount of open land compared, for instance, to Oakwood Hills. He stated that when it's time he will support the referendum. He asked that all members stay up to speed and communicate.

Charlotte and Todd spoke about our meetings being held on the same day, recognizing that the Village had changed their meeting day.

****It was agreed that both bodies would take a look at each's meeting day sometime in the future.**

Road improvements along Rt. 176 were discussed in light of the \$500,000 revenue available from IDOT (Smith Road allocation). Mike felt that the ROW should still be given by the District for expansion of the road. Mary Fasbender and Manish Shah described the findings of a sound study and noise abatement report which showed the classrooms currently exceed the federal decibel levels in the winter with the windows closed and that noise abatement would not be successful in the small space available. Mike felt that IDOT would compensate the district for the classrooms that were affected by moving the road closer. Manish stated that the district was told by IDOT officials that would not be the case.

**** Mike committed to contacting IDOT via Gary Overbay to determine if that was indeed out of the question. Manish offered to provide copies of the draft of an agreement that was created for the ROW if Mike or other trustees wished to see it and/or the study results.**

Theresa Bossemeyer from the audience felt that there needs to be more questions answered regarding school finances, i.e. PMA model and the JP Morgan information which she felt don't jive. Mary

Fasbender said we certainly can provide information and added that these two models are not totally comparable as they are designed to do different things. She also expressed concern about the district's assumptions for JP Morgan as worst case and for each year in the PMA model, as well as being able to balance the district's budget in future years.

**She stated that she and her husband have made an interactive spread sheet and that she would like any updated info that the district would have.

****Manish also acknowledged her concerns about the models and said the district would look into.**

Mary F. stated that the new business/finance person would be starting work next week and felt that he would need a little time to get acclimated prior to responding. Manish added that we cannot promise that you will be all of your questions answered to your satisfaction, but he committed to providing information to our public wherever possible to keep open lines of communication.

Question was posed about what impact fees can be used for by Charlotte. There were two different views of how they can be utilized. The village felt that they can be spent on anything; whereas the District's legal council has stated that they must be used for land acquisition and bricks and mortar for new construction that is attributable to new growth.

Manish stated that the district serves multiple communities and that we cannot get to the details unless we establish trust. All parties need to commit to continuing to provide truthful information. The suggestion was made to involve communities more by the District holding a community town hall meeting in the future to let people talk.

Mike revisited the ROW and offered the possibility of a 15 acre school site in Terra Cotta development. It was pointed out by board members and Dr. Fasbender that it might need to be more per the village's annexation agreement in order to accommodate a middle school. Mike stated that it could be more.

Heidi Jessup asked if Mike would agree to meet with Steve Todd and Sen. Althoff. Mike stated that that was not going to happen. Mike also added he could meet and work with the other Board members. Mike had the idea, as a way for the School Board to build trust with the community is to have a Town Hall Meeting like the one Village had, that offered exchange of free dialogue. Another gentleman in the audience echoed the idea of a town hall meeting in order for the Board to regain the trust of the community.

The meeting ended on a positive note with Manish asking all parties to commit to focus their energies to provide a solid education for the students of Prairie Grove District 46 and the constituents therein.

Action Items: ** indicates that this item needs action by the person indicated in the text.

Both bodies unanimously passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM

President

Secretary

*****Village of Prairie Grove Board passed these minutes at the October 24, 2006 Special Meeting*****