

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
OSWEGO VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OSWEGO VILLAGE HALL  
100 PARKERS MILL, OSWEGO, ILLINOIS  
June 14, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Troy Parlier called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members Physically Present: President Troy Parlier; Trustees Tom Guist, Kit Kuhrt, James Marter II, Terry Olson, Jennifer Jones Sinnott, and Brian Thomas (attended at 6:21 p.m.).

Staff Physically Present: Dan Di Santo, Village Administrator; Andrea Lamberg, Finance Director; Tina Touchette, Village Clerk; Jeffrey Burgner, Police Chief; Jennifer Hughes, Public Works Director; Rod Zenner, Community Development Services Director; Bridget Bittman, Community Engagement Manager- Marketing; Kevin Leighty, Economic Development Director; Joe Renzetti, IT/GIS Director; and Karl Ottosen, Village Attorney.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Public Forum was opened at 6:04 p.m.

Ed Dienhart addressed the Board regarding low-speed electric bicycles. He is a resident of Oswego. He asked if we would consider changing Village Code regarding bicycle uses on bike paths; Illinois Vehicle Code currently allows low-speed electric bicycles; can ride anywhere a regular bicycle is allowed; the e-bike he purchased has a motor; can't ride on sidewalks; current signs, on bike paths, say "no motorized vehicles"; called the Park District and they said electric bicycles are allowed on their bike paths; he needs clarification on whether he can ride his bike on the bike paths; he asked if someone could look into it and change Village Code to add low-speed bicycles.

Dan Koukol addressed the Board regarding large warehouses; he is a current Kendall County Board member; he spoke to the Village's Economic Development Director concerning large warehouses; Minooka is putting in a new water line for a warehouse; the new warehouse will bring in \$1 million in taxes for Minooka; would like to see more businesses that provide jobs in our area; Orchard Road, Grove Road and Plainfield Road would be good areas; warehouses pay big money; he would like Economic Development time put into looking for warehouse space; he is available to talk about this further; Collins Road extension will hook-up with Lisbon to I-80.

Dr. John Sparlin, Superintendent of the Oswego School District, addressed the Board regarding Prescott Mill and Oswego East High School (OEHS) parking. At the June 6, 2022 School Board meeting, members discussed Prescott Mill; school met with the HOA's and concerns with parking; looked into the feasibility of adding parking; he attended a meeting with Village staff on May 11, 2022; measures were taken, but the problem still exists; OEHS was built 16 years ago; with what both entities have done, don't believe adding parking spots will fully address the issue; he asked the Village to add no parking signs in Prescott Mill.

Board and Dr. Sparlin's discussions focused on whether parking spots were in the budget process and whether impact fees were included; Dr. Sparlin will have to ask; at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, they talked about adding 80 parking spots at OEHS; at the School Board on June 6, 2022, they said it would cost millions of dollars, but there is a document that says it would cost \$189,400.00; Village put in no parking signs back in September; unsure of the number of people on the waiting list for parking spots; Board member misspoke about the cost of the parking lot; how much is in the School Districts' General Fund Reserves; \$24 million in operating costs for the School District; tax participation warrants; don't believe additional spots will fully fix the problem; parking permits cost \$100.00; parking permit fees can pay for the parking lot; School Board owes it to the taxpayer; students parking in Prescott Mill have to walk one half to three quarters of a mile to the school; kids are parking legally; homeowners are agreeable to no parking on their

streets; Village should issue parking permits and placards; Village will need to enforce; how Village staff will document and do vehicle checks; consider parking restrictions; safest place to park is on campus; have obligation to the students; money is not the problem; 70% of property taxes goes to the schools; the parking issue has been going on for 7 years; pushing the nuisance to residents and subdivisions; lack of desire to come to an equitable solution; the parking issue does not happen at Oswego High School (OHS); OEHS has two parcels surrounding the property; School Board did not have the Merit Corp. paperwork at their Board meeting; OHS has 1,141 parking spots; OEHS has 990 parking spots; surprised on advocating restrictions and issuing citations to students versus putting in parking spots; could say the same thing about Village putting up signs; where are the students going to park; OEHS Principal does not think a parking lot will solve it; Village passed an ordinance on restrictions in 2018; passed another ordinance in 2021; 65 citations issued; on average, 90 cars are parking in Prescott Mill; Village has done something and went further than they should have; concerns with students parking in other subdivisions; whether the School District is providing equitable access for all students per its mission statement; student enrollment is declining; schools are not overloaded; more subdivisions are being built with more students coming in; recoup funds and lower the tax rate; 100-150 students waiting for parking permits; budget and impact fees; adding the parking lot to the school's CIP list; School Board member was against adding to the list; why the School Board member was not corrected when they said it would cost millions for the parking lot; last time anything was added to OEHS was in 2012; looking at doing a gravel lot versus an asphalt lot; would need a variance for a gravel lot; could reduce the cost by 50%; future issues in other subdivisions; didn't see a vote or direction taken at the School Board meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>; School Board member mis-quoted a Village Trustee regarding property acquisition; disappointing School Board meeting; thought there was a plan to move forward; intergovernmental cooperation; have intergovernmental meetings regularly; Village shares revenue with the School District and frequently gives updates to the School Board. There was no further discussion.

There was no one else who requested to speak. The public forum was closed at 6:52 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

G.1 Discuss the Parking Supply and Demand Requirements for Oswego East High School and its Relation to the Adjoining Prescott Mill Subdivision.

Administrator Di Santo and Chief Burgner addressed the Board regarding parking at OEHS. On May 11, 2022, School District Board members and staff, Village Board members and staff, and Prescott Mill HOA Presidents met to discuss parking concerns at OEHS. The Village has a good working relationship with Dr. Sparlin and the School District; appreciates the friendship and partnership. Impact fees have not been waived since 2019. Wolf Road segment serves 6 schools. Parking issue is a safety item. In 2018, the Village Board passed an ordinance restricting parking on Chapin Way and Bennett Court to 2 hours between 7am and 3pm and prohibiting parking on Townsend Drive. Village tried not to over-regulate without knowing if the parking would get pushed further into the subdivision. In 2021, the Village Board passed an ordinance restricting parking on the east side of Devoe Drive to 2 hours between 7am and 3pm. 65 ordinance violations and warning tickets have been issued. Some cars are not parked legally; nuisance, littering, drug transactions and calls for service have been reported. Each time the Village has prohibited parking, students have parked further away and walked to school. The more parking restrictions the Village puts in place, the more enforcement is required for the police. Enforcement has become time intensive. The School District has been a good partner; appreciate that the school went back and found a way to add parking. If the Village pushes further, the students will be walking a mile. Students have been parking in Ogden Falls and walking through resident's yards. Could have students parking in Churchill and the industrial park and walking to school.

The minimum parking requirement in the Village's Zoning Ordinance is 1 parking space for every staff member and 10 spaces for every 100 students. This standard was most likely established in the 1970's and not updated since that time. OEHS has approximately 2,900 students and 252 staff members. The minimum parking required for OEHS would be 542 parking spaces. OEHS currently exceeds the minimum parking standard with 990 parking spaces. OHS has approximately 2,900 students and 341 staff members establishing a minimum parking

requirement of 631 spaces. OHS has 972 parking spaces on-site and an additional 169 spaces in an adjacent gravel parking lot, creating a total of 1,141 spaces. There is no issue with OHS students parking on adjacent streets and their 1,141 parking spaces appear to be adequate for their parking demand. Village Code requires that off street parking be developed with asphalt, concrete, or some dust free surface. In the past, the Village has not allowed gravel parking lots without a variance. A recent engineering study, commissioned by the School District, showed that an additional 80 parking spaces can be accommodated in a new parking lot at OEHS. If the School District were interested in installing additional parking, the Village could process a variance to allow for a gravel aggregate parking lot. This would allow the School District to install additional parking at a lesser cost than an asphalt or concrete lot at a lower cost and on a faster timeline. Development impact fees could also be used as a funding source.

Board and staff discussion focused on the Village does not own some of the roads; work being done at a residence could be challenging if contractor vehicles need to be parked; limiting residents on not being able to park on their street; zoning ordinance dates back to 1974; ordinance is outdated and would recommend a text amendment; parking code ratio is 28.83; staff met with residents of Prescott Mill to discuss parking and the need for additional parking spaces; school impact and land cash for Avanterra= \$600,000; installing a lot will not 100% fix the problem, but it would alleviate the majority of the problem; Village staff could expedite the permit for the lot; could have unbudgeted impact fees that would pay for the lot; gravel lot is School District property; whether to allow a gravel lot or require asphalt; increase the ratio to 30; whether the School District will be requiring a parking permit for the gravel lot; hard to get in and out of a gravel lot in inclement weather; need the lot to be done by August; requiring more than 30 parking spots per 100 students; Village has kept their end of the bargain from the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting; every obstacle was removed.

Staff recommended a parking ratio closer to what is provided for by OHS and requested direction on whether to allow gravel and the creation of a text amendment to the Zoning Code. Direction was given to increase the ratio, to allow gravel, and to create a text amendment to the Zoning Code. The text amendment will go to the Planning & Zoning Commission first and then to the Village Board for approval.

There was no further discussion.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Tina Touchette  
Village Clerk