

VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Meeting Minutes
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room
March 6, 2012

AGENDA ITEM 1: Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

Present: Chairperson – Trustee John Schmitt; Trustees Jim Steigert, Jerrold Glogowski, Brian Dianis, Robert Smith, John Spella, and Debby Sosine

Staff Members Present: William Ganek, Village Manager; Russ Farnum, Community Development Director; Michele Zimmerman, Assistant Public Works Director; Kelly Cahill, Village Attorney; Jerry Kautz, Village Clerk

Chairperson Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and established a quorum with all Committee members present.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Community Development

A. Discussion of the Randall Road Improvement Project including the Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) at Randall and Algonquin Roads

The main speakers from McHenry County were Wally Dietrich, Division of Transportation, and Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman.

The reason the county is recommending the CFI is that the traffic counts on Randall Road at Algonquin Road warrant a “D”-rated intersection, and only a CFI would suffice in order to obtain federal funding. Mr. Dietrich stated that just adding a left turn lane both northbound and southbound would not qualify for federal funds for the intersection reconstruction. The Village Board had several questions and comments.

First, President Schmitt said that he surveyed the businesses in Algonquin adjacent to the intersection and along the Randall Road corridor and that all stated their business is negatively affected by the traffic. They thought the CFI would be a good solution with modification to keep more access open on Algonquin Road. He has discussed this project many times with county officials.

Mr. Glogowski was concerned about access points on Algonquin Road. Mr. Schmitt replied he is recommending that they would remain in place as they are currently. Mr. Glogowski said he was not in favor of the “teacup handle” accesses behind businesses on East and West Algonquin Road, and also asked about the proposed cut-through from behind the Jewel store complex. The response was that cutting through the Jewel strip mall was not an option at this time, so Mr. Glogowski stated if a service road from Algonquin Road to Stonegate was built, it

would displace several businesses. In addition, he questioned the validity of northbound traffic counts as the growth patterns have dropped in the last three years. He would like additional left-hand turn lanes on North and South Randall Road.

Mr. Steigert stated if the intersection cannot be built to “D” standards without the CFI, and the federal dollars will not be forthcoming, it should be a “yes” to building it. He also said he knows people are decreasing their trips to Algonquin due to the traffic jams.

Mr. Smith asked a direct question of the costs of building the CFI. Mr. Dietrich said the total cost for the whole Randall Road Corridor, including the CFI, would be \$80,000,000, with 80 percent from federal dollars and 20 percent county funds; that would equate to \$20,000,000 for the county. Smith then asked why an extra left turn lane in both directions couldn’t be added on Randall. Construction time frame estimate for this would be two years according to Dietrich. Mr. Koehler interjected that he, too, is concerned about keeping the businesses in the area, and the CFI is the way to proceed, but honestly, the prospects right now for federal funding for this CFI project is zero to none. We must wait for new rules to be put in place. He estimated that it could take as many as 15 to 20 years for a major project to get funds. But he asked if the Board would want an intersection that does not meet the federal traffic standards. Smith said children not yet born would be driving cars long before it would be built. The area needs traffic relief now, not have to wait 15 to 20 years for a CFI. Mr. Smith would be a proponent for additional turn lanes.

Mr. Spella said anyone who relies on federal money for a project is not prudent. He agrees with Mr. Smith that traffic relief should be soon and that the additional left turn lanes would be a good step. He also added that residents in the Chicago metropolitan area expect heavy traffic and that folks in this area would still use the businesses.

Ms. Sosine said she also agrees with Mr. Smith as far as putting in a left turn lane now. She was concerned the CFI would put additional stress on Bunker Hill Drive. Another big concern was the kind of traffic signage that is required to direct traffic flow with the CFI. She does not want Randall Road looking like an expressway. When she asked about the amount of time for vehicles to turn at a CFI compared to having a conventional left turn lane added, Mr. Dietrich replied that there would be a 60-second difference.

Mr. Dianis prefers the abilities and safeties of a CFI over conventional left turns and does not refute the information. He does like the plan of keeping Algonquin Road accesses open but has concerns about service roads not being able handle the amount of traffic. He also asked about how power outages would affect a CFI and was told there was very minimal concern. Mr. Dianis questioned the type of median that would be built on Algonquin Road. Mr. Dietrich replied that it would be similar to a 6- to 9-inch curb as used today for medians in the area. One last question was if any McHenry County Board member visited any other current CFI locations in the United States or Mexico. Mr. Koehler responded no one had.

Mr. Glogowski interjected that he attended a recent public information meeting regarding the CFI. He said he had an unofficial survey of those attending the meeting. Based on the written comments from the county, he said there were 81 who voted no, 17 who were on the fence, and 21 who voted yes.

After some further discussion, Mr. Schmitt thanked all present for attending tonight. This issue is of the utmost importance and we should keep the dialog open.

AGENDA ITEM 3: General Administration

No items to discuss.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Works & Safety

No items to discuss.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Executive Session

No items to discuss.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Other Business

No items to discuss.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjournment

No items to discuss.

There being no further business, Chairperson Schmitt adjourned the meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 8:11 p.m.

Submitted: Jerry Kautz, Village Clerk