



**Village of Howards Grove
Public Hearing & Board Meeting
Tuesday February 21, 2023 @ 5:15 PM**

**Howards Grove Village Hall
913 S. Wisconsin Dr., Howards Grove, Wisconsin**

Public Hearing Minutes

A public hearing will be held before the Village Board at 5:15 PM on Tuesday February 21, 2023, at the Village Hall, 913 S. Wisconsin Dr to hear comments from interested persons, or their agents concerning the proposed public improvements on Millersville Ave. and the Intent to Levy Special Assessments Under Municipal Power Pursuant to Sec. 66.0703, Wis, Stats.

- I. Public Hearing Discussion:** In President Plass' absence Trustee Horness called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. There were 25 interested persons in attendance. There was an informational meeting at 4:00 PM on Thursday February 16th for interested parties to view the scope of the Millersville project and ask questions to the engineers.

Questions and comments that were voiced:

- Why is the project needed, what is being done?
- It is not financially responsible, they just passed a school referendum that is putting millions of dollars on the residents as well, the road isn't in that bad of shape, every single person uses that road to come into the community but it's only "our" problem, where is the sense in this?
- No time to prepare, poor timing,
- Not fair to the people that live on intersecting roads, we shouldn't be paying more than the Village is we are already paying property taxes,
- Have we done an environmental impact study to see how this will affect the river and the animals that live in the impacted area?
- Called the number on the PIM letter and was unable to reach anyone and no one returned my call.
- A year ago interest rates were lower, if they would have known they could have been better prepared.
- The project was mentioned in the Village newsletters for about 2 years now.
- Are we charging more for commercial properties?
- Is the project going to do the engineering to control flooding?
- I personally want the sidewalk extended.
- Does the project plan include the future park?
- Concerns about the culvert on the East end of Millersville, is anything being addressed regarding this?
- Did the engineers do a study on how long the road should last? DPW Director Welsing did reply to this comment that the last time the road was repaved was in 1987, and he does not have current numbers.
- Did they put a traffic tracker on the road?



- When is the project suppose to start? DPW Director Welsing did state it is proposed to start in April.
- When will we know the results of this hearing if this project will move forward or not? DPW Director Welsing commented that if the Village Board decides tonight to move forward you will know tonight, if they decided to table this you will be notified of the next meeting where they will make a decision, the public is welcome at that meeting.
- The resident at 1006 Millersville shared information on his large property, of which a large portion is wetland and Conservancy, and feels that assessing his entire footage is unreasonable.
- Has anyone in the Village paid for a road previous to this?
- Is the 75/25 split comparable to surrounding areas who assess.
- What is the likelihood of the Board voting on this without the current President here?
- Why is this so important to get this done right now at this period of time? What exactly is being done to the road? There are worse roads in the Village. DPW Director Welsing gave a 30,000 ft overview of the project: This is a split project with the Sheboygan County Highway Department 55/45, 55% paid for by the Sheboygan County, 45% paid for by the residents and general Village Levy. The road has not been repaired since 1987, it is breaking down, there are some flooding issues that will be resolved with some storm sewer improvements, it will be milled down, regraded and new asphalt will be put in place. There will be some sidewalk restoration, and some sanitary lining.
- This was the best deal you could find, did you check out other ways for this to get paid through the federal government, grants? DPW Director Welsing commented that dollar for dollar this is the best option. Also the Village has been a special assessment municipality for 30+ years, it has been a standard practice in the Village, this is not something the Board has decided to do just for Millersville.
- Does this practice apply to the other major thoroughfares in the Village? DPW Director Welsing commented that this is almost a mirror image of what we did on College Ave. just over a year ago.
- Can they hold off until we are better off economically? Right now is not a good time, it is not feasible to do it at this time.
- One resident commented that we do need to move forward, it will not get cheaper in the future.
- Is it possible to pay this bill over time? Our neighbors got to pay theirs over time, not sure what has changed.
- There was a letter submitted from a resident stating he in in favor of our plans to not have new sidewalks installed.

II. Close of Public Hearing: The Public Hearing ended at 5:56 PM



Board Agenda

- I. **Call board meeting to Order:** The Village Board meeting was called to order at 5:56 PM
- II. **Verification of Meeting Duly Noticed:** It was noted that the meeting was duly noticed.
- III. **Roll Call:** In attendance were Trustees Abler, Horness, Meyer and Pieper. DPW Director Welsing and Clerk/Treasurer Komoroski. Absent were President Plass and Trustees Kriete and Winter.
- IV. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2023:** Motion made by Trustee Horness to approve the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes as written; seconded by Trustee Abler. NFD. Motion carried.
- V. **Public Comments and Correspondence**

Note: under Public Comment The public can comment on any topic, but state open meeting laws do not allow for any discussion or action to be taken on issues not listed on the agenda.

Public Comment is limited to 2 minutes per resident.

 - Dan Binverise commented that it was talked about at one time that the road was going to be milled down a little bit in front of his property at 339 Millersville and the possibility of a catch basin near his property.
- VI. **Approval of Preliminary Resolution 2023-01, resolution declaring intent to levy special assessments under municipal power pursuant to sec. 66.0703, Wis. Stats. :** Clerk Komoroski made a comment that this Resolution needs to be passed before going forward with the final resolution, she did not have all the information on hand to approve at the January Board meeting. DPW Director Welsing commented that this resolution and the final resolution are two totally different topics, you do not have to approve them both of them tonight but we need to approve the Preliminary before approving the final. Trustee Abler had a question on the clarity. DPW Director Welsing commented that this resolution is your intent to go ahead with the road project and the special assessments. Motion made by Trustee Abler to approve Preliminary Resolution 2023-01. Seconded by Trustee Horness. NFD. Motion carried.
- VII. **Approval of Resolution 2023-02 Final Resolution, Millersville Ave. Road Construction:** Trustee Abler commented that he feels we are not ready to move forward approving this resolution. DPW Director Welsing said this project has been discussed on the County level for the last 5 years, on the Village radar for the past 3 years, it was moved back a year, and now it is up for rehab. It was questioned if we do not approve the resolution tonight if it would delay the county, per Welsing we do have time but not to wait too long. It was mentioned that the Village did bring Special Assessment to the public vote via referendum and the Village residents voted to keep our Special Assessment policy. It was also a concern about the offering or lack of offering a payment schedule with the Village. DPW Director Welsing did mention that if the residents were expecting the project to be completed and billed in 2023 that is not likely to happen, the assessments will most likely first be finalized in 2024. Also there will not be any new sidewalks in this proposal. Motion by Trustee Pieper to table this discussion, seconded by Trustee Abler. NFD. Motion to table the approval of Resolution 2023-02 to a future date carried.



- VIII. Discuss/Approve temporary Class "B" Retailer's License for Howards Grove Fire Department Brat Fry Sunday February 26, 2023. Also Fire Chief Tyler Wuestenhagen would like to address the board.** Motion to approve the temporary Class "B" Retailer's License for Howards Grove Fire Department Brat Fry Sunday February 26, 2023 made by Trustee Pieper, seconded by Trustee Horness. NFD. Motion carried.

Ryan Duening and Tyler Wuestenhagen approached the board with a list of updates that need to be done at the Fire Station. There are several repairs and updates that need to be made, some more urgent than others. The presented a proposal to install a LED message board sign at the Fire Station. Because the Village owns the property they are asking if we would help cover some of the cost to run the electric to the sign. They have applied for and received a grant for the lion's share of the remaining cost. DPW Director Welsing commented that he is a proponent of the sign. Motion was made by Trustee Pieper, seconded by Trustee Horness to approve paying to run the power to the new LED message board. NFD. Motion carried. The remaining items will be tabled to be discussed by the Finance Committee.

- IX. Discuss/Approve Operator's license applications.** We had two new 2 Year operator's license applications for approval, all paperwork, background checks and payments have been verified. Motion made by Trustee Horness to approve the operator's licenses for Johnathon I Washington and Amanda K Pinter. Seconded by Trustee Pieper. NFD. Motion carried.

X. Financials

- 1. Approval of Village and Sanitary Vouchers:** Motion made by Trustee Meyer to approve the Village and Sanitary vouchers per the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Seconded by Trustee Horness. NFD. Motion carried.

- XI. Public Meeting Notices:** We would like to set a tentative date of March 7th to further discuss the Millersville Road project. Once verified it will be posted on the Village website and Village front door. Regular meetings will remain on following dates:

1. Finance Committee Mtg March 17, 2023 @ 5:15pm
2. Village Board Regular Mtg March 17, 2023 @ 5:30pm

- XII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Pieper, seconded by Trustee Abler. NFD. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Attachments: Public meeting sign in sheet, 1006 Millersville property statements, letter from resident regarding sidewalks, HGFDP Proposed Budget Item list and LED sign bid.

Submitted by: Mary J Komoroski, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: March 7, 2023