

## May 27, 2008 Town Hall Meeting Minutes

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Meeting called to order at the Village of Hainesville Council Chambers by Mayor Ted Mueller at 7:00 p.m. Chief Roth led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Clerk Kathy Metzler took roll call. The following Officials were present: Mayor Ted Mueller, Trustees Barrett, Bonds, Tiffany and Gottsacker

Also present were: Village Clerk Kathy Metzler, Public Works Supervisor Jeff Gately and Village Attorney Julie Tappendorf

Absent: Trustees Walkington and Stilz, Treasurer Kelly Hensley and Building Official Russ Kraly  
Mayor Mueller stated that this is the residents meeting and that no action will be taken.

There were ten residents that spoke at the town hall meeting. Jim DeNomie read questions from cards that he received. Jim presented the following questions to the Mayor and Board of Trustees.

- Can flags be put on the fire hydrants when it snows? Trustee Gottsacker stated the flags can be unbolted from the hydrants. They could put an 8 ft. post with a 3 ft. reflective blue strip.
- Can the medians be painted with reflective paint? It is difficult to see the medians when turning left into the entrances. Jeff Gately stated we did yellow in Cranberry Lake. Trustee Gottsacker stated there are federal guidelines and will look into it.
- Regarding ordinance 08-04-95 they would like to rescind the 5 minutes for public speaking. Attorney Tappendorf stated legally the Village does not have to provide public discussion. The residents are saying everyone should be treated equally and would like the verbiage changed in the ordinance. Trustee Walkington entered the Chamber Council at 7:20 p.m.
- The residents would like to be able to have public comment after each agenda item. Trustee Bonds contacted 16 municipalities and read the results. The Board is not interested in having a committee of the whole meeting or to allow public discussion after each agenda item.
- Can the ordinances and resolutions be put on the website one week before the meeting? Attorney Tappendorf stated these ordinances and resolutions are prepared a few days before the meetings. They are not public records until the Board has voted on the items.
- What is the status on the bike path. Mayor Mueller stated Avon Townships part will begin construction soon and will be completed this year. Currently ComEd is working on moving some poles. The south end of Union Square up to the wetland area will be constructed later this year. We could do a retaining wall or a bridge to go over the wetlands. The residents were in favor of the bridge. The Mayor has the paperwork for the \$85,000 grant.
- Can all invoices in the amount of over \$800 be approved individually on the agenda? Mayor Mueller stated the invoices are carefully reviewed by himself, Kelly and Trustees. Trustee Bonds stated you can attend the Finance Committee Meeting which is the 2nd Tuesday of each month before the Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m. Attorney Tappendorf stated no other municipality does this.
- Would like to request that before the budget is passed, that the staff members and Trustees explain their budget at a meeting for the residents to hear. Attorney Tappendorf stated that the budget is a draft until voted on. Items can change, that is why residents don't see draft items until they have been voted on.
- A question was asked about the tax levy and the Mayor explained the levy.
- Question for public safety; what could have been done by public safety to improve the process with the residents on the input of going forward with our own police department. Mayor Mueller stated we talked to several communities to join them and it wasn't going to work. We started the interviewing process to go forward with our own department. The Chiefs budget is no greater than with Round Lake Park or the Sheriff's department. You all elected us to make decisions for the Village.
- In 1996 when our police department was formed, there was a police commission. Why isn't there one now? The Mayor stated a village with less than 5,000 residents does not require a police commission.
- What is the plan for the old village hall and if not sell it why is it listed as a revenue source on the budget. Trustee Bonds stated it is not a revenue source. Mayor Mueller thought they could use this for the police department eventually but there is too much work that has to be done. In the next few years they would like to tear it down, subject to vote, and build a police facility.
- What is the status of the retirement plans for the staff and police? Trustee Bonds stated no decisions have been made yet. We have submitted another cost study including the police and are awaiting the results. Trustee Bonds stated we should decide within the next month.
- How many lawsuits are we involved in? Attorney Tappendorf stated we can't discuss litigation in open session. We are involved in three lawsuits. Deer Point vs Village of Hainesville, Village of Hainesville vs

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VIP Holding Co. Peter Vole and Village of Hainesville vs Round Lake Park. All are pending and this is all we can say.

- How will the village deal with foreclosures and health issues related to all the foreclosures? Attorney Tappendorf stated this is an issue with every community, it is complaint driven. If the property isn't maintained let the Village know. It was discussed that the bank owns it and they will want to take care of it. If there is water damage, the house gets red tagged.
- With the townhomes having delinquent water bills to the management company, why doesn't the village collect the money? Mayor Mueller stated that the Village is not a collection agency.
- The garbage trucks have a hard time backing out of the driveways around Holiday Lane. Is there a plan to change the parking? Trustee Gottsacker stated if they put up more no parking signs, there wouldn't be any parking spots left.
- A resident commented that it is great that the police have a bike patrol!
- A Cranberry Lake townhome resident stated with costs going up he asked if solar panels are allowed and can you overrule the association. Mayor Mueller stated we cannot overrule the association.
- A resident spoke about confusion on the websites. There is a terrible website called topix.com and we all feel wounded by things said on this website. This resident stated she had nothing to do with this website, only the Hainesville yahoo group.
- Can a form be made by the Village to be filled out by a resident and have the Village response within 10 days? Mayor Mueller stated we have such a form which is called a public action form. You can contact anyone in the office and they will fill it out or you can fill it out if you wish.
- Is there a safety issue behind Subway? Did someone request to be police escorted due to the poor lighting behind Subway. Attorney Tappendorf stated this is a private parking lot it is up to the owner to provide better lighting. Chief Roth stated this is a friendly police department, call us we can escort you to your car. However, there is a surveillance camera back there and there is more to the story than what is being said. It was asked for the sign to be taken down.
- There are concerns of safety now that Cranberry Lake can be seen. Attorney Tappendorf stated the Village is protected from lawsuits regarding the Lake. Mayor Mueller stated if you see people partying around the Lake, call the police.
- Trustee Walkington questioned Tall Oak Drive residents regarding their lot lines and easement. Half the residents are still past the lot line. Mayor Mueller stated those who weren't in compliance received a letter. Trustee Walkington asked if all Tall Oak residents could receive another letter again. Trustee Walkington suggests that everyone with Tall Oak access to the Lake should receive a letter. The residents thanked the Mayor and Board of Trustees for having this Town Hall Meeting and to be able to ask questions and to be heard.

**The May 27th, 2008 Town Hall Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Metzler, RMC, CMC  
Village Clerk