

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

The Lake County Board met in a Special Call Meeting held on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 at the Wauconda Park District Community Center Gymnasium, 600 N. Main Street, Wauconda, Illinois. Chairman Suzi Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Assistant County Administrator Gary Gibson called the roll. Members present were: Carlson, Carter, Cunningham, Douglass, Gravenhorst, Leafblad, Maine, Mountsier, Nixon, O'Kelly, Paxton, Powers, Talbett and Whitmore. Members absent were Bassi, Calabresa, Kyle, Martini, Newton, Sabonjian, Spielman, and Stolman. Also present were the following staff: Barry Burton, Gary Gibson, Peter Kolb and Jennie Khoen. Sign-in sheets listing others in attendance are attached as part of this record.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALL

This Special Call Meeting was called for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing on the proposed establishment of Special Service Area No. 13 for the Spencer Highlands/Elmcrest subdivisions in unincorporated Lake County.

Chairman Suzi Schmidt provided opening comments regarding the purpose of the Public Hearing. She thanked the members of the audience for their participation, and especially thanked the County Board Members for attendance. Chairman Schmidt indicated that informational meetings had been held with the community regarding the proposed project and the proposed Special Service Area (SSA). Chairman Schmidt noted that in accordance with County Board policy regarding the establishment of SSAs, the homeowners associations for the two (2) subdivisions had circulated petitions for registered voters and property owners. She indicated that staff had reviewed the submitted petitions. The review indicated that the Board policy of having at least 60% of the signatures of registered voters and 60% of the signatures of property owners had been complied with. Chairman Schmidt indicated that as a result, the relevant ordinance had been passed by the County Board establishing the date and time for this Public Hearing. She then asked staff to present a brief summary of the project.

Mr. Gary Gibson, Assistant County Administrator, noted the actions that had been taken to date. He also explained that following the adjournment of this Public Hearing, a sixty (60) day period begins for individuals opposed to the establishment of the Special Service Area to file petitions with 51% of the registered voters and 51% of the property owners objecting to the creation of the SSA. If a petition was filed with the sufficient number of signatures of both groups, then the establishing process would be stopped for a minimum of two (2) years. Mr. Gibson further explained the use of an SSA to serve as a financing mechanism for the proposed sewer project. He also provided a summary of the cost per lot that would be assessed on each property should the SSA be established as proposed.

Mr. Peter Kolb, Director of the Lake County Department of Public Works then provided a brief review of the proposed project. He noted that the Village of Wauconda had been actively involved in the process. Mr. Kolb stated that the Village's engineer had designed the proposed project and that the Village would be responsible for bidding, letting the appropriate contracts and having the project constructed.

LAKE COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Schmidt then opened the Public Hearing for the County Board to hear comments from the public. Mr. Gibson read aloud letters and emails that been submitted to the County prior to the beginning of the Public Hearing. Following this, members of the public were given the opportunity to provide comments to the County Board. General comments included: problems with existing septic fields and the desire to provide a solution for those situations, inability to remodel or add on to a home because of the inability to expand a property's septic field, desire to get the project underway and completed as soon as possible, issues with runoff going into the nearby lake, odor issues, concern over the inability of seniors or others on fixed incomes to pay the additional taxes and concern over what the long-term impact would be to the subdivisions following the installation of the sewers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other members of the public wishing to address the County Board, Chairman Schmidt called for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Motion by Member Carter, seconded by Member Douglass. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Schmidt declared the Public Hearing adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member O'Kelly to adjourn the Special Call Meeting of the County Board. Motion passed unanimously. The Special Call Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.