

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2009, 6:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Flaiz, Koons, Porter and Wolfe
MEMBERS ABSENT: Dishong
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Building Commissioner, Street Commissioner,
Solicitor Ondrey, and Fiscal Officer Romanowski
GUESTS: Kathy O'Donnell, Bill O'Donnell, Rob Myers,
Tom Harvey, Judy Harvey, Joan Demirjian,
Tim O'Connell, Helen O'Connell, JoAnn Lechman,
Larry Lechman, Dan Brown, Cindy Nairn, Gary Rivin
and Michael Hogan

Mayor Brett called the Public Hearing to order. Fiscal Officer Romanowski read the roll, Dishong and Wolfe were absent. Mayor announced that the purpose of the Public Hearing is to get feedback regarding the two Village-owned parcels possibly being used for a cemetery.

Ed Pyle, Patty Mills and Cindy Nairn of the Cemetery Committee, and Joyce Bond, CT Consultants, updated the residents on the project. The parcels and layout of the cemetery were presented, as well as the number of sites available in each phase. Concepts were considered for these two parcels that would allow expansion as necessary, keeping maintenance of the property in mind. Burial and memorial options are both being addressed. It is important to the Committee to keep this property as a green space in the Village.

Mary Beth Wolfe arrived at 6:45 pm.

The Cemetery Committee is currently working on getting software that could be used for record keeping, setting up rules and regulations, and finalizing drawings by the end of the year. The bid phase would be the next step, followed by approval for funding. Pre-sales would be available at that time. The Committee is looking at a possible timeline with construction beginning in August, 2010.

Rob Myers is concerned about the future. Municipalities depend on taxes for their revenue. These two parcels could be developed in the future to bring revenue into South Russell. The cemetery will be revenue-neutral or an additional cost. He does not disagree with the need for a cemetery, but land on Route 306 would be a good location to bring money into the Village.

Dan Brown spoke of the 15 acres across from the cemetery parcel as an alternative location to bring revenue into South Russell. He thinks the Village should proceed with the cemetery.

Tom Harvey commended the Cemetery Board on the work they have done thus far. He stated this is something Village residents want, and he is in favor. His main thought is to keep it simple.

JoAnn Lechman asked how Council would proceed if approval was given. Mayor reported that the next phase of Engineering work has been approved. A final Engineering phase and construction costs would have to be approved by Council. The Village has some cash balances that could possibly be used for this purpose or other financing options could be considered. Solicitor Ondrey stated that an ordinance would be written to designate these parcels as a cemetery; it would not technically be re-zoned. Mayor reported that comments and suggestions would be taken into consideration. The ordinance would be up for its third reading at the Council meeting later that night.

Bill Koons stated that Council is hearing from residents who are in favor of the cemetery; however, he does not think the majority of Village residents are in favor of moving forward. Koons asked about the capacity of the road for a funeral procession in the cemetery. Bond said she thought it would be sufficient, but will look into this further.

Councilman Porter asked if preliminary pricing could be shared with the residents in attendance at the Public Hearing. Ed Pyle reviewed preliminary prices, but stated they would need to be approved by the Board.

Mayor adjourned the Public Hearing.

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by: Becky Peterson