

## Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association Meeting – September 22, 2009

Parry opened the meeting at 7:35.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Current balance: \$3,800.64

Since May, we have spent \$619.03 on meeting refreshments, the memorial service sound crew for the 9/11 service, National Night Out, and postage for buckets filled with donated items for troops overseas.

Bonnie announced that we are no longer sending out paper newsletters—it will be all electronic from now on. It will also be posted to the website, approximately quarterly. The website is under construction. It will provide, in addition to the newsletter, a schedule of events, important links to local government services and first responders, and more. It will also serve as a forum for community discussion. It should be up and running within about thirty days.

Parry brought up Browne fence issue. There was recently a meeting with the school, neighborhood representatives, and Jeff McKay's office. Parry asked that the issues not be rehashed tonight, but that Supervisor McKay could answer a few basic questions. One issue is whether the county can take over the trail so that Browne is not liable.

Parry introduced **Jeff McKay, Lee District Supervisor.**

County budget: last year's budget did not decrease funding for public safety, code enforcement, or senior citizen support. This year's shortfall is \$325 M. There is some carryover that is resulting in a smaller shortfall than otherwise. The school part of the budget is 53% of the county budget—this percentage has increased over years. Jeff feels it's important to keep it steady because otherwise it takes away from other programs.

Also discussed:

- tax rates, public safety, and the value of senior citizens in the county and communities.
- **Springfield Mall**—rezoning approved. The build-out time frame is about ten years. It will be a huge improvement to the area.
- oversized houses. There was a change to building code regarding height of houses to discourage this.
- Community parking district—all but two communities in Lee District approved it; the other two were neutral. As a result, Jeff will be moving forward with this. It restricts commercial vehicle parking in residential neighborhoods.
- Jeff's assistant Scott Robinson was available to take e-mail addresses for Jeff's e-newsletter. Jeff is sending fewer paper newsletters to save money and paper.

Questions involved the following:

- Foreclosures? Still lots of foreclosures; not as many empty houses in neighborhoods anymore.
- Who to report problems with empty houses? Can contact Jeff's office for help.
- Is there a list of foreclosures? Call Jeff's office, or go on county webpage, tax admin, and look at the owner. If it's bank-owned, it's a foreclosure.
- Rite Aid at Penn Daw? This is in Mt Vernon district, so not sure. Hyland is interested in redeveloping.
- Chuck E Cheese—currently a Walmart plans to come in. No need for approval because they plan to build just under the square footage limit for special approval.
- Trail at Browne Academy—need to get on list for county trails to be put on master plan, need to address such issues as moving fence over, working with townhouse community, ADA, and more. This is an extremely complicated, expensive issue not likely to be resolved quickly.
- What is status of sidewalk on Florence? The project is scheduled to start in December.
- Speeders on Florence Ln. This problem exists everywhere. Radar can be posted, but the improvement tends to be temporary. Neighbors need to self-police. Traffic-calming devices are possible, but come with their own set of issues, such as dissenting residents, slowing down emergency vehicles, problems with snow plows, etc.
- Parking on School St. Jeff motioned board to restrict the parking on bottom part of School St. on one side. This is experimental to see if the whole side can be restricted.
- Telegraph Rd interchange? Project is on schedule for 2013 completion. Project is also way under budget because construction costs are down. Flyovers have helped but all the work still presents problems.
- What is Alexandria doing on their side of this interchange? Some minor improvements, but limited relief overall. Faster traffic will be due to FC cutting down on traffic lights. Adding the access to Eisenhower will improve traffic as well.
- Kudos: For getting rid of blacktop, mobile office, etc. at Sharon Chapel devt.--thanks to Jeff's employees and volunteers.
- What is the status of the cut-through from Telegraph to Route 1? This will be named Mulligan Rd. and will be a four lane road. Telegraph will also be widened to four lanes here. It should be finished in 2011.

- Water main issue

Many thanks to Jeff McKay and to Scott Robinson for their attendance and help tonight.

The 50/50 raffle was held.

Parry closed the meeting at 8:47.