

Three meetings

April 4,5 and 7—Friday afternoon, Saturday afternoon and Monday evening

Each lasted just over 3 hours

Approximately 100 people in total attended; Saturday's meeting was a bit smaller than Friday's or Monday's. Attendees included a number of past Village of Long Grove Trustees and members of the administration of other Villages.

Although conduct of each of the meetings was different, the overwhelming position of the residents at each of the Workshops is that implementation of a Real Estate Tax or SSAs has not been justified.

There were several themes in the meetings:

- (1) Trust in the board is low. That stems from the beliefs that
 - Use of executive session to discuss the road issue over the past five months was an abuse and precluded meaningful resident input,
 - Decisions were made without significant opportunity for community input, and when that input was provided, it was not taken into account,
 - Actions/processes specified in the November 12, 2013 ordinance were not followed by the Village.
 - The Real Estate Tax referendum was a ruse to push much higher taxes via SSAs
- (2) There is a lack of faith in road data presented by the Village
 - Long Grove paving costs are \$540k/mile; Prospect Heights paving costs are \$400k/mile; Indian creek paving costs are about \$250k/mile
 - An 8% engineering fee on top of the paving costs is well in excess of what is paid by the private HOAs
 - Neither 10% nor 8% annual inflation of road costs appear reasonable given recent decreases in paving costs
 - Village records regarding repaving do not match with some residents experience
- (3) The current designation of thoroughfare roads is not justified
- (4) Village finances and business development have not been handled well
 - The \$3.3 million reserve is excessive, especially when compared to other municipalities; before new taxes are considered, reserves should be reduced to levels commensurate with other municipalities
 - Long Grove is viewed as anti-business
 - The planning commission board has been an impediment
- (5) Specific suggestions included
 - Make use of the highly educated professional residents of Long Grove via advisory committees to help address and vet Village Issues
 - Aggregate paving campaigns to reduce paving costs; Long Grove's high cost for paving stems from mobilization costs for performing a limited amount of paving. Specifically

(a) develop a 3 to 5 year paving plan (b) combine bids with neighboring villages to obtain better rates and/or (c) use reserves to supplement current funding

- Make paving decisions more accessible to the public
- Develop a 5 to 10 year plan with overall revenue goals, including further revenue from Sunset Grove, and cost reduction goals; develop new sources of revenue to bring overall finances in line
- Separately bid out engineering costs for management of paving
- Refinance \$4.4 million TIF bond and repay general fund \$2.7 million
- Get Moody rated, saving approximately \$1 – 1.5 million in interest
- Hire a finance manager
- Hire a business development manager
- Pursue grants aggressively
- Stop looking for a single solution and develop multiple revenue sources: increase business development; food and beverage tax; pet stickers; etc.