

**Public Works Committee**  
**October 10, 2018**

Trustee Benkowski called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Village Hall, 5043 Chester Lane, Racine, Wisconsin.

Present were: Trustee Benkowski and Trustee Martin filling in for Trustee Stillman.

Absent: Trustee Stillman was excused.

Staff present: Village Administrator Tom Christensen, and Public Works Director Tom Lazcano

**1. Approval of minutes**

Motion by Trustee Martin to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Trustee Benkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Flashing Stop Sign for 5 Mile Road & Nicholson Road**

Christensen explained that there were a lot of accidents on 4 Mile Road & Nicholson Road and one fatality. They put a flashing stop sign in at that intersection and it has since reduced the number of accidents. There have been some serious accidents at 5 Mile Road & Nicholson Road as well and Christensen is proposing putting up a flashing stop sign at that intersection too.

Trustee Martin thought the two-way stops were dangerous, and felt something needed to be done. She speculated that the drivers may be underestimating the speed.

Christensen recommended the flashing signs be installed. These would be only the second set installed by the Village. If too many are installed they can often lose their effectiveness.

The State offered to put a roundabout in at that intersection, but at the time some Board members were opposed. There was some discussion about possibly putting in a roundabout in the distant future, and if the State would be willing to help at that time.

Motion by Trustee Martin to approve the Flashing Stop Sign for 5 Mile Road & Nicholson Road. Seconded by Trustee Benkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. SEWRPC VISION 2050 Amendment**

Trustee Benkowski attended one of the amendment meetings held regarding the SEWRPC VISION 2050 Amendment. He stated that the only petition or benefit out of this amendment is that Caledonia could possibly get an additional bus stop that runs from I94 to FoxConn. The target area is not Caledonia, and the revised employment figures are almost negligible. Trustee Benkowski thought this needed to focus on a housing section. Trustee Martin agreed, and felt the housing pushed for high density - cheap housing for low paid workers. New housing units are being recommended.

The amendment offers no benefit for Caledonia, but nothing is being taken away either. Christensen said this is acting as a guide, doesn't obligate spending or projects but is rather a basis of a plan and compared it to the 2035 Plan.

Currently, they are accepting feedback regarding the amendment. Trustee Benkowski asked if this discussion should be at a Board level and feedback could be sent in the form of a letter. A Special Board could be held to discuss how to move forward regarding what is being proposed.

Motion by Trustee Martin to recommend have an informational Special Board meeting regarding the revised 2050 plan to consider writing as letter either supporting, rejecting or requesting further information. Seconded by Trustee Benkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Bike Path Request**

Lazcano explained that a boy scout is going for his citizenship badge which requires him to approach a government official regarding a project important to them; in this case it's a bike path. The neighborhood kids used to be able to cut through a neighbor's yard and the neighbor has since asked them not to. Kleema ditch could be used, and there is an opportunity for an easement but the issue comes down to funding. Lazcano has not pulled any estimates; he just brought this to Committee to see if they'd be interested in passing this. He thought that the bike path could be used to bike to school as well.

There was some concern regarding the bike path turning into a "theft walk" with it being right next to neighborhood houses and if a fence would deter that. There was also concern that if we create this bike path, others might request additional paths too which is not affordable.

There was some discussion about the Highway Department helping out with the bike path and taking on the brunt of the work in laying stone which would cut some of the costs. The boy scouts have offered to hold fundraisers to help alleviate the cost. Lazcano is going to look into it, and get some estimates.

Motion by Trustee Martin to continue to investigate the probability of a bike path with the possibility of any grants for bike paths, and will return to Committee for discussion. Seconded by Trustee Benkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Motion by Trustee Martin to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Benkowski. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joslyn Hoeffert  
Deputy Village Clerk