

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Meeting Minutes**  
**August 28, 2023**

The Village Board met as a Committee of the Whole in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall at 3 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2023. In attendance were:

PRESENT:

Village Board

Dan Shapiro, Mayor  
Bob Benton, Trustee  
Larry Berg, Trustee  
Elaine Jacoby, Trustee  
Mary Oppenheim, Trustee  
Bill Seiden, Trustee

Staff

Kent Street, Village Manager  
Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager/Director Community Development  
Brian Budny, Deputy Chief of Police  
John Sliozis, Police Chief  
Justin Keenan, Asst. to the Village Manager  
Eric Burk, Finance Director  
David Fitzgerald-Sullivan, Comm. Coord.  
Desiree Van Thorre, Admin Services Coord.  
Robert Phillips, Dir. of PW and Eng.  
Tyler Dickinson, Asst. Dir. of PW and Eng.  
Ryan Oates, PW Analyst  
Daniel Van Dusen, Deputy Clerk

Public Comment

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

Business

1. Discussion of Residential Regulations

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager/Director Community Development, noted this issue is related to a specific complaint. He outlined the history of Village lighting regulations.

Ms. Crane stated that her neighbors' light is obtrusive and shines into her house and yard. It has motion sensors and goes on and off at all hours.

Lisa Kamen, a 31-year resident, is living in her fourth house in Deerfield. She stated that she has motion detection lights in her back yard for safety. She stated that the light shines for 90 seconds and that she has adjusted the sensitivity. She believes one security light is not too much to have and that the light goes on at night when she walks her dog. She stated she relies on it for safety. She noted that she has adjusted the light's angle and changed the settings and also replaced the fence along the property line to be higher. She noted that the Crane's home is situated higher than hers and that she advised them to get curtains.

Mayor Shapiro noted that he knows the Kamen family. He stated that the Village Board does not like getting involved in neighborly disputes and encouraged both parties to work out a solution between themselves.

Trustee Seiden wanted to ensure that the light does not spill over the lot line. Mr. Lichterman noted that there is no light trespass, but there is a glare. Trustee Oppenheim noted that the Plan Commission often asks about light trespass issues. Mr. Lichterman noted the Village regulates light trespass on commercial properties, but not at residential properties.

Trustee Jacoby stated she agreed with staff's recommendation regarding light shielding. Mayor Shapiro stated there are a large number of details in lighting regulations and noted it is difficult to enforce. Trustee Benton stated there should be a point of contact at the Village to help mediate light issues. Trustee Berg noted that a lighting standard would be difficult to define and that it could complicate matters further. Trustee Oppenheim stated that the glare imposes on the neighbor and would also bother her. There was discussion about light shields to reduce the glare. Mayor Shapiro asked staff to work with the residents to help them find an amicable solution together.

Ms. Kamen stated she thinks she can work with her neighbors and continue dialogue to find a solution.

## 2. Discussion of 2024 Capital Improvement Program

Director of Public Works and Engineering Bob Phillips introduced the 2024 Capital Improvement Program. Mayor Shapiro noted that there is no new debt issue proposed. Assistant Director of Public Works and Engineering Tyler Dickinson reviewed the spreadsheet provided to the Mayor and Board.

Trustee Oppenheim inquired if the Meadowbrook and Ramsay HOA would be ready to pave following the planned water main installation. Mr. Dickinson reported that the HOA is ready.

Mayor Shapiro inquired about the Hazel Avenue project funding. Mr. Phillips said it may qualify for federal grant funding in the future.

Mayor Shapiro asked if there was interest in changing the funding level for the Business Façade Reimbursement Program. Trustee Oppenheim suggested keeping it the same for the next year and, if it runs out, look at increasing it at that time.

Trustee Seiden noted that he does not like to borrow money to complete capital projects and that the debt is coming due. Mayor Shapiro noted this year's program does not include new bonds and that funding comes from outside sources and the infrastructure replacement fund.

Mayor Shapiro asked if there is an increase anticipated in the tax levy. Finance Director Eric Burk noted it is projected to be 4%.

Mayor Shapiro noted that Public Works does a good job of long-term planning and alerting the Mayor and Board to future expenses.

### 3. Discussion of Village Vehicle Sticker Program

Mr. Burk reviewed the memo regarding the Village vehicle sticker costs and revenues. Mayor Shapiro noted the revenue from the stickers is down. Trustee Berg asked what staff attributes the loss to. Mr. Burk stated it is unclear. Staff paused late notices do to Covid-19 and are working hard to find scofflaws. Trustee Oppenheim noted that enforcement of the program is also costly. Trustee Seiden stated that it is not worth making changes now. Trustee Oppenheim noted that it is a nominal fee. Mayor Shapiro stated there seems to be agreement to continue with the status quo.

### 4. Discussion of Board of Trustees Phone Numbers

Mr. Lichterman reported that the Mayor and Trustees can get a Village issued phone number and have their voicemails forwarded to their Village e-mail address. Those interested should let him know.

### 5. Discussion of Funding Request by Faith in Action

Mr. Street outlined the recent funding request from Faith In Action. Trustee Benton inquired what funding other communities are providing. Trustee Seiden stated, according to the data provided, it looks like other communities are paying part of Deerfield's share. Trustee Oppenheim noted that she has volunteered for Faith In Action in the past and that they do a lot of good in the community. She would like to see a presentation from them on the request. Trustee Benton noted that there is some overlap of programs provided by the Village and West Deerfield Township. Mayor Shapiro stated there are multiple private and non-profit groups that have good causes that could ask for assistance in the future and expressed concern over setting precedent.

### Adjournment:

There being no further business or discussion, Trustee Jacoby moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Oppenheim seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fitzgerald-Sullivan  
Communications Coordinator