

HAINESVILLE TOWN HALL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2010
REGARDING POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reported by:
Gina Marie Zangara, CSR

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1 The proceedings taken before Gina Marie
2 Zangara, CSR, a notary public within and for the
3 County of McHenry and State of Illinois, on
4 February 23rd, 2010, at the hour of 7:00 p.m.,
5 at the Northbrook Sports Club.

6

7 APPEARANCES:

8 MAYOR LINDA SOTO

 GERRY DALEY

9 JIM TIFFANY

 GEORGEANN DUBERSTEIN

10 JOHN DERENOSKI

 KEVIN BARRETT

11 KATHY METZLER

 SCOTT PUMA

12 CHIEF WALLACE FRASIER

 FORMER CHIEF FRED HEIDECKE

13 JIM ROCK

 JEFF GATELY

14 KELLY HENSLEY

 ROSEANN STARK

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1 (Whereupon, the following is
2 public comment that took place
3 after the presentation)

4 MS. LESNAK: Sue Lesnak, L E S N A K. Are
5 you considering Round Lake Park, a contract?
6 You know, it has been in the newspapers and
7 everything else. Is that something that is
8 being considered?

9 MAYOR SOTO: No. We are not giving any
10 consideration to the Round Lake Park proposal at
11 this time. It was dropped off to us last week.
12 We had not requested it. But it was dropped
13 off.

14 The Board has recently been
15 given copies of it. It was really given to us
16 in the 11th hour, very late in this whole
17 process. We will review it at the March 9th
18 Board meeting briefly. That's as far as it goes

19 MS. LESNAK: Number 2. Grayslake Police
20 Department currently dispatches through Glenview
21 Police Department. They don't dispatch through
22 Sencomm. Grayslake Fire dispatches through
23 Foxcomm, not through Sencomm.

24 So what consideration is

1 being made for that? How are they going to
2 dispatch through Sencomm at the rate that is
3 given on these papers for the 90,000 through the
4 Sencomm rates in preference to anything else,
5 when that's not how they dispatch their
6 services?

7 MAYOR SOTO: I'm going to answer this
8 question. One thing I failed to mention
9 earlier, these are simple questions. Some of
10 the bigger questions we are going to take note
11 of, and then after everybody has had a chance to
12 speak, or ask their questions, we will answer
13 them in kind of a group summary.

14 But regarding dispatching
15 out of Grayslake, we have a couple options. We
16 can, as you know, if you are familiar with what
17 is called the phrase hitting the button, the
18 call gets transferred from Sencomm to Glenview.
19 Also the Grayslake Fire District right now is
20 looking for a new place. I don't know that they
21 are going to be staying with Foxcomm They may
22 be going to Sencomm.

23 I don't know what the other
24 alternatives are they are looking at right now.

1 But we also have received a proposal from
2 Glenview to move our dispatching to them as a
3 possibility. We don't have to, but that has
4 been presented as a possibility.

5 MR. DALEY: It is less expensive than
6 Sencomm.

7 MS. LESNAK: One final thing. I work for
8 the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Everybody
9 knows this. Mr. Daley, you had met with Chief
10 (inaudible) about potential contracting services
11 through the Sheriff's Office. And yet none of
12 those were put on there. In lieu of the
13 \$139,000 that was utilized for the vehicles,
14 that was a consideration that could have been
15 taken off the board because those vehicles were
16 already owned by the village. Why is that
17 option not put on there?

18 MR. DALEY: What wasn't put on there?

19 MS. LESNAK: There is an 8 and a 16 and a
20 24 hour contract that was proposed for this
21 village and for things that could meet the needs
22 of this village, and I know this. And also the
23 contract states that there is 139,000 that would
24 be utilized for the vehicles, you know, for the

1 purchase of new vehicles for each of the shifts.
2 The vehicles that are currently owned by the
3 Village of Hainesville could be used by the
4 Sheriff's Office to fulfill that need. That
5 would take \$139,000 off that overall cost.

6 MAYOR SOTO: Sue, I acknowledge that. That
7 option exists with Grayslake as well. And we
8 will address that later on. So duly noted. We
9 will come back to that, okay? I want to again
10 make note of the timekeeper. Some of these
11 bigger topics we will come back to. Let's give
12 everybody a chance to be heard.

13 MR. LARSON: Mayor Soto, Trustees, good
14 evening. My name is Christopher Larson,
15 L A R S O N, 91 East Haines Drive. I am a 2
16 year resident of Hainesville and current
17 treasurer of the Union Square Condominium
18 Association.

19 While relatively new to this
20 Hainesville community, I am a life long resident
21 of Avon Township, and remember the days when our
22 village was a mere 14 residents, rather than
23 1400. I'm certain we can all agree that the
24 taxes we currently pay, specifically in regards

1 to our property taxes, are quite significant.

2 In fact, the Village of Hainesville has one of
3 the highest tax rates in all of Lake County.

4 This is in large part due to
5 the small size of our community. We are taxed
6 for services that are provided to us indirectly
7 such as schools, libraries, park districts, and
8 fire protection, and have a relatively small
9 voice in the decision process compared to those
10 in the Round Lake and Grayslake areas.

11 However, we can speak quite
12 loudly and vocally on the subject of our police
13 department, as we are here to do tonight. In my
14 conversation with some of the residents,
15 including former Mayor Ted Mueller, and current
16 Mayor, Linda Soto, it was consistently mentioned
17 that whatever direction we take in regards to
18 our police services, we should take ample time
19 to review it and contemplate the needs of our
20 community and the affordability of our decision.

21 It was to my surprise that I
22 read in the Daily Herald this morning that a
23 decision was imminent in March of this year, and
24 implementation by May. As I mentioned, I am the

1 treasurer of Union Square. As such, I'm
2 intimately familiar with the budget process and
3 the operations of a community organization with
4 a limited fixed budget.

5 To that end, I requested and
6 received copies of all 4 proposals that have
7 been offered to the village. Of these 4, the
8 plans range from 650,000 to 1.3 million dollars
9 as originally stated in the resident survey that
10 was sent out a short while ago. The cost of the
11 Grayslake and County plans were based directly
12 on the quoted prices of their proposals, while
13 the cost for the Hainesville plan was based on
14 an average of 2 separate budgets as prepared by
15 the former chief, Chief Heidecke and current
16 chief, Chief Frasier, in the amounts of 980,000
17 and the other for 1.6 million.

18 Pardon me as I skip ahead
19 because of the time. After review of the
20 budgets, a number of errors that were found did
21 have some effect. These corrections as you have
22 noticed tonight were included in the agenda
23 packet that was made available this evening.
24 Thank you, Mayor Soto.

1 In addition to the budget
2 for police services, an additional component of
3 the survey included the cost for a new police
4 department building. The survey did not include
5 possible costs for land acquisition, which would
6 add to this proposed cost. While I don't
7 question the need, I don't believe deciding on
8 the construction of a new building in such a
9 limited time frame is in our community's best
10 interest. I'm apparently out of time. I will
11 resume later. Thank you very much.

12 MR. BAWA: Good evening. My last name is
13 Bawa, B A W A. I own a business in Hainesville,
14 the 7-11. And when we started this police
15 department, the utmost need for me was that we
16 need a police department which could be
17 available 24/7. And nothing is cheap in our
18 days. In America, you get what you pay for.

19 You get people who are
20 living in the community that -- I think we
21 should look very carefully because the numbers
22 what we see here like the old board presented
23 last time, those numbers are not accurate
24 numbers. Before you make any decision, we

1 should exactly know what we are planning to do.

2 It is better to have your
3 own police department than giving the money and
4 giving the control to the third party. You are
5 not going to get the quality of service the way
6 you can have the quality of service. Yes, you
7 will be paying more money, but what is
8 important? Money or your safety? It is up to
9 you guys, whatever way you want to decide.

10 MS. STAHOVIAK: My name is Jo Stahoviak,
11 S T A H O V I A K. I live at 60 East Aspen
12 Circle. I have been a resident here since 1994.
13 I have been here through all the police changes.
14 January 21st of 2007, my son who was 16 years
15 old was in a snowmobile accident that forever
16 changed our life. My son was a very good kid.
17 He then turned to drugs. Also tried to commit
18 suicide.

19 And I went through the
20 state, everybody, trying to receive help. Where
21 I got the help was from the Round Lake Park,
22 Hainesville Police Department from some of the
23 officers there that were always there. Once we
24 lost the Round Lake Park, Hainesville Police

1 Department, we had Hainesville taking over and
2 also part time Lake County until it was
3 officially done.

4 In that time, I had a Lake
5 County -- I had to call Lake County to my house.
6 It took 12 minutes for the officer to get to my
7 house. That's an awful long time. In that
8 time, anybody can be raped or killed in that
9 amount of time of an officer showing up to my
10 house. Another time I called for Lake County,
11 it was 8 minutes.

12 In that time, once
13 Hainesville had taken over, I had to call
14 several times to have Hainesville come to my
15 office. My oldest son now has completely
16 changed since March of this year. He is no
17 longer on drugs. He is going to school and
18 wants to be a nurse. If it wasn't for the
19 Hainesville Police Department, my son would not
20 be here today.

21 My 2 youngest children who
22 are here tonight have a huge relationship with
23 one of the officers here tonight, and his name
24 is Sean. He had been to my house several,

1 several times throughout all these incidents
2 with my child and had always been there to help
3 our family out.

4 For it to be taken away and
5 lose our police department, I think it would be
6 a huge loss to this community. With all the
7 officers that have made a huge impact on some of
8 the families, especially in my neighborhood, I
9 feel it unjust to be taken away. That's all I
10 have to say.

11 MR. EHRENBERG: Mark Ehrenberg,
12 E H R E N B E R G, 155 West Tall Oak Drive. My
13 comments are in continuation of what the
14 gentleman was saying from 7-11 and what the lady
15 said preceding me. No matter what decision is
16 made, we need to make sure that we compare
17 apples to apples in regard to cost.

18 One thing that we can't
19 compare apples to apples is safety. Recently at
20 3:30 in the morning, my wife and I had an
21 attempted break-in in our home. Scary isn't the
22 word. Within 3 minutes, 2 of Hainesville's
23 finest were there. They entered our property,
24 searched the property properly, thoroughly, and

1 interior, exterior. They made sure they stood
2 around and made sure that we were at a comfort
3 level that was above and beyond the norm.

4 We can't measure that in
5 dollars and cents. I understand the economics,
6 and I'm not saying that I'm in favor of one
7 option versus the other. But we are a small
8 community. We are a caring community. We have
9 to maintain the safety of the community. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. BASCUE: Olivia Bascue, B A S C U E,
12 366 East Deer Lake Drive. I have been a
13 resident of Hainesville for the last 14 years.
14 I have gone through the Hainesville Police
15 Department when Officer Menetti was here, along
16 with when Round Lake took over, and again now
17 when our Hainesville Police Department is back.

18 I have been victimized by
19 these young children that have broken into my
20 vehicle stealing over \$5000 worth of items out
21 of my car. When I had realized the next day,
22 morning, that my car was broken into, I was able
23 to turn to Sean and get action done. Now if I
24 had any other police department here, there

1 would not be the same service.

2 I have been able to speak to
3 the Chief. I have been able to get answers, and
4 thank you, for every question that I have had
5 for him. I truly believe that if our
6 Hainesville Police Department was gone, we would
7 not be nearly as safe as we are right now.

8 I almost died when I was 17
9 years old. Officer Menetti was here at the time
10 and saved my life. Mouth to mouth and all. I
11 would not be alive and here right now if we had
12 any other police department. As the lady said
13 previously, 13 minutes would have taken my life.
14 He was at my home in one minute. I cannot tell
15 you how important it is.

16 I have a 60 year old mother
17 that lives in my home, takes care of my
18 children. My parents are very important to me
19 also. When my father goes on business trips and
20 I go on business trips, it is necessary to have
21 police presence and to have comfort that our
22 families are here, taken care of.

23 Who is going to help us when
24 -- and I do see a lot of families here that have

1 children. Who is going to help us when our
2 children are hurt, sick, dying? They are not
3 going to be here in an allotted amount of time.
4 We need to have the ability to be able to depend
5 on our own people to be able to be here and be
6 able to take care of us. Thank you.

7 MR. FEGER: Ward Feger, F E G E R, Heritage
8 Trail, Misty Hill Farms. Couple inquiries,
9 couple statements. First inquiry is what is our
10 coverage going to be if we do have a full time
11 Hainesville Police Department? How many will we
12 have on the street at any given time? Will it
13 be 1, 2? I know the survey said 8 full time
14 officers.

15 CHIEF FRASIER: Well, 8 full time officers
16 would allow us to have 2 officers each shift
17 working 24/7.

18 MR. FEGER: Do we know how much Grayslake
19 would put towards the town? Would it be just
20 part of their beat of 4000 people, or would it
21 be part of a patrol beat of part of Grayslake
22 and all of Hainesville?

23 MAYOR SOTO: They would consider us an
24 extension of Grayslake.

1 MR. FEGER: They would not be applying one
2 car towards all of Hainesville?

3 MAYOR SOTO: No.

4 MR. FEGER: Or one deputy, 24/7?

5 MAYOR SOTO: Depends which option we take.

6 MR. FEGER: If that deputy gets busy on an
7 arrest or the Grayslake officer, obviously
8 Grayslake has more officers they can bring in,
9 does the Sheriff's Department bring in another
10 officer to cover the town once that deputy goes
11 out on arrest or goes into court on a last
12 minute notice?

13 MAYOR SOTO: They are supposed to dispatch
14 another officer. But quite frankly it doesn't
15 happen immediately. Am I correct in saying
16 that?

17 CHIEF HEIDECHE: Yes.

18 MR. FEGER: So the town would be left
19 without coverage then?

20 PUBLIC: That's not fair.

21 MR. DALEY: In the presentation, when I
22 spoke to the Lake County Sheriff's Department,
23 they indicated if an individual, if the officer
24 assigned to Hainesville was drawn out or tied

1 up, there would be another deputy sent
2 immediately. That's what we were told.

3 MR. FEGER: Now, do we have it -- an
4 obligation from Grayslake that they say they are
5 going to hire more officers?

6 MAYOR SOTO: They said they will hire more
7 officers. How many hasn't been determined yet
8 because we have not gone to the next level of
9 negotiation. We were handed initial proposals
10 by the Lake County Sheriff and Grayslake.
11 However we can go back, and there's certainly
12 other questions to be answered if we want to
13 negotiate further. We haven't made that
14 decision yet to go down that road. That's part
15 of why we are here tonight.

16 MR. FEGER: The only way I say that is I
17 heard Grayslake is not going to hire more with
18 this budget from Hainesville. But that's all
19 rumor.

20 MAYOR SOTO: There's always a lot of rumor.
21 We haven't been at the negotiating table. Keep
22 that mind. Everything is negotiable.

23 MR. FEGER: This is just a statement I want
24 to say. All those departments are very

1 professional. I know all of them. You will get
2 great police officers no matter which department
3 you go with. The only thing I would say is you
4 have to think of where your bread and butter is
5 going to be. Who is going to take ownership in
6 the town? That to me is going to be Hainesville
7 police officers. They are going to take
8 ownership of where they get -- where their
9 paycheck comes from. Thank you.

10 MR. DENOMIE: Good evening. Jim DeNomie,
11 120 Tall Oak Drive, D E N O M I E. As it should
12 be, the concerns are response time and cost.
13 However, I'm just curious as to what are the
14 other elements that went into the due diligence
15 process? What are the other factors that went
16 into comparing these different proposals and the
17 high standards that we have here?

18 MAYOR SOTO: As far as facilities, number
19 of officers?

20 MR. DENOMIE: Well, there is quite a number
21 of elements.

22 MAYOR SOTO: There's quite a large list.

23 MR. DENOMIE: What would the top elements?
24 Response time?

1 MAYOR SOTO: Response time would be very
2 important. Obviously cost is a factor. We are
3 not looking to go the cheapest route. What we
4 are trying to do is find the most cost
5 effective, and yet offers adequate public
6 safety. Those are the priorities.

7 Grayslake, there's some
8 natural elements that we share with Grayslake
9 that certainly makes it somewhat appealing if we
10 are going to contract out, such as the vast
11 majority of our residents reside within
12 Grayslake School and Park District. So a lot of
13 our children have gone through the DARE program
14 with Officer Stang (phonetic) who is a Grayslake
15 officer and so on.

16 There's a lot of different
17 things we can compare. I think we will save
18 that towards the end. Let's note that as a
19 question.

20 MS. RICHMOND: My name is Ann Richmond, 154
21 Tall Oak Drive. R I C H M O N D. My question
22 kind of piggybacks on Jim's questions. Some of
23 the factors that I didn't see mentioned in the
24 comparison, but always jump into my mind with

1 cost are what about legal fees, other
2 liabilities like health insurance, other
3 insurance, other factors that come into play
4 with the costs.

5 If we contract with another
6 agency such as Grayslake or the County Sheriff,
7 will those be built into our contract? Are
8 those potentially costs outside of the contract?

9 MR. DALEY: They are built into the
10 contract.

11 MS. RICHMOND: Another thing I was
12 wondering about is overtime. If we have events
13 like Hainesville Fest, will the cost of overtime
14 officers be something additional for these
15 special events, or some tragedy happens and
16 overtime is needed, will we be billed for that?
17 Or is there going to be a certain amount of
18 overtime built into our contract?

19 MR. DALEY: Overtime for special events
20 such as Haines Fest is additional for both Lake
21 County and Grayslake. And dollar amounts, I
22 believe it's \$74 an hour for Lake County. And
23 do you remember --

24 MAYOR SOTO: \$75.

1 MR. DALEY: \$75 from Grayslake. My
2 understanding is that if there's a tragedy that
3 involves police services, that is not additional
4 overtime. But it would have to be worked out in
5 detail in a contract.

6 MAYOR SOTO: I also want to add on the
7 insurance, if we keep the police department, we
8 are certainly going to add full time benefits
9 for all of our employees. Also on the flipside
10 of insurance, when we have our own police
11 department, our liability for the village is
12 doubled. When we contract out, it goes back to
13 cut in half.

14 MR. MUELLER: Ted Mueller, 318 Katherine
15 Drive, Hainesville. I have been a resident for
16 16 years, one of the originals here, and also
17 former mayor of Hainesville. Linda beat me. I
18 was the initiator of our present police
19 department.

20 Now, when we interviewed the
21 officers, it was explained it was a startup
22 police department. It was not going to be
23 goldplated. They were going to be part of the
24 whole thing. Each officer was handpicked. Each

1 has been somewhat of a hindrance in moving this
2 forward.

3 But there's no question that
4 we have excellent officers working for us.

5 MS. TIFFANY: Lynn Tiffany, T I F F A N Y.
6 513 Deer Crossing Court. I'm up here like the
7 rest of the village tonight for the concern
8 about possibly losing our police department.
9 Why do we need a 1.3 million dollar police
10 station? On a survey that was mailed to the
11 residents, we were given only 2 options to keep
12 our police department. There was no third
13 option given.

14 The third option would be to
15 use the tax dollars we already are paying our
16 police department for the coverage we have at
17 the facilities that already exist. If we need
18 to expand, why can't we expand north of the
19 existing village hall, or west of the village
20 hall, which is the existing garage that the
21 officers currently use?

22 We worked too hard to get
23 our own police department. And now everything
24 they have done for us is going to be taken away.

1 Why? Is it because it was stated that the
2 police department cannot stay in the village
3 hall as quoted in the Daily Herald? Or is there
4 something else that the residents of Hainesville
5 are not being told.

6 I feel very safe in our
7 village, but I don't know if I will be able to
8 say that if we lose our police department and go
9 with either Grayslake or Lake County. I don't
10 care what anyone says. We will not have 24 hour
11 coverage the way we do now. It will cost the
12 village more in the long run if we get rid of
13 our police department and go with someone else.
14 As the saying goes, you get what you pay for.

15 The village has put a lot of
16 money into our police. Why did we purchase new
17 police cars, computers, cameras, vests, office
18 equipment, radios, and all the training for our
19 officers, among many other things not listed?
20 Was the plan to get rid of them? That sure was
21 poor planning if it was.

22 I think very highly of every
23 one of our Hainesville police officers.
24 Whenever you need them, they are there. Some

1 people say they never see them around. I may
2 not see them every hour of the day either. But
3 then I don't sit in my window watching them go
4 by.

5 I do know that they will
6 always be there whenever needed. We don't have
7 to worry about them ever taking care of another
8 village or county before they attend to the
9 issues in Hainesville. I know there are
10 officers that ride their bikes in the summer
11 months and will stop and chat with the residents
12 walking the neighborhood or just relaxing.

13 There are also times when
14 officers stop by the ballfield to see kids'
15 games. They think that's great. The officers
16 are role models for our children. I know they
17 are for mine.

18 I want to bring up one
19 thing. My son came home from his religious ed
20 class one night. He showed us what he did. He
21 gave us a paper about honoring people. One of
22 his heroes that he wrote about was Officer Sean
23 Kelly. Why he honored him was because he
24 protects everyone. He tells us what to do and

1 what is right or wrong. He likes to play
2 basketball with me and comes to my baseball
3 games and cheers my whole team.

4 Tell me how am I going to
5 explain to my son and daughter that we don't
6 have officers anymore.

7 MR. DALEY: I would like to give a brief
8 response. I will stand so you can hear me. I'm
9 Gerry Daley. One of the reasons that we are
10 reviewing the police department tonight is that
11 during the campaign, it was raised to a number
12 of us, to Linda, myself, other candidates, that
13 they didn't like the way the police department
14 was formed, or they didn't like this or that.
15 So we made a promise that we would review the
16 existence of our department. We would look at
17 it financially. We would look at it with the
18 community.

19 That's why we sent the
20 survey. That's why we are having this meeting
21 tonight. I can swear to you there's no hidden
22 agenda. There's no promise from anyone on this
23 board, from the Mayor's office, saying we are
24 going to get rid of the cops.

1 We got good cops. We got
2 good people doing the best they can. We are
3 reviewing the situation as we promised the
4 citizens. No hidden agenda. Thank you.

5 MS. TIFFANY: Can I just finish?

6 MAYOR SOTO: Closing comment.

7 MS. TIFFANY: I attend the village
8 meetings. I look at the money we have spent to
9 make our village look beautiful. I want our
10 village to look beautiful. But cutting
11 cattails, herbiciding, seeding, a fountain in a
12 pond, don't you think the safety of the village
13 and the residents is more important than placing
14 a fountain in a pond?

15 And now we are getting a
16 website that is costing the village \$6500. That
17 could have been put on the backburner until we
18 have settled our police department.

19 MAYOR SOTO: I do want to add as far as
20 your comment about expanding the current village
21 hall, one of the reasons we are here tonight,
22 it's not just to accommodate the bodies. We
23 probably could have fit. But there is no place
24 to park.

1 So you are talking about
2 building over what little parking we have left.
3 That's not going to work. We are going to need
4 another site or another way to house the police
5 department.

6 Think about it. Think of
7 the size of the parking lot and how many spaces
8 there are. If you add to the building, we have
9 thought about that. Believe me. That's one of
10 the first things we looked at. Also to the
11 north of the village hall is a wetland area. We
12 all know there is quite an expense if you want
13 to build on a wetland. At that point we are
14 better off buying land somewhere else in the
15 village that is not a wetland to build on.

16 I want to add that we are
17 continuing to review all types of options for
18 costs of buildings, and even talking to
19 developers, commercial developers in the town to
20 see if they can work with us. So those have not
21 been exhausted.

22 MR. DALEY: The 1.3 million dollars for a
23 4000 square foot building was obtained this way.
24 Chief Frasier contacted 2 architectural firms

1 that have built police stations before. I
2 contacted one, Legit Architects, out of
3 Waukegan, who I have known and worked with in my
4 other job for 13 years.

5 I said I don't have an exact
6 size, but they have built police departments.
7 So what I asked them is go to a community where
8 you have built police departments before and
9 give us a per square foot cost.

10 Between the 3 architects we
11 talked to, we came up with \$300 per square foot,
12 325, and 300. The 4000 is somewhat arbitrary.
13 It can be adjusted up or down. But that's how
14 the dollar amount was arrived at. Thank you.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Rafael Rodriguez,
16 R O D R I G U E Z. I have been living in the
17 village about 7 years now. I came from the City
18 of Chicago. So I'm really hoping that
19 everything we are doing here tonight is not just
20 smoke and mirrors, there's not something going
21 on in the background. I am hoping this is
22 honest and up front.

23 On the paper you all gave
24 us, it looked horrible. If you look at what it

1 will cost to maintain Hainesville cops, it is
2 ridiculous compared to the other 2 options. But
3 what you are not looking at is we have a
4 building or other buildings that could be
5 rehabbed. That could bring the cost down.

6 We have had 8 cops. Are you
7 looking to put 20 cops in a building or 8 or 10
8 cops, the most we are going to need? You
9 already said residential is built out. We are
10 not going to get anymore residential.

11 I would imagine it is your
12 job to get more businesses in here, to get more
13 tax revenues. So if you get more business and
14 more tax revenues, some of these numbers won't
15 look so bad. But when you give us this 1.5
16 million dollars for a new glorious facility,
17 great, but let's take a look at what we have.
18 How about the old village hall?

19 MAYOR SOTO: It has been torn down.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The site that it was -- the
21 site that is sitting there. You can put a
22 facility there. It doesn't have to be like the
23 new village hall.

24 MAYOR SOTO: You talk about economic

1 development. Let me tell you this. I think
2 everybody knows the state of the economy right
3 now. There is no economic development happening
4 anywhere in this country. We certainly want it.
5 We are going to keep working to get it. But
6 everybody is fighting to get it right now. The
7 recovery is going to be slow. We are not going
8 to get everything that fast.

9 When it comes back, that
10 land at 120 and 134 is one of our very prime
11 commercial pieces. So I would be against
12 putting a municipal building there. I would put
13 it somewhere else in the village. Not take up
14 that site, because we have very few prime pieces
15 left.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are you looking into the
17 situation where you said the village hall now
18 has no parking? Is this going to be planned
19 out? It's a small facility you need. I mean a
20 4000 square foot building, 1.5 million, is this
21 going to have attached garages and everything
22 else?

23 MAYOR SOTO: Sally ports. We asked could
24 it be created with a sally port. There's a

1 difference between just building offices like a
2 real estate office that is just walls and desks,
3 and building an evidence room and a locker room,
4 a sally port. You know, it is what you're
5 building that does add to the cost.

6 PUBLIC: Can you explain sally port to
7 everybody? I don't know what it is.

8 MAYOR SOTO: I will let Chief Frasier do
9 it.

10 CHIEF FRASIER: It's a secure garage that
11 you pull into with a squad car and prisoners so
12 you can take them out safely and get them into
13 the booking area. It is just a very secure one
14 car garage

15 MS. DUBERSTEIN: Can I say something?
16 Because so many people have commented to me
17 about the cost of a building, what I did was I
18 took the numbers that we all have seen and took
19 out the 109,000 that we would pay toward a
20 mortgage every year on that building and to see
21 what our operating costs would be.

22 Right now we are looking at
23 48.2 percent of the village budget when we
24 include the building. If we didn't include the

1 building, it would be 41.4. So you know, just
2 to give you a more apples to apples kind of
3 thing, the operating costs of our department
4 versus the other 2 proposals. I felt that that
5 was a fairer way to look at it if we didn't
6 think about the building.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I guess I was looking at
8 that big number. You are saying it can go up or
9 down. It can be a smaller building. It doesn't
10 have to be that large, which could bring the
11 bring the cost done. I grew up with cops my
12 whole life. I was an Explorer back in the city.
13 We used to be by Wrigley Field in the old
14 station, about 100 years old. I seen what cops
15 put up with. They do the job because they like
16 it.

17 When I moved out here, and I
18 bumped into the cops, my kid bumped into the
19 cops, they knew the neighborhood. When the
20 police know the neighborhood, they know the
21 people in the neighborhood. They know what they
22 are looking for. You start going to Lake County
23 or Grayslake people, they are not here all the
24 time. They don't know where the trouble is.

1 They don't know where the troublemakers are.

2 MAYOR SOTO: Your time is up. You are
3 welcome to get in line again if you want to add
4 to that. I think that any officer, whether it
5 would be our own, or we contract somebody,
6 certainly they would be expected to know our
7 neighborhood or be trained on our neighborhood.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. But it's a difference
9 when they are here all the time as opposed to
10 being here part time or switched out because
11 they have to take another route. That's the
12 difference. When they are here all the time,
13 they know the neighborhood. They know the
14 people. You meet them every day. You get a
15 comfort level. That's the difference.

16 MR. DALEY: And even though my name is
17 Daley, I'm not from Chicago.

18 MR. ZENNER: My name is Steve Zenner,
19 Z E N N E R. 121 Caribou Drive. Looking at
20 everything and changing my opinions and my
21 numbers that I have been adding up, it seems
22 like there's 2 sides. Building and police
23 force. I think we definitely want to have a
24 police force. But the real cost between our own

1 and using someone else's is probably not a huge
2 difference in cost looking at the numbers here.

3 But taking the load of the
4 1.5 million dollar building or whatever loan and
5 everything, yes, I believe that the police
6 officers deserve something better than they have
7 now. I will say that. But it comes down to
8 doing it right, making the right choice. Is
9 there a plan that they can stage it?

10 Our growth is pretty much
11 going to be stagnant in Hainesville is what it
12 sounds for residential. Business, who knows.
13 So is there a plan we can do this at this stage
14 and progress the building into what we really
15 need in the future, because I don't know if our
16 crime rate -- I have heard people say the help
17 that our police force has done. That's great.
18 But are we as bad as other communities? Do we
19 see the crime rate going huge in Hainesville
20 that we are going to need 20 police officers?

21 These are things we have to
22 look at and progress our police force and do it
23 right instead of diving in and making a choice.
24 You guys haven't separated the true cost.

1 MAYOR SOTO: One thing I just want to
2 state. This addresses some of the comments or
3 questions made earlier. We are striving as a
4 board to try to choose a direction by the end of
5 March. That doesn't mean that we are looking to
6 miraculously have a new building and have it up
7 and running May 1st.

8 But if we choose a
9 direction, then we know what we need to do to
10 take the next step in time and dollars spent,
11 whether it be architects or representatives from
12 other companies, sit down with the developers
13 already in our town and say what is the most
14 cost effective way to find a facility. If we
15 are going to decide that we do want to lean
16 towards contracting out, then we are going to
17 have to go to the negotiating table, which we
18 haven't done, with some of the questions raised.

19 So there would be a process
20 through that.

21 MR. ZENNER: I think looking at this,
22 everyone sees 1.5 million instead of staging it
23 in, when our community needs to be subtle.

24 MAYOR SOTO: We could have spent another

1 year. I mean the amount of information we have
2 gotten in addition since that was done, you
3 know, we wanted to take a question from the
4 village of where should we be spending time,
5 where should we be spending our time and
6 research, and how much of the tax dollars of the
7 village do you want to go towards police
8 services versus other services you receive in
9 the village? That's what we are trying to do.

10 MR. ZENNER: But there is the service side,
11 and then there is the actual facilitating of
12 that and then the building. I think that's what
13 is scaring a lot of people is the true big
14 dollars and what is going to happen to their tax
15 bills, because unfortunately some other people
16 have said I think their taxes -- you are going
17 to chase out a lot of people. Then we are going
18 to have other problems going another direction.

19 MAYOR SOTO: I want to repeat what I have
20 said at several board meetings now I am not in
21 favor of raising village taxes for any reason.
22 In order to do that, we would have to go to
23 referendum. I do not plan on asking a
24 referendum be put on our ballot to raise taxes.

1 MR. DALEY: What that means is if we are
2 going to keep our own police department, however
3 the decision pans out, we are going to pay for
4 it with the money we have without raising your
5 taxes. So something else is going to have to
6 give.

7 MS. EATON: My name is Rosemary Eaton. I
8 moved here in 1999 from Chicago. I am glad I
9 did. We were here no more than 6 months and my
10 daughter being as young as she was, she took
11 something from -- that she wasn't supposed to
12 take from a gas station. I called the police
13 and I said can you just come here and just talk
14 to her.

15 A police officer came and
16 stayed with her for 45 minutes, talked to her,
17 and laid down the law to her. Chicago Police
18 wouldn't have done that. Grayslake wouldn't
19 have done that because they would have been
20 busy. A few years went by, I didn't know where
21 my daughter was, couldn't find her. She didn't
22 have her cell phone. I couldn't find her.
23 Called Hainesville. An officer came out. They
24 found her. She was okay, thank God, but they

1 stayed with me to make sure I was okay, my
2 husband was okay, and my daughter.

3 Officer Kelly, he is our hero.
4 So is Officer Cora. He had made sure that when
5 he has come to my house, everything was fine.
6 He has called the next day to make sure
7 everything is fine. You are not going to get
8 that with Grayslake. You won't. You take care
9 of your own. You don't scrimp on 3 things. You
10 don't scrimp on police protection, fire
11 protection, or education.

12 The money will come. If we
13 have to raise taxes, I'm not -- I didn't win the
14 lottery. But if it is for 3 things like that,
15 that is important. You want to feel safe. You
16 have to pay for it. That is all I have to say.
17 Keep the police. That's all I have to say.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. MEYERS: My name is Dan Meyers, 215
20 Lisk. M E Y E R S. While I lived here almost
21 as long as Ted, I was not really happy with the
22 way the police department was introduced to us.
23 I didn't like the way it was kind of pushed on
24 us. But now that this has been with us for a

1 while, I'm very happy with what we have.

2 The officers are top notch.

3 I think that we should keep the police
4 department. I think we need to do whatever we
5 need to do. We have already spent a lot of
6 money on police cars and equipment, training. I
7 also think that we don't need to build a new
8 building. I think we need to use something that
9 is existing already.

10 MAYOR SOTO: Like what? I just ask for
11 examples.

12 MR. MEYERS: Now is a perfect time to look
13 at something for the public works department and
14 the police department. And I think, you know,
15 looking at maybe the old Hines building which
16 would be in the future big enough to house our
17 own snow equipment, our own grass cutting
18 equipment, police department. And it would be
19 right in the center of town where it is
20 accessible to everybody.

21 MAYOR SOTO: Hines is a prime commercial
22 site as well. Probably that site and 120 and
23 134 are the 2 prime sites. Actually we have had
24 some activity or interest in the Hines lumber

1 property. So I don't know that -- again, we
2 won't want to tie up the very few commercial
3 spaces that we have, you know.

4 I would say there is other
5 options in the village, which is why I asked you
6 what you had in mind. I think there's other
7 places that might be a better suit and we are
8 pursuing those.

9 MR. MEYERS: I'm thinking way down in the
10 future when we grow more and more, we are going
11 to have to eventually build a building for
12 public works to move out of the garage we are
13 in. We also are going to have to do something
14 with the police department. You can put your --
15 I forget the name of the room.

16 MAYOR SOTO: Sally port.

17 MR. MEYERS: You can put all those special
18 rooms in your one building and have room for all
19 your squad cars, your public works equipment
20 inside, and actually an office for the police
21 chief. No one will be stumbling all over each
22 other. And you will have all that property on
23 the outside to have our festivals besides our
24 park. That's my suggestion. Thank you.

1 MR. STAHOVIAK: My name is Paul Stahoviak.
2 I live at 60 East Aspen Circle. I have been a
3 resident here for 12 years now. First of all, I
4 would like to say all the residents, let's give
5 our current police force a big round of
6 applause. I just have a few comments.

7 We have heard a lot tonight
8 that we really all enjoy our current police
9 force. I have had several situations with the
10 police department that have turned out to the
11 best for both parties involved. The police
12 force has always been very, very supportive of
13 myself and my family, and I really appreciate
14 that. And I look forward to keeping that type
15 of support as we move into the future.

16 Couple comments that I will
17 have or questions that I have. I know we have
18 looked at a large facility to be built for a
19 police force at a high cost. One of the
20 comments I would like to say is if we look at
21 the current facility they are in today, I have
22 heard comments moving north, west, east. What
23 about going up? For village offices to be on a
24 second level?

1 MAYOR SOTO: That was brought up by -- I'm
2 sorry. I didn't get your name.

3 PUBLIC: Debbie.

4 MAYOR SOTO: You know, it may not be as
5 costly as building a new building. But you have
6 to take another cost into effect. When you
7 build up, your current facility offices have to
8 keep running. And that's where the difficulty
9 comes in. And sometimes temporary housing for
10 other services and trying to keep the village
11 operations going, it can snowball into a much
12 bigger expense than what you initially think.
13 We have talked to a few people who have taken
14 that route. It doesn't sound very promising.

15 PUBLIC: An elevator.

16 MAYOR SOTO: Certainly we will have to put
17 an elevator in.

18 MR. STAHOVIAK: Again, I have been here a
19 long time. Really my comment is I really enjoy
20 the current police force. In our situation we
21 have had in the past, we just don't feel safe
22 without having that 24/7 day protection.

23 If you look at other
24 options, Lake County or Grayslake, we are

1 looking maybe to have a car somewhere in the
2 vicinity and not have that protection when
3 needed. I really wish we would look at all of
4 our options.

5 I think our only option to
6 look at is find a way to keep the Hainesville PD
7 here protecting us. Thanks.

8 MS. DINSMORE: Hi, Connie Dinsmore,
9 D I N S M O R E. 89 East Aspen Circle. Tonight
10 right before I came here, I had to call the
11 police department for our neighbor. Their
12 response time was probably about 3 minutes. She
13 ended up having to be taken by ambulance. If
14 they had not been there, being the situation it
15 was, it could have been a lot worse.

16 My husband is a fireman. He
17 is gone 24 hour shifts. I'm home alone with 2
18 kids. I have had to call a couple times with
19 suspicious vehicles in the area and so forth.
20 Do you really think I want to be up at 11:30,
21 12:00 at night scared out of my wits while I'm
22 waiting for a sheriff to come? It is not going
23 to happen.

24 I love our police

1 department. I feel safe here. I'm a municipal
2 employee as well. And your village is only as
3 good as your services. When the economic growth
4 does boom, and we don't have a full time police
5 department, how many businesses you think want
6 to be here and not be protected?

7 MR. STILZ: Wally Stilz, 166 Tall Oak
8 Drive. How much is this going to cost? I don't
9 have a subjective analysis or position about the
10 Grayslake Police Department or the Hainesville
11 Police Department or the Lake County Police
12 Department. I have always asked the same
13 question, and I've never gotten a straight
14 answer. This goes back for 4 years. How much
15 is it going to cost?

16 Tell people. Tell them all
17 the costs. Tell them the truth and let them
18 decide. If they want to pay the money, then
19 that's the way it is. That's the democratic
20 system. I have an 89 year old mother at home.
21 I go away. I'm gone 12 hours out of the day. I
22 want her protected. I understand all that.

23 You can't go up because not
24 only are you going to put yourself out of

1 business, you are going to have to redo the
2 entire structure because it is not designed to
3 take a second floor. That's not an option. You
4 can't go north. It's a conservancy easement.
5 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will not allow
6 you to go north. The only place to go is at 120
7 and 134.

8 So include that. Include
9 the lost revenue. Include everything. Health
10 care, IMRF, everything. Tell us the real
11 number. That's all I want. That's all half the
12 people in this room want to know. Then they can
13 make an objective decision as to whether or not
14 they want to pay the bill. That's my comment.
15 Thank you.

16 MAYOR SOTO: Ted, did you want to make a
17 comment?

18 MR. MUELLER: I wasn't going to speak
19 again. But after Trustee Daley mentioned that
20 he heard a lot of people didn't like the way the
21 police department was formed, I'd like to be a
22 little defensive now.

23 Actually the relationship
24 with Round Lake Park was deteriorating, and I

1 think Wally will confirm that one too. For
2 sometime until April 4th, (inaudible), Chief
3 Polenko (phonetic) had me in the chief's office
4 and presented me with an invoice for \$410,000
5 saying that they did not -- they were not
6 invoicing enough and they needed to catch up.

7 It was at that time, even
8 though we tried to salvage the relationship,
9 which was not working, we started looking at our
10 own police department. Our attorney at that
11 time from Ancel Glink said you can do it.
12 Others have done it. So we started talking to
13 the surrounding communities

14 We discussed the budgets and
15 what was needed in the budget, because we never
16 done this before, with Round Lake Height. It
17 was a small community like ourselves. So I got
18 a copy of their budget which indicated the items
19 that need to be included in a budget.

20 We discussed an
21 inter-government relationship with Round Lake,
22 Round Lake Beach, and Grayslake who didn't want
23 us at that time evidently.

24 MAYOR SOTO: They said differently.

1 MR. MUELLER: They need the money today.
2 Chief Doug Larson of Round Lake Beach assisted
3 us with fine tuning a budget. Trustee Barrett
4 sat down in my office and put everything
5 together and came up with a realistic budget.
6 Chief Doug Larson, Chief Mextaxa (phonetic) of
7 Round Lake, and Jack (inaudible) of Lindenhurst
8 helped us put together a survey or a
9 questionnaire. And we did advertise -- we
10 didn't hide this. We advertised for a chief.

11 Those 3 chiefs -- I'm going
12 to have to get in line again. They actually
13 assisted us with the interviewing and selected a
14 chief. As everybody knows, the Beach gave us 2
15 castoff police cars, which we had one repainted.
16 We actually bought a new one. Round Lake gave
17 us light bars. The lockers that you saw were
18 given to us by Grayslake. Everybody helped us
19 put this thing together.

20 All trustees were involved
21 in this. All trustees were kept in the loop.
22 And it wasn't until December that we brought
23 this before the residents to let them know that
24 we were looking into this.

1 MS. HEINRICH: Natalie Heinrich. 7616
2 Asbury. Is there a backup plan for the current
3 police officers?

4 MAYOR SOTO: I don't know if I know what
5 you mean by backup plan.

6 MS. HEINRICH: A job.

7 MAYOR SOTO: A job? If we disband the
8 police department, is that what you mean?

9 MS. HEINRICH: Yes.

10 MAYOR SOTO: We have told the officers at a
11 staff meeting that if the police department was
12 decided to be disbanded, we have no intention of
13 dropping anyone like a hot potato. They have
14 been told that upfront. We would certainly
15 offer them some type of severance package along
16 with letters of recommendation.

17 MS. JESTER: Julie Jester, 99 Littleton
18 Court. One of the concerns that I have is that
19 we obviously have some fine police officers.
20 However, with all due respect, this is our
21 fourth, fifth chief. There seems to be an issue
22 with retaining leadership for this department.
23 What steps are being taken -- you are an interim
24 chief? Is that my understanding, sir?

1 CHIEF FRASIER: Yes.

2 MS. JESTER: So what steps are being taken
3 to retain full time permanent leadership of this
4 department? We lost the first chief within 6
5 months. It has been a revolving door since
6 then. No offense. Obviously you have done a
7 great job. But there's some -- it is rather
8 uneasy not knowing who is in charge of this over
9 and over.

10 MAYOR SOTO: I can speak to that. I had
11 mentioned earlier, yes, we did lose Chief Ron
12 Roth, who is an excellent police chief, after a
13 short 6 months with our police department. He
14 went to Lake Villa, and is receiving an
15 additional 30,000 a year in salary by going
16 there.

17 I don't know that we have to
18 pay that much, but if we keep a police
19 department and we hire a permanent chief, I
20 think we are going to have to be more
21 competitive in that area. Because as Gerry
22 Daley stated earlier, we had a mission when we
23 took office as far as saying we are going to
24 review the PD. We had a chief that had been

1 promoted when Ron Roth left. A lot of residents
2 weren't aware of it. But a sergeant was
3 promoted to chief.

4 And working with him through
5 May through July, it became very obvious to me
6 he did not process the skills, being a wonderful
7 officer, but he did not possess the skill or
8 training as a chief as far as being able to work
9 with the village board and telling us what it is
10 going to cost and what it is going to take to
11 keep this police department in the long run.

12 So I brought on as a
13 recommendation to the board Chief Fred Heidecke,
14 because of his years of exercise in law
15 enforcement, because he was a resident. I
16 thought he could also view it as a resident in
17 Hainesville and also how it affects his tax
18 bill, how does he want his tax dollars spent.

19 He was brought on as interim
20 chief and stayed with us for five months. He is
21 on a retirement from Lake County Sheriff's
22 Department. He is only allowed to work 600
23 hours per calendar year. His contract with us
24 was to work that time. We hoped that we could

1 get a lot of these answers together and work
2 done in that time frame.

3 We did get the budget done,
4 but certainly we wanted to go to the residents
5 and get them involved, because again, during the
6 election, we heard residents wanted to be
7 involved in the choices. So again, we brought
8 in a temporary interim chief, Chief Frasier, who
9 is doing an excellent job.

10 Part of his agreement was if
11 we do decide to keep the PD, we will go out for
12 a national search for a chief. But Chief
13 Frasier will be definitely one of the
14 applicants.

15 MS. JESTER: The only other comment I have
16 is that I would like to second what the
17 gentleman said about before, the Hines lumber
18 location. I know that prime commercial real
19 estate is a very high concern. If there are
20 bids on that property, then obviously that would
21 be the best choice for the health of the
22 village.

23 But I think a police station
24 should be visible. It should be accessible.

1 And I think it should be in a place of
2 prominence in the village as part of our safety.
3 It sends a message just by being there.

4 MAYOR SOTO: Correct. Thank you.

5 MS. LESNAK: Sue Lesnak, L E S N A K. Just
6 a quick question. Does the 1.4 include a
7 medical package for all of these officers too?

8 MR. DALEY: Yes.

9 MS. LESNAK: That's included in that?

10 MR. DALEY: Yes. You asked earlier about
11 why the public wasn't given the other 2 options
12 from Lake County?

13 MS. LESNAK: The same with Grayslake. I
14 know they would do the same type of option.

15 MR. DALEY: We were only looking at apples
16 to apples. We are covered 24/7 now. That's
17 what we wanted. We didn't want to look at less
18 coverage. You also mentioned the equipment.
19 Both Grayslake and Lake County had said they
20 would look at our equipment, and if it fit into
21 their plans, they would consider purchasing it
22 from us.

23 MR. LESNAK: All right. With the vote
24 being what it is and the people talking tonight,

1 what are you basing your decision on that you
2 are going to make? Is it an economic thing? Is
3 it people's votes? Is it the emotions?

4 MAYOR SOTO: I will address that in the
5 closing and also give the trustees a chance to
6 make a statement. If we can table that for a
7 few minutes, Sue.

8 MR. STRUCK: Tom Struck, S T R U C K, 378
9 Deer Crossing Court. I have been a resident of
10 Hainesville for 4 years. No one cares more
11 about safety in this community than me. I have
12 3 children under the ages of 6. I am a Lake
13 County Deputy and have been for 9 years.

14 Basically with the response
15 times, when the Sheriff's Office took over for
16 Hainesville for 3 months in 2008, there was not
17 a dedicated car to Hainesville like there would
18 be in your proposal. So the response times I
19 have heard from other people where it took them
20 12 minutes, took them 8 minutes, if there was a
21 dedicated car to Hainesville, those response
22 times would be down to 1 to 3 to 5 minutes.

23 In addition, there would be
24 other district cars available to help the

1 Hainesville car. Hainesville is right in the
2 middle of District 4 and 5, which are 2 to 3
3 squad cars. Both those Districts could make it
4 to Hainesville in a short amount of time.

5 If the Hainesville car did
6 go to take a person to jail, it is common
7 practice from our sergeants and from other
8 deputies on our shift that a district car comes
9 into Hainesville and handles the calls. So that
10 does happen on a regular basis.

11 There are -- I love the
12 Hainesville cops. I work with them. I love the
13 Grayslake cops. They are all professionals. I
14 am biased because I'm a Lake County Deputy, but
15 any service that we have would be very valuable.
16 And just looking at the cost, I don't see how we
17 can build a new police department and give the
18 guys in Hainesville the benefits that they
19 deserve with the budget without raising taxes

20 And just so the Hainesville
21 guys know, Lake County is hiring. They offer
22 better benefits and better pay.

23 MR. EATON: Ken Eaton, 249 Cranberry Lake.
24 My comment is one that I would hope that the

1 Board would heavily consider. This being a
2 major task, the final vote I think should be
3 sent to referendum for the village and the
4 residents.

5 This is something that can't
6 be held just to representatives. Granted we did
7 vote you, Gentlemen, and ladies in. I don't
8 know about you, but 27 percent, happy with? I'm
9 disgusted with it. I think we have everybody
10 here who turned in a survey show up tonight.
11 That's pretty sad.

12 So like in the old adage, if
13 you don't vote, you can't bitch. But this is
14 something I think that needs to be very -- sent
15 out to the residents to vote on as a referendum
16 and taken from that point. There are ways. I
17 don't know why we got rid of the vehicle tax.
18 That's something that you can look at.

19 I mean just next door to me
20 I have five vehicles between the driveway and
21 the garage. There's money to be made. That's
22 just something I think you need to be
23 considering. Thank you.

24 MR. LARSON: Christopher Larson again,

1 L A R S O N. I know there have been a lot of
2 questions about the costs and how these weigh
3 into this decision. In the course of reviewing
4 the proposals that were presented to the
5 village, I put together some interesting
6 statistics for tonight that may help some of
7 this.

8 The proposal offered by Lake
9 County includes 3 officers patrolling our
10 neighborhoods for a total of about 8800 hours
11 worth of police service. That's a cost of
12 650,000 annually or what amounts to about \$73
13 per manhour for our police services.

14 Grayslake has offered
15 similar coverage. Again at approximately 8800
16 hours worth of police coverage, a cost of about
17 700,000 annually, or a relative cost of \$79 per
18 labor hour per officer.

19 Neither of these 2 plans address
20 things like traffic control for the Prairieview
21 School. None of them address any special events
22 we may have or any emergency needs that may
23 occur. The Village of Hainesville is trying to
24 address a number of key concerns that the police

1 department currently faces, such as employee
2 benefits, staffing considerations, appropriate
3 compensation, and appropriate space.

4 At the high end, the 1.3
5 million dollar proposal, we are offering nearly
6 30,000 hours of police service and coverage for
7 a relative cost of \$37 an hour. When it is
8 considered in those regards, I think it is wise
9 to consider not only the cost per hour, but the
10 value we receive for what we are paying for.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. MUELLER: May I have a quick last word?
13 I want to add that in addition to Grayslake,
14 Round Lake, and Round Lake Beach, we also had a
15 meeting with the sheriff and the county, and
16 actually had Sheriff Curran and his staff at a
17 board meeting prior to the final decision.

18 Thank you.

19 MAYOR SOTO: To wrap up public comments,
20 please if anybody else does have something to
21 say, now is the time to line up. Otherwise we
22 are going to move on.

23 PUBLIC: One quick question. You said you
24 are considering other locations for the

1 building. Would you address those?

2 MAYOR SOTO: Yes. I'm going to address
3 that in our closing summaries. What I would
4 like to do at this time, I wanted to let you all
5 know that I have heard from several business
6 owners that aren't present tonight. I have had
7 discussions with them on the phone as well as
8 I'm in receipt of 2 letters which were asked to
9 be read at tonight's meeting. So that's what I
10 would like to do at this time.

11 The first one is from Jerry
12 DeBruyne. You may be familiar with him through
13 Groher, a long time business in our town, and of
14 course Jerry has served as an official for our
15 village in years past.

16 It says Mayor Soto, Village
17 Trustees, a conflict of scheduling preclude my
18 being present. I would appreciate my comments
19 be read. I am a 30 year resident and live on
20 Route 120. I have seen accidents and domestic
21 violence, some of which were bloody and life
22 threatening. These are times when a delay of
23 police response is critical, minutes count in
24 these situations.

1 My suggestion is to add some
2 offices to the existing building, but share the
3 common areas, such as the reception area and
4 personnel, the washroom and other facilities.
5 The village is limited in its ability to grow
6 because it is landlocked, therefore there should
7 be no need for further expansion.

8 You never stand still. You
9 either grow a little or die a little. I
10 personally do not like the second option.
11 Signed Jerry DeBruyne.

12 The second letter is from
13 Lake County Automotive. Many of us take our
14 cars there. If you haven't, I highly recommend
15 them. Mayor Soto and the Village Board Members,
16 first of all, I'm requesting that this letter be
17 read at the February Town Hall meeting, as I
18 will not be in the country the last 2 weeks of
19 February. My concerns are with the survey which
20 was sent to all residents and businesses
21 regarding the dissolution of the Hainesville
22 Police Department.

23 My name is John Parmelee and
24 I have been in business and paid taxes in

1 Hainesville for 17 years. I have dealt with the
2 original Hainesville Police Department, the
3 Greater Round Lake Police Department, and the
4 current Hainesville Police Department. And by
5 far, the current police department has given
6 this community better service than the other 2
7 combined.

8 The first question I have is
9 why can the Lake County Sheriff's Department
10 have only one officer patrolling the community
11 at any given time, which requires 3 full time
12 officers, and in your survey you require 8 full
13 time officers? In my estimation, 5 full time
14 officers, including a chief of police, would
15 give better coverage than what the County is
16 offering. Added to that, 4 part time officers
17 to handle busy times during the day, vacations,
18 sick days, and any other needs which may arise.

19 My second question is where
20 did the construction prices for building a 4000
21 square foot police facility come from. The
22 village already owns enough property at the
23 current village hall to build that size
24 facility. If the board does not want to use the

1 property the village hall is on, I believe that
2 the village still owns the old village hall
3 property on Route 120. Putting up a 4000 square
4 foot building with handicapped access and
5 washrooms, holding cells, meeting room, offices,
6 pavement and whatever is necessary should not
7 cost more than \$750,000. I have spoken to a
8 couple engineers and construction companies,
9 which I do business with, and all of us believe
10 that one and a half million is an extremely
11 inflated quote. The village can lease 4000
12 square foot space for under \$3000 per month. If
13 my math is correct, this would give you over 41
14 years of lease time before you hit the one and a
15 half million mark. There's currently space
16 available right on the corner of 120 and Route
17 134 with plenty of parking and visual presence
18 on our main strip.

19 It becomes obvious that
20 these numbers were generated to fulfill a
21 campaign agenda which was not fully researched
22 before the campaign. I hope that Mayor Soto is
23 big enough to admit that she was not in
24 possession of all the facts during the campaign.

1 Furthermore if she and the board do their own
2 research into the actual costs of a new facility
3 and how many officers will actually be needed, I
4 am sure that they will come to a different
5 conclusion. Thank you for your time, John
6 Parmelee.

7 So with that, I would just
8 like to say that I do stand behind the estimates
9 that we received for building a traditional
10 police building. We contacted 3 reputable firms
11 that have built these types of facilities in
12 these areas. They are municipal building
13 builders.

14 However, that's not to say
15 that other things can't be negotiated or other
16 facilities can't be obtained. We have been
17 researching that. We have been talking to some
18 of the developers in our town. But we are not
19 going to tie up prime commercial space
20 permanently to hurt us 5 years out, 4 years out
21 from getting a large anchor store or something
22 that can really sustain this village for years
23 to come.

24 Also I would like at this

1 time to offer the floor to Trustee Daley and
2 also the chiefs if they want to chime in as far
3 as facilities at this point. Any added
4 comments?

5 MR. DALEY: My earlier comment pretty much
6 covers what I had to say about it.

7 MAYOR SOTO: I'm going to reiterate that
8 yes, when I walked around, not only campaigning,
9 but even before I decided to run, I had numerous
10 phone calls from many residents who worked with
11 me when I was in office as Mayor before, when we
12 had the challenge of trying to go to 24/7
13 policing.

14 When I was trustee under
15 George Benjamin, I served as police
16 commissioner. I learned more about policing
17 than I ever thought I would know in my life. I
18 truly value the officers that work for us.
19 Hands down I would love for us to keep our own
20 police department. I really would. In fact,
21 when we made the move to go with Round Lake
22 Park, purposely in the original contract, I made
23 sure that there was a clause that was written so
24 that we can give each other 18 months notice so

1 that in the years to come, that when we caught
2 up financially, we could look at starting our
3 own department and doing it right.

4 That contract was renewed in
5 2005 or 2004. The wording in that second
6 contract is very, very different. It really did
7 lead to what I feel is part of the deterioration
8 in that relationship. But what was done is
9 done. People, we need to move on. Okay.

10 Again, residential
11 development is done. The 2010 census is going
12 to tell us where we are. We are going to do our
13 best to get the economic development, but we are
14 trying to give you a voice here in what you
15 want. I heard people felt that things were done
16 too quickly.

17 It's not a question of
18 whether you like our officers or not. Yes, our
19 officers were told hey, this was a start-up
20 program. We are not going to have everything
21 right away. We are not looking to make it a
22 goldplated department. But this department is 2
23 years old already and look at what they are
24 operating out of. We can't continue that way.

1 Also I heard mention that we
2 bought a lot of equipment. We haven't bought
3 that much equipment quite frankly. We haven't
4 invested an exorbitant amount of money in
5 equipment at this point. As former Mayor Ted
6 Mueller mentioned, a lot of equipment was
7 donated.

8 Now, unfortunately, the
9 downside is those cars were donated because they
10 were, by that police department's standards,
11 ready for retirement because of the mileage. So
12 those cars are starting to die.

13 We have already had to buy
14 an additional squad. You are right. Some of
15 the other equipment is going to get aged. So
16 that again is the question. Do we move forward?
17 Do we invest in equipment? And again, if we
18 contract or negotiate with Grayslake or the Lake
19 County Sheriff's Department, they have both
20 acknowledged that they would come in and
21 inventory all our equipment, and whatever they
22 view as meets their standards and is in good
23 working order, they would gladly take on and
24 deduct that from the cost.

1 At this point is there any
2 other comments or anybody that would like to
3 step forward?

4 MR. WRIGHT: I would just like to say one
5 thing. I heard a lot of people talk highly
6 about Hainesville -- my name is Miles Wright.
7 218 Lisk Drive. The reality is one -- this is
8 going to be maybe not a popular point of view,
9 but the reality is we are a community of 4000
10 people looking to support public works, which we
11 haven't really talked too much about.

12 This has mostly been about
13 the police department. We are looking at
14 spending half of our budget on just the police
15 department if we go with the Hainesville choice.
16 So I mean there's a much bigger picture here
17 than just the police department. I can
18 appreciate all the sentiment that goes toward
19 safety, but we have to take into consideration
20 the public works end of things, and all those
21 other 4 things, and just remember that we are
22 spending half our money on the police
23 department.

24 So that's a lot, I think. I

1 don't know what other communities, what their
2 percentages are. But we are 4000 people and we
3 are spending half our money on the police
4 department. Nobody here wants to raise taxes.
5 That's my concern. Thank you for letting me
6 speak.

7 MR. DALEY: To follow up on this
8 gentleman's comment, this year, this current
9 budget here, we are expending -- let me back up
10 a half a step. I'm the chairman of the finance
11 committee. I'm a very practical individual. My
12 job as I have seen it throughout this is to look
13 at the money side.

14 I don't discount anything
15 that any of you folks have had to say about our
16 officers or our service. This particular budget
17 year, our police budget is approximately a
18 quarter, approximately 25 percent of our total
19 village budget. It climbs, as indicated by this
20 gentleman, and as indicated by the chart that
21 was handed out to you with the survey, up to 30,
22 45, almost up to 50 percent over the next 3
23 years.

24 The question isn't right now

1 whether or not we have the money. The question
2 is what do you as residents want to spend it on?
3 The Mayor has already indicated, and I support
4 her stance, that we are not going to run a
5 referendum to raise your taxes. We don't want
6 to do that. I don't want to be shot.

7 However, the other half of
8 that question is if we are going to continue
9 with our police department, what are we going to
10 stop spending money on? Is it public works? Is
11 it village character? Is it the other things
12 that we do with the money? Good question. I
13 don't have an answer for it.

14 But that's one of the
15 reasons we wanted you folks here to help us hear
16 the full picture. Thank you.

17 MAYOR SOTO: Are we ready to go down the
18 row to the trustees to let everyone make a
19 comment?

20 MS. DUBERSTEIN: I'm Georgeann Duberstein.
21 I can't tell you how happy I am that you all
22 took the time to come here tonight. Thank you.
23 I just want to reiterate, because there was a
24 lot of discussion about the building, that if we

1 take the cost of the building that was proposed
2 out of the picture, we are talking about 41.4
3 percent of our budget for the 2010, 11 year as
4 compared to 24.3 for Grayslake and 27.1 for Lake
5 County.

6 Now, I just want to throw
7 that out so that you hear it loud and clear.
8 I'm thoroughly open. This was the purpose of us
9 getting together, for us to be looking into all
10 this. It was not to coerce you into something.
11 There was no hidden agenda. The idea is it is
12 our responsibility as trustees to look at all
13 the options on everything that we do for you,
14 whether it's a website or audiovisual equipment
15 or work around Cranberry Lake, getting snow
16 removal done.

17 This is our responsibility
18 to you so that we use your money and our money
19 the wisest way we can. Now, what I heard
20 tonight loud and clear is that you're concerned
21 about having the personal touch of the officers
22 that we have had. And we have.

23 And one of the questions
24 that I have now, that I have not got an answer

1 to, is to find out from Grayslake, for example,
2 exactly how they are planning to allocate
3 officers for us. I would not be happy to have
4 them arbitrarily every now and then throw an
5 officer our way or have them rotate around.

6 From what I'm hearing from
7 you is that you want to have people that will be
8 loyal to Hainesville and will part of our
9 community and will know the people who live
10 here. That's important to all of us. That
11 would be something that I would want to check
12 with Grayslake to see how they would organize it
13 so that we would have that feeling that we have
14 now. Thank you.

15 MAYOR SOTO: I think Jim was ready.

16 MR. TIFFANY: I'm saving myself.

17 MR. DERENOSKI: I just want to reiterate
18 what Georgeann said. I think it is great you
19 guys showed up because we haven't seen this many
20 faces in a public meeting in ever. I mean since
21 I have been living here in the village, I never
22 seen this many faces. So please keep coming.
23 Please let us know. This is why we have these
24 meetings, because your opinion matters. It is

1 why you elected us here. We want to know what
2 you think. That's why we sent out the survey.

3 Sadly a 27 percent response
4 rate is really good. You know, when you send
5 out 1400 surveys, a 27 percent rate is very
6 good. We have 4000 people that live in our
7 village right now. I would say 100 came
8 tonight. So you know, what kind of a show up
9 rate is that?

10 We came here tonight to get
11 your opinion. We got your opinion. We heard it
12 loud and clear, especially that Sean is awesome.
13 I believe Sue asked the question what is our
14 decision going to be made upon. And I think
15 it's a mixture of both. I think it is
16 financial. I think it's emotional. It is not
17 just any one thing.

18 I think we are not robots.
19 We can't just take in data and spit out answers.
20 We have to look at all the information given to
21 us and make our decision from there. Thank you.

22 MR. BARRETT: There's -- boy, this is a
23 very emotional subject because first of all, I
24 worked real closely with Mayor Mueller when we

1 watched the relationship with Round Lake Park
2 deteriorate. When they brought him in the
3 office and handed him a bill for 400,000,
4 whoops, there's an error in bookkeeping. I
5 think that first of all, our Hainesville guys
6 have done an absolute knock them down job. Yet
7 we owe them benefits.

8 Can we bring this in
9 graduated scale? I would think that would be a
10 way of making this happen for everybody here so
11 that we can keep the personal touch that our
12 community is requesting and asking us for. I
13 saw tonight a squad car coming down Big Horn to
14 the call on Aspen Street. They were actually
15 there before fire got there

16 I mean that's the kind of
17 response and service we are going to see from
18 our police department day in and day out. They
19 have a vested stage in this community. They
20 aren't going to walk away and walk out the door

21 Hainesville is a very blue
22 collar / working type of community. We all take
23 big pride in our town. I see that, you know,
24 this is a very big, very hot button subject for

1 us. Would it be a shame to contract it out and
2 give it away? No. But there are going to be
3 other alternatives we have to look at.

4 I was looking at the Kildeer
5 police survey. We aren't spending anywhere near
6 as much as some of these other communities that
7 are the same size as we are for police
8 servicing, number 1. Number 2, there are other
9 alternatives for building. If we need a
10 building, maybe we need to put together a plan
11 for it, which I already submitted to the Mayor,
12 with a different building contractor that builds
13 different types of construction that isn't brick
14 and mortar.

15 The company is called
16 General Steel. A lot of my customers use it.
17 That's one of the avenues we are looking at.
18 This by no means is over with. I really
19 appreciate all the feedback the community has
20 given us tonight. I have to say thank you to
21 our police department for the services they have
22 given to our community.

23 MR. TIFFANY: First, thank you very much
24 for coming out here. I greatly appreciate it.

1 I'm happy to see everybody have such a great
2 concern for our police department, our village
3 namesake. The one thing I want to say is I'm
4 also -- sorry. 513 Deer Crossing. James
5 Tiffany. I'm also the trustee that handles your
6 Hainesville Fest. I'm the chairperson for that,
7 and John also sits on the committee.

8 As you can see, I'm on the
9 bottom of the list for interest with the highest
10 number. Highest number means people are not
11 interested in me. But I take heart to what I do
12 each summer. This time it is going to be August
13 28th. I take it to heart. I think about what I
14 do, what I can bring to the village to entertain
15 the residents and entertain the families,
16 entertain the kids.

17 My wife will vouch for it.
18 I do spend a lot of time. As of right now I'm
19 investigating all options and items that I could
20 bring this summer. That is something that is
21 dear to my heart ever since I got elected. I
22 appreciate you guys electing me to my position.

23 The one thing I do -- I want
24 to do this as a personal issue. I want to step

1 out of my trustee shoes. I'm bringing up
2 something that was brought up at our village
3 meetings. There was a felony arrest of
4 aggravated criminal sexual assault on September
5 14, 2009. The victim was 12 years old. The
6 parents are pursuing charges as a criminal
7 complaint.

8 Now, this was also done by
9 Koz. Koz went over there and picked this person
10 up. Also we had an offender, 39 year old
11 female, September 19, 2009 at Walgreens. Koz
12 was another one of the officers that handled
13 this incident.

14 The third one I want to
15 bring up is an arrest that was made by Tina
16 Cora. This was -- she arrived and found a tan
17 pickup truck and a driver that was disoriented.
18 The lady claimed the person that was in the
19 truck attempted to sell heroin to her son. We
20 had officers arrive from Round Lake and K-9 from
21 Round Lake Beach. This was something that was
22 in our village.

23 Now, I'm only saying this
24 because you may not see the crimes out there,

1 but do you think that without our officers in
2 the location that they were at the right time,
3 at the right spot, these things would happen? I
4 think that if our officers weren't there, it
5 might not have been found. I really appreciate
6 our officers taking the time protecting our
7 village, stepping up to the plate, and doing
8 what they do for us.

9 I personally like every one
10 of our officers. I don't have any complaints
11 with them. I really appreciate what you, the
12 residents, are allowing us to do, to take the
13 time to investigate our options. That's all I
14 have to say. Thank you

15 MAYOR SOTO: Okay. We are going to go over
16 a list of questions here and try to cover things
17 that we haven't fully addressed. What I'm
18 looking at, if I can ask for the fun of it, an
19 informal show of hands. It was brought up by
20 one of the comments that maybe this should go to
21 referendum. How many think this issue should be
22 put as a referendum? Raise your hand if you
23 think it should be put on the ballot. So about
24 half.

1 Let me ask another question.
2 This has been brought up by a couple residents,
3 to my surprise quite frankly. But the comments
4 have been made. How many would favor a tax
5 increase on the ballot? So a small percentage.
6 Just curious to take a look at that.

7 You know, it is interesting.
8 I just want to add that again, what I heard when
9 I was going around talking to a lot of residents
10 when I was campaigning, even now that I have
11 been in office, I get a lot of phone calls from
12 people that are going through very hard times.
13 People that have been laid off. Collecting
14 unemployment. We are having a very high
15 statistic of people struggling to pay their
16 water bills.

17 I'm sure it's no surprise to
18 you the number of foreclosures and walk aways,
19 empty houses that we have in our community.
20 This is rampant through our country. But my
21 concern locally is as far as going the avenue of
22 raising taxes, how many people are we going to
23 push out of their homes whether it is through a
24 walk away or foreclosure?

1 You know, there was a
2 mention of why did we do away with the vehicle
3 tax. Well, it was a small portion of money. It
4 is a \$2.50 line item that occurred on your
5 utility bill along with your water and garbage
6 service. You know, you don't really get
7 anything for it. I mean it is legal. But when
8 we did away with the stickers years ago, it kind
9 of just sat wrong with me that it was a sneaky
10 way to get a little extra buck from people.

11 In these hard times I heard
12 people saying what can you do to help us? The
13 other comments that I have heard, you know --
14 the water bill, by the way, I know people think
15 it's high. But our water bill is one of the
16 lowest in Lake County. Water in Lake County is
17 expensive. A few people have asked about Lake
18 Michigan water. We have excellent water. Our
19 water is really top quality. If we did go the
20 route of Lake Michigan water, you would easily
21 see your water bill double. I want to throw
22 that out there as an FYI

23 Unfortunately Trustee
24 Walkington is not here tonight, but Ted is. And

1 I think Ted will agree with me, and I remember
2 back in the days when we worked together as
3 trustees, we were talking about how we had to do
4 these special censuses and different efforts to
5 get the moneys increased, the income to the
6 village to keep up with the bills.

7 We talked about that
8 when we did catch up, we would also pause and
9 take a look at how we could give back to the
10 residents. So Trustee Walkington and I had a
11 long talk about that after I took office. So
12 the motor vehicle fee was one of those measures.
13 That is certainly not going to make or break
14 whether we keep the police department.

15 If I felt the police
16 department, keeping it was going to bankrupt us,
17 I wouldn't need to send out a survey. I
18 wouldn't need to ask you all to be here. But I
19 think it is fair you should understand out of
20 that huge tax bill you get every year, depending
21 on what size lot you live, what size structure,
22 it may be 250, it might be 400 dollars that
23 comes to the Village of Hainesville every year.

24 That's what we have to

1 provide you with police services, what we have
2 to provide you with the public works, you know,
3 the upgrade of the common areas.

4 Number 3 was village
5 character. People would like to see more
6 improvements done to the village. It is a high
7 statistic. There is some benefit to increasing
8 your land values on that. But I have heard loud
9 and clear from all the businesses, I shouldn't
10 say all, but almost all, that they very much
11 enjoy having our own police department. They
12 like the security checks and the response they
13 get.

14 I'm taking that into serious
15 consideration because certainly our businesses
16 are very important to us. We want to attract
17 more businesses. So that carries some weight
18 with me, and I think certainly with the board
19 members. Your input carries some weight. A
20 building is expensive. Is it a capital
21 expenditure? Yes, it is.

22 But if we weren't keeping
23 the PD, would we really need to build a
24 building? No. There's some concern about

1 public works in the future. But the difference
2 between public works and the police department
3 is I don't need to build something for public
4 works yesterday. I really do for the PD.

5 And that is why we have made
6 the effort. Trustee Barrett did contact this
7 steel company, and today I did receive an e-mail
8 which Chief Frasier and I printed out some
9 information and we are contacting those towns.

10 MR. BARRETT: There is 12 or 13 different
11 police structures built throughout the country.
12 Different sizes, different shapes

13 MAYOR SOTO: We are going to see if that
14 can be cost effective. There are some other
15 sites and facilities that I really would not
16 like to disclose the locations at this time just
17 for the privacy of those owners. And I
18 certainly don't need to give some information
19 that makes it more competitive and the price
20 come up.

21 But there are other options
22 that are being explored to house the police
23 department if we go that route. Certainly we
24 are hearing that we need to give some more

1 consideration to this area, and we will do that.

2 I think I addressed the equipment cost.

3 Response time, again, you

4 know, I agree with what was said earlier.

5 Response time is certainly an issue. If we went

6 to negotiate, we would ask for more specific

7 information. But you know, the Lake County

8 Sheriff's Department covers all of Lake County.

9 Just like those few months that we were really

10 without police services or minimal police

11 services, Lake County backed us up.

12 But we weren't contracting

13 them. If there's a 9-1-1 call, the Sheriff is

14 coming. But we were not paying them to have an

15 assigned car in our town. So there is a

16 difference with that in fairness to them with

17 regard to response time. You need to understand

18 that.

19 As far as Grayslake, again

20 certainly there would be a question of how many

21 additional officers would be added. But I can't

22 imagine a great difference if any in response

23 time. I will say you have to understand that

24 all of our agencies back each other up. We go

1 on joint calls with Grayslake. We go on joint
2 calls with Round Lake Park. We all know each
3 other. We work very well together. There's
4 already an intimate knowledge of each other's
5 territories to an extent.

6 There was also what are we
7 doing to bring in more business and tax revenue
8 into the village? There was recently a
9 demolition of the old village hall.

10 Coincidentally, yesterday I got a call from a
11 developer that read the article in the paper.
12 He is very interested in the property because of
13 its location at 120 and 134. Now I don't know
14 if this is going to turn into anything, but it
15 certainly was an exciting call. We do have some
16 interest in the Hines Lumber property.

17 There has already been a
18 grocery store study done on the property by the
19 commercial realtor that represents that
20 property. We can be hopeful. I think that's
21 it.

22 PUBLIC: One comment. You had made a
23 statement about possibly going to referendum.
24 The thing that scares me is that in my personal

1 life and my professional opinion, 27 percent
2 response in the village is deplorable.

3 It shows me apathy. The
4 people that are in this room tonight are
5 concerned citizens. I'm not sure what is out
6 there in that other 73 percent. What I'm saying
7 is my concern would be if we went out to
8 referendum, you may have people just checking
9 off without proper knowledge. People here are
10 becoming educated. Those people out there that
11 are apathetic, excuse my french, they don't give
12 a damn.

13 MAYOR SOTO: Well, we weren't really
14 considering going to referendum up to this
15 point. Because it was posed tonight, I wanted
16 to bring up the issue just to do an informal ...

17 PUBLIC: I would have to say I would
18 disagree with what he said. A lot of my
19 neighbors could not be here tonight. I speak
20 for a lot of them on Aspen Circle, especially
21 for the gentleman and lady who live across the
22 street from me, which are kind of handicapped,
23 especially the husband.

24 Yes. They definitely would

1 go and vote for having the police department.
2 And also for us who have been here, for us all
3 to voice our opinion to our neighbors and
4 throughout Hainesville, letting them know what
5 we have learned tonight, for the people that
6 weren't here. I'm still voicing definitely to
7 be able to do the referendum.

8 PUBLIC: My rebuttal is I certainly
9 wouldn't want to be offensive to any of those
10 people that are handicapped in any way. What
11 I'm saying is the people, 73 percent of people
12 that are out here, wherever they are living in
13 the village, had an opportunity and did not
14 respond to the survey. That concerns me.

15 I'm not here to offend
16 anybody but that concerns me because those
17 people need to be in a forum of this nature.
18 They need to be educated.

19 PUBLIC: I can tell you I wasn't going to
20 send in my survey. The reason I wasn't going to
21 send in my survey was because I thought that
22 that's how they were going to base their votes,
23 or they were -- their decision on keeping the
24 police department or not, they were going to

1 take that number, the 165 from Grayslake, and
2 that's who they were going to sign with. So I
3 think that there are a lot of people --

4 MAYOR SOTO: I don't understand why you
5 wouldn't fill in your survey.

6 PUBLIC: I filled in my survey. I stated
7 on my survey, I wrote on there that I want to
8 keep my Hainesville Police Department. I didn't
9 care about anything else that was on that list
10 but keeping my community and where I live safe.

11 MAYOR SOTO: Let's move on. Let me state
12 one thing. First of all, this was just brought
13 up as an inquiry. At the next board meeting, we
14 will be reviewing several things. We can
15 certainly discuss whether we would want to
16 consider going to referendum. When referendums
17 are placed on a ballot, and it is done properly,
18 certainly material is published. It goes out
19 and explains in detail what the referendum is
20 about.

21 So people that go to vote,
22 if they feel voting is important enough to take
23 the time to vote, I would certainly hope that
24 the voters would take the time to read the

1 information. One other thought I had, I don't
2 think we addressed fully, was the question about
3 the number of full timers and part timers we
4 have right now.

5 We have a low number of full
6 timers and a high number of part timers. While
7 all of our officers are great, I would -- if we
8 keep the PD, I would really like to talk a few
9 of the part timers into becoming full timers.
10 The problem we have with having so many part
11 timers right now is they work full time
12 elsewhere and then work for us. And when you
13 have a high number of part timers, the tail wags
14 the dog as far as scheduling.

15 So that's one of the
16 challenges. That's why we would want to have
17 more full time officers, have them dedicated and
18 loyal to Hainesville, like you stated, and have
19 part timers filling in the gaps. So that's the
20 importance.

21 And the only reason we
22 haven't brought on more full timers yet is
23 obviously we want to see what direction we are
24 going in fairness before we start offering

1 people full time jobs and we don't know what
2 direction we are going.

3 PUBLIC: Is it because of benefits? They
4 will have benefits once we resolve this and give
5 them a good benefit package?

6 MAYOR SOTO: Yes. That certainly would be
7 true, yes.

8 PUBLIC: Doesn't the police department
9 generate revenue? If you are giving that to
10 another police department, they are taking
11 revenue from your community. Is that not true?

12 MAYOR SOTO: A very common misconception,
13 you know, revenue, if you want to call it
14 revenue, fines that come in from tickets, last
15 year, our end of year audits, court fines
16 brought in \$26,500. Our ordinance tickets
17 brought in \$6000. That's not a lot of money,
18 folks.

19 Now, what I have to subtract
20 from that that makes it almost a wash is we have
21 to have a prosecutor in court. So there is
22 attorney fees. We have to have officers appear
23 in court. So you know, in 1950 when Hainesville
24 was just a car sitting on the highway looking to

1 give a speeding ticket, yes, Hainesville owned
2 some significant revenue that way

3 But when you are truly a
4 populated town and you are policing, tickets and
5 ordinance fines are strictly for law enforcement
6 purposes and public safety. It is not a
7 moneymaker, folks. Far from it. It is a drop
8 in the bucket.

9 MR. ZENNER: My name is Steve Zenner.
10 Thinking about what you said, Linda, about not
11 raising taxes, and I don't know about, you know,
12 a referendum or if the board or the trustees
13 really make the decision.

14 MAYOR SOTO: The trustees vote. I don't
15 get to vote. I can vote if it is a tie. Don't
16 worry, Ted. I know what I'm talking about.

17 MR. ZENNER: But beyond that, I guess
18 looking at it, you want to have a balanced
19 budget based on the best numbers that you can
20 come up with, best scenario of having our police
21 force, and whatever the trustees and the Board
22 want. Are we able to see that in a little bit
23 more detail instead of here is police, here is
24 this, you know, where is money being taken away

1 from?

2 I think we need to see that
3 as a community before you do make a vote so that
4 we have another voice, or at least know what is
5 going to happen and have a better understanding
6 what is going to sacrifice and what we are going
7 to gain.

8 MAYOR SOTO: I have a 2 tiered answer to
9 that. Number 1, I would encourage you to come
10 to as many board meetings as you can. I
11 understand people are busy. You have
12 activities. But it is so important to come to
13 the regular board meetings. And you know, I
14 recommend that if you got a hectic schedule,
15 talk to several of your neighbors and say let's
16 be a team of 4 or 5. Let's take turns going and
17 bring back information.

18 That's a system that I
19 really encourage and works really well for a lot
20 of people because this will be an ongoing
21 process, particularly at the next few board
22 meetings. At this point I don't envision
23 cutting many services. The question is how to
24 grow.

1 Public works will need to
2 grow a little bit. The question is some things
3 we outsource, it makes sense to keep
4 outsourcing, like the snowplower's contract. We
5 are not going to invest in a fleet of snowplows
6 and have drivers. It doesn't make sense

7 There is some equipment we
8 do have and some additional we'd like to
9 purchase. It is not always going the cheapest
10 route. It is being cost effective and it is
11 being timely. You know, if somebody's open
12 field isn't mowed near their house, it's a
13 common area, they don't want to hear from us,
14 oh, it is because we have one mower or the mower
15 doesn't work on that type of grass or we are
16 going to outsource. They just want it to get
17 mowed.

18 So if owning the right
19 equipment allows us to get over there and get it
20 done faster than waiting for somebody to come in
21 with the right equipment, those are the kind of
22 options we are going to weigh out. It is
23 quality of life, level of service, and cost
24 effectiveness.

1 MR. ZENNER: You didn't answer my question
2 though. The question was when you do have a
3 final bookkeeping budget, are we able to see it
4 as a community before it is voted on?

5 MAYOR SOTO: You will be able to see it and
6 particularly hear it if you come to our regular
7 board meetings. Our minutes are posted on our
8 village website. You can come in and request a
9 copy through the Freedom of Information Act.
10 You have a right to do that.

11 So as those numbers continue
12 and discussions continue, it will all be there.
13 And when there's a final report, yes, it will be
14 available. You will know when a vote is going
15 to be taken. That's what I'm trying to say.

16 MR. ZENNER: Is there a tentative date you
17 can predict? I don't have a crystal ball in
18 front of me.

19 MR. DALEY: We just started developing the
20 budget, the very first step of developing the
21 budget for 2010, 11. We just sent out
22 information to various committees, to public
23 works. We will meet with other trustees to
24 indicate the process we are going to use.

1 They will put together their
2 wants. The finance committee will meet. The
3 Mayor and I will meet. We will discuss this is
4 what we see going for next year, this isn't what
5 we are going to do. We will be looking at some
6 concept of police services within it, whether it
7 is maintaining our own, outsourcing. We will
8 see how it fits at that time.

9 Once a budget is approved,
10 it is a public document.

11 MR. ZENNER: When is the budget due? What
12 date?

13 MS. HENSLEY: Our fiscal year starts on May
14 1st each year. Our current 2009, 2010 budget is
15 on our website.

16 MR. DERENOSKI: Are you looking for if we
17 go with option A, we will have to cut this? If
18 we go with option B, we have to cut this? Or
19 are you just looking at this is what our budget
20 is?

21 MR. ZENNER: We are putting our future into
22 6 peoples' hands right there, plus the
23 tiebreaker. And based on that, we are expecting
24 you guys and girls to be able to say this is the

1 best interest of Hainesville.

2 This is a big -- as you can
3 tell a lot of people are here. This is a big
4 importance to Hainesville. This kind of
5 importance, you know, I feel not everybody could
6 be here. As people have said, and I travel
7 weekly. So for me to be here and rely on a
8 neighbor, it is going to be very difficult
9 because I like to hear what I hear. I don't
10 like to hear a second opinion from somebody. I
11 like to hear the facts when I'm listening.

12 That's why I said it would be
13 very nice to our community to be able to see a
14 balanced budget, to see what options you feel is
15 the best way. I think it would be great for our
16 community to be able to see that and not to say
17 okay, we got to do another 5 more months looking
18 at it. I think it is a great way to say this is
19 what we came up with instead of it just
20 happened.

21 MR. DERENOSKI: That won't happen. When we
22 get that information, if you look at the meeting
23 minutes, we will always say we are spending this
24 much money on this. We will let you know what

1 we are looking to spend and what our budget is.

2 We have always done that.

3 MR. ZENNER: Which is good, but you are
4 going to have a final decision that's going to
5 be at a meeting I may not be able to be at.

6 MAYOR SOTO: You will know ahead of time.

7 MR. ZENNER: That's what I was trying to
8 find out.

9 MR. DERENOSKI: We also post our agendas
10 online.

11 MR. ZENNER: So it is not going to happen
12 that here is our balanced budget, let's vote on
13 it?

14 MR. DERENOSKI: We are not going to come in
15 at that meeting and all of a sudden --

16 MAYOR SOTO: It's posted in advance. You
17 will have ample time. As I said, our goal is
18 the end of March. I said it's our goal. Could
19 it be mid April? Sure it could.

20 MR. ZENNER: Because it is not really due
21 until May 1st.

22 MAYOR SOTO: Right. But I don't really
23 want to drag this out until July. I think that
24 would be a wrong way to go. The other comment

1 is each trustee does have a vote. Yes, I'm
2 allowed to break ties. I'm not fond of breaking
3 ties, not because I'm afraid to take a stand or
4 make a decision. I think you all have seen me
5 do that enough times.

6 But to me if I have a split
7 board on an issue this important, that tells me
8 that we have missed something. There's more
9 information or things to be looked at, and we
10 need to figure out what that is and get that
11 information in front of the board and talk about
12 it.

13 On that note, I would like to
14 encourage all my trustees. I'm glad to hear
15 some of their comments tonight because in the
16 few meetings that we have had, some of my
17 trustees have not been very vocal. They have
18 said very little. That is very difficult
19 because we are a team that is supposed to all
20 work together. And you know, this is not a
21 debate. It's not a fight. It is what are your
22 feelings. What do you think is important. And
23 what are your ideas. You need to be vocal.

24 That's what being a trustee

1 is. It is not always comfortable to sit in that
2 chair and speak up, especially if you're going
3 against the grain. But it needs to be done. So
4 I ask you all to come to the meetings as much as
5 you can.

6 Also one of the things that
7 have been put in this year's budget that we are
8 striving to purchase and then add to in the
9 upcoming budget is the purchase for new
10 technology and equipment. Some people have said
11 that's money not well spent. But I'm hearing
12 today that if we could video our meetings and
13 get them out to the public, that that would be
14 very much appreciated.

15 MR. DERENOSKI: Can we do a show of hands
16 on that? Let me tell you what I'm thinking
17 about. This is my thing. One of the things I
18 want to do, and the website designer said we can
19 do it, I'm confident we can, is set up a You
20 Tube channel. On the You Tube channel, there
21 will be past meetings. So you would then go on,
22 click on that meeting, and you would be able to
23 watch the entire meeting on You Tube.

24 So if you are traveling,

1 hey, here is the village board meeting. This is
2 this date. You can watch the meeting online,
3 fast forward, rewind. Would that be something
4 that everybody would be interested in because it
5 does cost money to do this. I want to make sure
6 that people are willing to do it. I think it is
7 great.

8 MS. DUBERSTEIN: I just need to remind you
9 that we are residents too. And so the decisions
10 we make are not just to you, but they are for
11 all of us. And keep that in mind, when we make
12 decisions, you know, we are not trying to impose
13 some evil thing on you, because whatever we are
14 going to do to you, we are doing to us.

15 MR. ZENNER: That's why we voted you in.

16 MS. DUBERSTEIN: I just wanted to remind
17 you.

18 MR. ZENNER: I sure hope you are a
19 resident. We voted you in.

20 MAYOR SOTO: Another budget item is funding
21 for cloning Officer Sean Kelly.

22 PUBLIC: What is the next step? What is
23 going to happen now?

24 MAYOR SOTO: Our next board meeting is

1 March 9th, Tuesday. We will see how fast we get
2 the report from the stenographer. Obviously I
3 think you can all appreciate that we received a
4 lot of information tonight, and there certainly
5 needs to be a time of reflection and thought to
6 go over all of that.

7 So I think number 1, we are
8 going to ask the whole board to do that. Then
9 we are going to go back to the table March 9th
10 and discuss that. We also have a trustee who I
11 mentioned is absent. We will be bringing him up
12 to speed. So what we are going to do is go over
13 the comments that we received tonight, go over
14 some of the budgetary comments that were brought
15 up. See what additional answers we need to get
16 that we don't have.

17 And then from there, we will
18 determine what our next steps are. We don't
19 know exactly, but that will be determined March
20 9th. I encourage as many of you, if you can,
21 attend the March 9th board meeting. Please do
22 so. With that, is there any other final
23 comments? This is our Firestone man.

24 PUBLIC: I kind of want to take it all in.

1 There's a lot here. Obviously everybody feels
2 pretty strongly about keeping our police
3 officers, which I do as well. I think that no
4 matter what another department promises they are
5 going to do, you know, I'm going to take care of
6 my home more than I'm going to take care of my
7 neighbor's. My house is more important.

8 MAYOR SOTO: Don't live next to him.

9 PUBLIC: I think what also needs to be
10 taken into consideration if we do build a
11 building, obviously it sounds like there's more
12 options we have than the costs of what they came
13 up with. But we can look into other options or
14 start with a smaller version

15 The village is going to be
16 here for a long time, as I hope my business is
17 here for a long time. 20 year costs of paying
18 it off, the village should be here longer than
19 20 years. So it's a long term process as well.
20 We keep looking at small term here with the cost
21 of what this is going to be in the budget.

22 But in the long term of our
23 village, I think we will make out having another
24 building and having our police force. So keep

1 it all intact. Thank you.

2 MAYOR SOTO: In closing, before we start
3 exiting the premises, again I just want to say
4 thank you to the Northbrook Sports Club. I
5 think this has worked out really well tonight.
6 In your handout there's an additional comment
7 sheet. There's a place for you to put a
8 question if you want to ask yet another
9 question, or you just have some outgoing
10 comments.

11 And then if you want to fill
12 that out now, there are 2 boxes which you can
13 drop those comments in on the back table. You
14 can put your name or you don't have to. That's
15 optional. That's up to you. If for some reason
16 you take this form home, you don't drop it here,
17 you think of something at 3:00 in the morning,
18 you write it down over the next couple days, I
19 encourage you -- you don't even have to come
20 into the village hall, although we will give you
21 a cup of coffee if you do. You can go to the
22 drive up drop box where you can drop your water
23 bill and drop your comment sheet in there, and
24 we will make sure that it gets copied to all the

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have

set my hand.

Gina Marie Zangara
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Certificate No. 084-003242

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