



Report: Village of Alsip Committee Meeting

October 26, 2009

by Jay Henry

Mayor Patrick Kitching called the Committee Meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Trustee Steve Daddona was not present.

The agenda for tonight's meeting was unusually brief – even for Alsip. Typically, there are statements embedded in the agenda that are read verbatim by one trustee or another. That wasn't the case with tonight's agenda ... many from the public in attendance were left to wonder if there was any reason to hold a meeting tonight at all.

Mayor Kitching reported on the building expansion at a local Alsip business on 127th Street that was attended by the firm's "Japanese executives from Japan."

Trustee John Shapiro provided information regarding two unrelated building permits for the erection of new signs – the first being St. Terrence Catholic Church and the second being for School District 126 at Prairie Junior High.

Mayor Kitching took a decidedly adversarial position to the proposed waiver or reduction of fees associated with the St. Terrence request. In his efforts to, "Facilitate some discussion on this subject," the Mayor noted that this is the only opportunity for the Village to get any sort of revenue from the Church because they don't pay real estate tax or any sales tax – and they own a large tract of land in the Village. He added that he didn't think we should be granting "Special dispensation to anybody."

Trustee Shapiro attempted to point out to the Mayor that similar waivers have been granted in the past, and that he was only following established precedent and protocol for this type of situation. Trustee Jim Quinn verbally supported the waiver of the fees with other Trustees remaining noticeably silent on the matter.

Trustee Dan Godfrey reported that there was only one bid for the project to directionally bore a new water main beneath the Cal Sag Channel. The bid for about \$1.4 million was within budgeted expectations for this project. There was a brief discussion among the Trustees revolving around why it might be that only one bidder came forward. Clerk Deb Venhuizen informed the Board that there were 4 bid packages requested by contractors for this project.

Trustee Kevin Michaels reported that there would be a Planning and Zoning meeting held this Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the Village Board Room to discuss 2 revisions to local zoning. One request is for 12245 S. Pulaski and the northeast corner parcel at 123rd & Pulaski to be zoned B-3 – which would permit liquor sales at a business that is considering building at this location. The other item for consideration is for a "special use" permit requested by Edon Construction that would allow a gun range at their business located at 5420 W. 122nd Street.

The meeting was adjourned a little before 8:00 PM.