



# SIDEWALK COMMITTEE

November 19, 2014

Present: Robert Stevens, Sandy Carlin, Sindy Morse, Sharon Weed  
Ginger VanEtten, Village Board Trustee Liaison; James Tornatore,  
Village Mayor; Rachel Jacobs, Deputy Clerk/Treasure

R. Stevens called meeting to order @ 7:02 PM.

R. Jacobs reviewed process. Request For Expression of Interest (RFEOI) sent to five names, with request to respond by 12/5/14. DOT cautioned not to make a decision on cost, but qualifications, but the list of those sent RFEOI are already qualified. DOT has yay or nay on the recommendations made by Village Board & Committee. DOT involved in RFEOI, and there will be a meeting Monday regarding the process. DOT has very specific federal guidelines". The financing is a "reimbursement program"; the Village pays upfront (i.e. the engineer) and the Village would be reimbursed from the state at stages i.e. design phase (survey & design of sidewalks); engineer phase; and construction phase.

Per J. Tornatore, the Village has sufficient cashflow to pay costs before reimbursements come in. The one-year period is better for the Village.

S. Carlin remarked that this avoids the pitfall of multi-year situation where funding is promised but then funding dries up.

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Per R. Jacobs, the engineer has final say of what is acceptable – rep Dave MacEwan from DOT took pics of area problems, and he also discussed with DPW the ADA standards. Wm. Foster of DPW, R. Jacobs of Village office, and DOT rep had ‘walk around.’ The total project cost figure granted \$265, 585.00; the Village awarded 80% (\$212,468) based upon footage determined by committee.

J. Tornatore stated there may be complications with respect to right of way (ROW) boundaries.

J. Tornatore also reviewed that the State is allowing us to use the term “benefit assessment” as the term “user fee” is not appropriate; however, “benefit assessment” still applicable to a tax, not a fee. Each owner pay by linear footage. Can’t go through taxes as it would exceed tax cap.

R. Stevens asked S. Carlin to organize contacts regarding those who may have financial hardships. S. Carlin stated she can sit down with people to inform of options.

J. Tornatore stated people have issues going through Bishop Sheen as owner’s tax return is needed and some owners balk at this, but seniors have shown records to Town in order to get senior discount for example.

J. Tornatore posed the question as to whether the Village would remove sidewalks at ‘no charge’ OR remove and get reimbursed by the grant to reduce everyone’s costs?

J. Tornatore stated by the first January 2015 meeting, try to get linear footage and cost for each owner. Engineer hired January 2015. DOT said volunteers were not acceptable.

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R. Stevens asked question if owners can finance over years, and stated that the legal aspects need to be checked out by Village Attorney F. Como; will there be a fee associated with financing, and would this be prepared as a 'service bill';...these are questions for DOT.

Per R. Jacobs, sidewalks must be contiguous.

J. Tornatore stated that the Village code due date of 12/31/14 is unchanged to assist with getting the project through; but the wording in code is "have a plan, based upon funding availability." Advocates are needed from Whig Street.

R. Stevens suggested getting bus driver representative from school system, Headstart staff, medical clinic staff etc to get involved.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 PM.

*There will be no December 2014 meeting.*

Kathy McCall  
Account Clerk Typist

*NEXT MEETING JANUARY 21, 2015 @ 7 PM*