

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
February 11, 2013**

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) in the Village Hall Board Room (40 East Center Avenue) on Monday, February 11, 2013. In the absence of Village President Letchinger, Village Clerk William Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and called the roll and announced the following were present:

Trustees: Marina Carney
Steve Christensen
Mark Dewart
John Josephitis
Kathleen O’Hara
Brian Rener

Absent: Christine Letchinger, Village President

Also Present: William Meyer, Village Clerk
Drew Irvin, Village Administrator
Peter Friedman, Village Attorney
Gerald Nellessen, Building Codes Supervisor
William Gallagher, Police Chief
Brandon Stanick, Assistant to the Village Administrator

Trustee Carney moved to nominate Trustee Christensen as President Pro Tem for the meeting. Trustee Dewart seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Non-Agenda Items and Visitors

President Pro Tem Christensen stated the COW allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the Village Board on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the Board.

Consideration of the Minutes from the January 14, 2013 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

Trustee Josephitis moved to approve the January 14, 2013 COW Meeting Minutes as presented. Trustee O’Hara seconded the motion. The Meeting Minutes were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion Regarding The Greenbay Road/IL Route 176 Signalized Intersection Traffic Controls

President Pro Tem Christensen requested a report and update from Village Engineer George Russell regarding this matter.

Village Engineer Russell advised that the Greenbay Road/IL Route 176 intersection is being discussed because the Village had recently received comments regarding safety concerns at this intersection, specifically related to the “NO TURN ON RED” signs currently posted. The Village has been advised that drivers are making turns when pedestrians are present in the crosswalks. He stated the Village’s newly elected Lake County Board Representative Sandra Hart had also expressed the same concern and

inquired if the Village would consider changing the current “NO TURN ON RED WHEN PEDESTRIANS ARE PRESENT” sign to simply read “NO TURN ON RED.” Village Engineer Russell noted that the Plan Commission (prior to its consolidation with the Zoning Board of Appeals) reached a consensus during their review of the Village’s Comprehensive Plan to consider the proposed change to improve pedestrian safety.

Village Engineer Russell briefly reviewed the history of the intersection and advised the intersection has always been under the control of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and any traffic control changes would have to be made by IDOT. The initial sign post at the intersection was “NO TURN ON RED” in the early 1990s and there was no dedicated right hand turning lane at that time on any of the four legs of the intersection. As traffic continued to increase the Village began receiving complaints regarding traffic congestion and as a result signage reading “NO TURN ON RED WHEN PEDESTRIANS ARE PRESENT” was posted at the intersection. This change enabled drivers to proceed with a right hand turn without waiting for a “Green” signal, provided the vehicles were first in the traffic queue, and in theory, if no pedestrians were present.

Village Engineer Russell stated despite the change in regulations to allow vehicles to turn right on a “Red” signal, as long no pedestrians were present, complaints continued to be received regarding traffic delays at the intersection. As a result of increased traffic concerns, in particular the southbound traffic during the morning rush hours, the Village hired a consultant to conduct a traffic study, the results of which recommended the installation of a dedicated southbound right turn lane. He stated IDOT was provided with the result of the traffic study and ultimately approved funding for the construction of a southbound right hand turn lane and other miscellaneous improvements to the intersection. The improvements including the provision of a dedicated southbound right hand turn lane were completed in 2001 at a cost of \$235,000. Although the southbound right hand turn lane has been constructed the signs reading “NO TURN ON RED WHEN PEDESTRIANS ARE PRESENT” are still posted at the intersection.

Village Engineer Russell advised more than 13,800 vehicles travel daily through the west leg of the intersection with the north leg being the second busiest with an average daily traffic volume of 12,400 vehicles. Village Engineer Russell stated the Lake Bluff Police Department reports over the past five years there have been a total of 42 vehicle accidents, the majority of which were rear end accidents; and at this time there have been no reported pedestrian accidents. Village Engineer Russell expressed his observation that pedestrian vehicular conflicts are a result of drivers either not paying attention as they pull up to the intersection and are not aware of the prohibition for right turn on red, or drivers are simply being aggressive and not waiting for pedestrians to clear the intersection, many right hand turns are performed when the driver has a green signal.

Trustee Josephitis asked if the number of accidents reported was typical for this type of intersection. Police Chief Gallagher expressed his belief this was a normal count and further advised rear end accidents are the most frequent types and often occur in the eastbound direction at the intersection.

Trustee O’Hara inquired of the number of pedestrian accidents in the past five years. Police Chief Gallagher stated there have been no pedestrian accidents reported during that time.

Village Engineer Russell stated IDOT had been contacted regarding the possibility of changing the regulations for this particular intersection and expressed its concern for posting “NO TURN ON RED” signage because this could create longer traffic queues. He stated IDOT also advised at a minimum, a

traffic study would have to be conducted to evaluate the impacts for this type of change. Lastly, he stated Staff inquired if “NO TURN ON RED” signs could be posted for only certain times of the day and IDOT advised not at this type of intersection.

Patricia Kreunen (472 Mawman Avenue) expressed her belief drivers must proceed with caution when traveling southbound on Greenbay Road. She explained southbound drivers creep forward slowly to view westbound traffic prior to turning right on red and move south where it is difficult to see kids on the northwest corner of the intersection. She further stated northbound drivers making a right hand turn onto IL Route 176 from Greenbay Road cannot see pedestrians in the south leg crosswalk (moving from west to east) if the car is in the left lane making a left hand turn onto IL Route 176 from northbound Greenbay Road.

Trustee Dewart asked if there was anything that could be done with the traffic light sequencing to alleviate traffic. Police Chief Gallagher stated the heaviest traffic flow is approximately 30 minutes during the morning hours.

Village Clerk Meyer inquired of the specific regulations when pedestrians are in the crosswalk. Police Chief Gallagher reviewed a recent case in which a judge had ruled pedestrians must actually be in the crosswalk when the vehicle is making a turn in order for it to be a violation.

Village Clerk Meyer inquired if the Village could accentuate enforcement during the peak times. Police Chief Gallagher advised the Police Department normally has two patrol officers on duty at any one time and these officers are stationed near each school unless there are other ongoing issues in the community. He explained it would take two officers working together at one location to monitor and pull over violators.

After a continued discussion regarding this matter, President Pro Tem Christensen recommended Staff gather a cost estimate to conduct a traffic study and present it to the COW at a future meeting. It was the consensus of the COW to review the issue further.

Adjournment

As no further business came before the COW, Trustee Carney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Trustee Josephitis seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator

William Meyer
Village Clerk