

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PLEASANT PRAIRIE VILLAGE BOARD
PLEASANT PRAIRIE WATER UTILITY
LAKE MICHIGAN SEWER UTILITY DISTRICT
SEWER UTILITY DISTRICT "D"
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, WI
January 15, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

A Regular Meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Village Board was held on Monday, January 15, 2007. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Village Board members John Steinbrink, Steve Kumorkiewicz, Alex Tiahnybok, Jeff Lauer and Mike Serpe. Also present were Mike Pollocoff, Village Administrator; Jean Werbie, Community Development Director and Jane Romanowski, Village Clerk.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS - DECEMBER 5 AND 18, 2006; JANUARY 8, 2007**

KUMORKIEWICZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 5 AND 18, 2006 AND JANUARY 8, 2007 AS PRESENTED IN THEIR WRITTEN FORM; SECONDED BY SERPE; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- 5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

John Steinbrink:

We had a sign up sheet at the front. We'll go through that first. And if somebody came in that missed signing up we'll ask at the end of the sign up completions if there's anybody wishing to speak under citizens' comments. Jane, do you have the sheet? We just ask that everybody give us your name and address for the record.

Anne Rabin:

Anne Rabin, 6717 Springbrook Road, Pleasant Prairie. I'm here today to ask you to clarify the comments made at the November 20th Board meeting in regard to the therapeutic recreation program at the LakeView RecPlex. There seem to be two sets of information here, the minutes from the November meeting and the article in today's *Kenosha News*. It sounds confusing and contradictory. I'm not here to protest, rather I hope you will set me straight about your intentions.

Since the issue of services for individuals with special needs has been raised, I'm here tonight to explain to you the benefits it provides the individual with disabilities and their families. These are things you should know before you discuss special needs and the role of Pleasant Prairie in offering therapeutic services. Those of you who work or live with a person with disabilities realizes how it challenges 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year after year.

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I'm here to tell you how difficult it is to take these kids and young adults out of the house. It's tough to get them fed and changed to go out of the house. Once we get where we're going, there are medical and behavior issues to contend with. Bearing that in mind, you may hear some commotion from the kids in the audience tonight. We beg you to excuse them. Coupled with the fact that many of these kids don't wait patiently or quietly, it took a great deal of effort for these families to show up tonight.

The disabled are welcomed, greeted and included at the RecPlex because of the therapeutic program. Members accept the fact that the disabled are part of their recreation community. The program has provided a safe, accepting and accommodating place for these people to play and learn by integrating them to the community. The disabled are able to have fun in these programs. Having these programs in place allows parents to work and be productive taxpayers because their children are cared for and looked after. There are few programs of quality to provide this care.

To single out the services to the disabled as being unsupportable smacks of discrimination. Which special services for other segments of the population are unsupportable. Why pick on the disabled who have so very little outlet in their lives and no voice to defend them? We feel as a caring community that we should support diversity and that includes the disabled. We are all enriched for having the disabled be part of our lives.

Contrary to what I have read, we all need and receive help at different times in our lives. The disabled just need a little more help and consideration. As a Pleasant Prairie resident, a RecPlex member and a parent of a person with disability I am disappointed and offended by some of the comments that I read in the November meeting. Thank you.

Emily Rabin:

Emily Rabin, 6717 Springbrook Road, Pleasant Prairie. It has come to my attention that the Pleasant Prairie Village Board has discussed the topic of ending support with the therapeutic recreation program at the RecPlex. I am the younger sister to a 21-year old person with disabilities. He is next to me today. The therapeutic program is a place for my brother to socialize and fit in with others. This program is the only program that is suitable for my brother. It is suitable because he can ramble in the gym, float in the pool, stand to watch racquetball, smile at his friends and just be himself.

As a normal 12-year old, I can select from a wide range of program from art to basketball. My brother, however, is limited both in his ability and in the programs that he has to choose from. Stuart spends a great deal of his day at the RecPlex. He has made friends in the pool and members and staff recognize him and greet him. Being at the RecPlex with my brother makes me feel that he is accepted and not stared at or talked about or pointed at. I am excited to accompany him because we are so comfortable there.

The Friday night out program provides a fun night of pizza, swimming and a movie for people with disabilities and their siblings. This allows parents to complete tasks that they are unable to do during the day or just have quality time with their spouse. I was able to lend a helping hand in

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the program and hang out with the staff members and my brother. I really look forward to these times.

It is important for someone to do something they enjoy even if they are disabled and need help. Even though Stuart can't say with words we know when he smiles and bounces and laughs that he has enjoyed his day at the therapeutic program. The Village Board should continue to support the LakeView RecPlex therapeutic program. Thank you.

Richard Schwachow:

My name is Richard Schwachow, 7021 52nd Avenue. I'd just like to make a few comments. *Kenosha News* politics as we remember the last election year the good old boys got in again. It seems here for the last couple of years here nothing seems to be going on. What's important we have a community and we have neighborhoods and it's all this we and them, we and them, we and them. So I just hope this new election coming up that these people can get together as a Board and work together as a team instead of putting politics in there. The people of Pleasant Prairie community and the neighborhoods like to see you people work together instead of reading all this infighting. That's my comment. I thank you kindly.

Kris Neiman:

Good evening. I am present this evening to discuss, I'm sorry, comments made at the November 20th Board meeting regarding the therapeutic pool proposal at the RecPlex. Although I am not a resident of Pleasant Prairie, my family has a membership at the RecPlex and we are one of those families who benefit from the therapeutic program. From my research I understand that the original proposal was to increase the current pool size which would ultimately be more lanes and swimming areas for the general public. It appears to me that the pool addition has now been tagged as a therapeutic pool due to discussions about adding additional handicapped accessible areas. I'm concerned that the pool proposal is the first step in a political debate on the value of the therapeutic program itself.

My son, Seth, is disabled. He suffers from autism. He utilizes the Discovery program for after school care, school days off and breaks and also summer camp. Our other child is also enrolled in the enrichment program at the RecPlex. The parents of the children and young adults in this program are aware that it is under some scrutiny due to the current state of finances. My concern is that the program and the pool will somehow be partnered together in Board meetings and discussions and that the TR program will be seen as a burden to the taxpayers.

As you know, the rent from the cell phone tower goes to the TR program. I hope that the Board continues to see this as a beneficial way to use these funds from the tower and leave those funds intact for the program to use. It must be made clear to the voters that the program does not affect their property taxes. My family could not survive without this program. I thank God every day that Mr. Pollocoff had enough vision and love to create this program for the Village and our children. There simply are no other viable options for families that have children with disabilities. Unlike most people assume there are no funds and no services available. My

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husband and I are able to work and excel in our careers because we know that our child is being taken care of by this wonderful program and its staff.

I could stand up here for the rest of the night probably crying and tell you how this program has saved my family. Since this is an election year I would hope that those running for seats on this Board do not put a spin on the TR program. It would be sad to see the program misrepresented to the taxpayers of Pleasant Prairie. They need to understand that any programming for its disabled community is a benefit and not a burden. Please choose your words wisely. Your decisions and discussions about this program will be watched carefully by the public and those of us who live here, use the RecPlex and have a voice for those who do not. Thank you for listening.

Karen Weber:

My name is Karen Weber. I live at 2421 47th Court in Kenosha. A little bit over a year ago I stood before you and asked you to support us when the therapeutic recreation program decided to go nonprofit. You all agreed wholeheartedly and I thank you for that. I would like to clear up this matter as well. I've made my comments to the press. Some of those were slightly misquoted, so be it. I'm going to read a letter to you from Ben Leg. Ben Leg is one of the directors and people who works with the Kenosha Human Development Services. Here are his words and I think he says them very well.

Does the Board just need to be educated on the impact that your program, the TR program, has on the many families that you serve and the fact that for a few families that if we were not able to fund these kinds they more than likely would be placed in residential programs? I would rather pay the money to the RecPlex than pay the County to put them away. Pleasant Prairie has really set the bar in care, therapeutic recreation and understanding amongst the other members at the RecPlex of what it takes to care for a special needs person. Pleasant Prairie has been the leading force in our community when we are talking about after school care. Maybe there were struggles in the beginning, but in the end Pleasant Prairie had the guts to step into this field and provide a much needed service for our families and our children. I commend you all on that. We have nothing like what the RecPlex has in place, and I think what will happen in the next few years is you will have another program like this in Kenosha due to the need for this and the funding sources changing over to family care. Pleasant Prairie has strived to set themselves apart with all the services they provide so it was not a surprise to me that they would tackle this type of project. Let me know if there's any way I can help out. That's from Ben Leg.

I can only echo his words. Please continue your support of us. We need this. Clarify your comments. Let us know that you're with us. Thank you.

Jim Parks:

My name is Jim Parks, 3199 106th Place. I'd like to start off with a quote from what I feel is one of our most successful presidents, Ronald Regan, who said that government is not the answer to our problems. Government is the problem. A gentleman came up here earlier and said that we have this problem with the we/them issue fighting on the Board. Somehow that's a bad thing. No, gentlemen, that's a good thing. Trustees Lauer and Tiahnybok were not voted in to be yes

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men for the other three Trustees. So from my heart to both Trustee Lauer and Trustee Tiahnybok I appreciate the fact that you don't lay down for every single need or want that the other Trustees have. That is not why you were voted in.

Now, it could be very well true from the arguments that we have coming up, the nanny state has to take care of everyone, the nanny state has to get everything it wants, no cost to the taxpayer, right? No needs from the taxpayer, the ordinary people in this community that are trying to make it. It's never thought of, it is never discussed that there are other people that are trying to pay their bills, trying to make it in this country and cannot do it. So you're going to run into these arguments time and time again. Mr. Lauer and Tiahnybok I don't know if you're going to survive because the tear jerker arguments will always win. We'll be the bad guys. I'm a bad guy because I think that the RecPlex should be accountable, that government should be accountable.

Is the RecPlex in the black? We don't know. I don't know. So when you were voted in you were voted in to make a stand, to take a stand against this and it is a good thing that you do not lay down. It is a good thing that you fight. And if you do not survive you can go home at the end of the day and feel good about what you've done and you can look at yourself in the mirror. You may not feel good because of the arguments that are made, that you're evil or bad, but I would just say look at yourself in the mirror. You can always know that you did the right thing for most of the taxpayers. Thank you very much.

Kathleen Krueger:

I guess he thinks we're vicious people or something but we're not. We're just ordinary people like you. I'm Kathleen Krueger, 4735 40th Street. I'm also here to respond to comments made by Board members regarding therapeutic recreation services. I do agree with the man that you have to be accountable but it has to be accountable across that out. So let's lay that out. Anyways, on to my comments.

Comments from certain Board members seem to indicate that they were not supportive of the therapeutic recreation program provided at the RecPlex. In addition, their comments showed an insensitivity and lack of understanding of what we as parents of children with special needs have to deal with and, more importantly, what our children struggle with every minute of every day. Comments stating, there may be people who need therapeutic needs but it's not the government's job; or, I'm a diabetic what are we going to do for me; I don't want anything; I can take care of myself; I don't need others to take care of me indicate a complete insensitivity which I'm optimistically hoping can get attributed to a lack of understanding rather than a lack of heart. Therefore, it's my hope that the Board members will listen with an open mind and try to put themselves in our shoes and more importantly the shoes of our children.

First of all, unlike the previous quotes that I just made, our children cannot take care of themselves. They don't have the mental capacity or the physical capacity to be able to take care of themselves. Therefore, the privilege of caring for them falls on us as their parents. However, taking care of a child with special needs has many challenges regardless of the age of the child as many of these children will not be independent even as adults.

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In addition to the normal costs associated with raising children, we have extra expenses to provide for the needs of our children. These can include specialized food and nutritional requirements, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, diapers, medications, wheelchairs, specialized equipment, hospitals and much, much more. If you are fortunate, and depending on your diagnosis, you might get some medical coverage in the form of Medicaid and possibly even a minimal amount of therapy covered. However, not everybody is lucky enough to qualify. And even if you do qualify many of the items listed above might not be covered.

These extra costs mean that for many families having both parents working is a requirement and not a luxury. For single parent families the struggles are even more profound. Ultimately this means that we need qualified childcare, and the program provided for us by the therapeutic recreation department at the RecPlex does fill this need. We're not asking for special treatment, just the continued availability of a program that our children can participate in.

The RecPlex currently offers approximately 150 programs and classes for children and adults without special needs. Our kids can't participate in most of the programs offered by the RecPlex and none that I know of that are offered by the IcePlex. We can't experience the joy of cheering our children on in the basketball, soccer or volleyball games that other parents take for granted. However, with the current therapeutic recreation program they do have a safe place to go and are able to participate to the best of their abilities. So while our children receive a benefit from this program, their presence and interaction with the other children and RecPlex members brings a benefit to the community by helping to replace hearts filled with fear and misunderstanding with hearts filled with compassion and acceptance.

Other benefits from the therapeutic recreation program include increased tax revenue from families that have moved to the area specifically because of this program. Further, nearly all of the parents whose kids participate in the program are members of the RecPlex solely because of this program and would not be members without it. While other parents pay their fees for childcare at RecPlex and that's the end of it, we pay our fees and participate in fundraisers that generate money to offset increased expenses of these programs.

You see, we're trying to take care of our families to the best of our abilities. We just need a little help and understanding from you. And everybody at some time in their lives will need a little help and understanding. It may come in the form of an ambulance picking you up after a heart attack or a diabetic seizure or a care worker helping you when you are elderly and struggling with Alzheimer's. For us the therapeutic recreation program is the help that our children need now and we need, too. Your continued support of this program will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Diane Lebanowsky:

Hi. My name is Diane Lebanowsky. Peter Lebanowsky and I live at 8934 3rd Avenue. We live in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. We are both members of the RecPlex. Peter and I are both members of the RecPlex and I pay for daycare costs for the Discovery program which he attends on a regular if not daily basis.

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Before I talk to you about the Discovery program, I would like to say a little bit about my son Peter and I think I am not unlike most of the people in this room. Before Peter was born, I would have been the first one to say I do not want a child with special needs. I would have said you or you or you. But I want to tell you I wasn't given that choice and no one is given that choice but that choice has been a blessing in my life. Throughout his life Peter has taught me more about life itself than any academic course could have ever taught me. I have my master's degree but he has taught me a lot more. His simplistic view of living is refreshing and his simple enjoyment of life is a lesson in itself. He loves unconditionally and expects nothing in return but to be loved and to be safe. There is not a day that passes that he does not make me laugh and realize how important he is in my life. I consider myself fortunate that I have a Peter in my life, and I consider myself lucky that I was not given a choice because today I am a better person because of Peter.

Several years ago the RecPlex opened the Discovery program which incorporates therapeutic recreation. This program provides the only service of this type in this area where children of special needs can attend an after school program where they can participate in swimming, basketball and various other activities which provide them an opportunity for exercise and activities such as crafts. Children of normal intelligence, and I really kind of wonder what is normal, right, regularly participate in after school activities, but thanks to the Discovery program these special needs children can come to a program designed for their needs. This program allows these children to maintain a normalized life as it is afforded to children without disabilities. This program allows these children to interact with others like themselves. If you have not spent some time observing these interactions I would suggest you go there. It is quite meaningful.

The program also provides a daycare service. Without this program I as a single parent who is mainly responsible for Peter could not work. As I said, I am a nursing instructor at Gateway and I provide a service to the community by training nurses and we all know there's a dire nursing shortage. So if it was not for the Discovery program I don't know how I would work. I do need to work. I need to pay my bills. I want to train nurses and I want to perform a home for my children. So if I didn't have the Discovery program I don't know who would pick up Peter at 2:15 when he is done with work. I don't know where he would go on his days off and we know there's quite a few when I'm at the hospital or at Gateway Technical College.

There are no words that can express my gratitude for a much needed daycare which allows me to work and know he is participating in activities and he is well supervised. Why is the RecPlex such an excellent arena for this program? Because it has the appropriate facilities for special needs children. The pool is constructed for those with handicaps. The locker rooms are handicap accessible and the surrounding grounds are a perfect place for individuals with special needs.

For my understanding a statement was made that the Discovery program does not belong at the RecPlex, and it's my sincere hope that it is not stated because someone is feeling uncomfortable with children with special needs, or is it possibly because you might have to walk a little slower because you're behind a wheelchair, or is it because you're sharing space in the swimming pool and you are uncomfortable with that? My sincere hope is that's not why that statement was made.

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Not everyone is blessed with an occupation that allows them to stay at home and work and supervise their children, and not everyone is fortunate to have relatives who can provide daycare at their homes. The Discovery program serves approximately 21 children during the school year and that allows parents to work and be a viable part of the community. The Discovery program is a much needed program. If anything, the Village of Pleasant Prairie should be proud that they have taken this on as an outstanding program and should show it as a model to other communities. This program demonstrates a need for a community to be proactive in providing services for everyone, and I mean everyone and not just us individuals who are not blessed with special needs.

Thank you for your time, and I would like to ask if you could put the minutes up from the November 24th meeting so that you can actually clarify your statements. Thank you.

Annette Ginnaty-Moore:

My name is Annette Ginnaty-Moore. I live at 11338 1st Court in Pleasant Prairie. I am a resident of Pleasant Prairie and I am very proud to be a part of the community that is able and willing to support a program like this and I'd like us to continue. This meeting has brought up more questions than answers for me. I don't know much about it but I'd like this department to continue and to keep the monies that do go to it to continue to go to it. And also, if possible, to increase it if you can. I don't know if that's an option or not. Thank you very much.

Raina Hockenberry:

Good evening. My name is Raina Hockenberry. I live at 6504 92nd Avenue. I train recruits at recruit training command so theoretically I train the future of the Navy. While I do that I need someone to take care of my son. I have a 9-year old who is diagnosed with autism and bipolar. Our life is consistently walking on eggshells. I'm also a single parent. I don't get County funds to take care of my son. I pay the same fees as any parent that would pay for regular daycare. However, with us I have to make sure that my son is always taken care of because I can't trust just anybody to take care of my son.

My son has been expelled and suspended from so many programs because his disorder is not understood. We lived in Illinois. I'm stationed in Illinois. I purposely came to the Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie because of RecPlex. We bought a home here because of RecPlex because there's finally a program that doesn't shun my son. The program he was in in Illinois did not allow them to mainstream. He was not allowed to come to school at the same time because heaven forbid he gets confused with the regular ed kids. He had to leave school an hour early every day because they couldn't be dismissed the same time as the regular kids.

At RecPlex my son everybody knows him. He can come in and say hi to anybody and the regular kids accept him for who he is. If my son is having a bad day they say, you know what, he's having a bad day and it's okay. The staff at RecPlex has enabled me to work, to do what the Navy has trained me to do, to do what we need. On Friday I sent 88 new sailors out to the fleet. 88 new sailors were going to go out to Iraq and Afghanistan and do what we need them to do.

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I'm not trying to be patriotic. I'm not trying to be hysterical. What I'm trying for you all to understand is I couldn't do my job without the staff at RecPlex. My son is accepted and he's loved. And whether the gentleman feels that's a tear jerker story or not it's the truth. I moved to this area because of that program. I have no problem driving a 40 minute commute because I know that my son is taken care of as I'm taking care of everybody else's sons and daughters. To compare autism or bipolar to something like a medical condition as diabetes these are children. They don't understand.

And as parents we don't fully understand, so we do whatever we need to do to make sure our children are taken care of. This is the only place I have found. This is the only place that will allow be to do what I need to do every day and allow my son to become a productive citizen in the community. He has been taught how to socialize and integrate with children of regular intelligence. Like the parent said what is regular? And he's also been taught on what is acceptable and what is not. How can my child know what is acceptable if he's constantly pushed with children who also do not know? This community has been given so much recognition on the military base because it is the only program for special needs parents. And a lot more special needs families are being transferred here because of the amount of recruits that we're pushing through every year.

So please consider, whether you think a profitable or not, because there's more than being considered profitable just because of how much it makes or how much it costs. That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

Terri Lopez:

Good evening. My name is Terri Lopez, 6413 37th Avenue. I live in Kenosha, however I have a son who utilizes the therapeutic recreation program at the RecPlex and I am a RecPlex member. I am here to read a letter on behalf of Rebecca Olsen who has submitted a letter to us. But before I do that I want to let you know that I have been a therapeutic member, Ryan was one of the first to start. I was a single parent at the time and it was a Godsend for me. I was able to work. I was able to continue what I was doing and support my family.

On that I'd like to read this letter that Rebecca Olsen has submitted. The purpose of this letter is to set straight any misconceptions the public and the Village Board members may have about the therapeutic recreation department at the RecPlex. It is a department which offers services and classes to youths and adults with special needs. This is a resource for families which offer not only childcare but specialized care in a positive, loving environment.

One area of topic that seems to have come under debate is the fact that the services are being offered by the Village department. To clarify, one needs to understand that while it is not mandatory for the Village to offer these services, they are being properly compensated for all costs associated with it. They are offering a service. This does not mean free. They offer the service, the customers pay for the service. These paying customers, therefore, provide the means to pay for the employees and the monies it costs to have these special needs using our facility. One could compare this scenario to the RecPlex itself. Most Village's and municipalities do not

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offer large recreational facilities for area citizens to join. However, the Village developed this service and the customers pay sufficient dues to utilize the building. When one simplifies these two topics the similarities are obvious.

The most important point is the effect that the therapeutic recreation department has upon the lives that the employees touch. Those who need assistance in adjusting to daily life are provided a valuable experience each time they visit the RecPlex. Those who are unable to perform daily functions still have aspects of their life that need development. They should not be forced to sit in one spot all day and do nothing at all just because they have a condition that forces them to be unable to communicate or move.

When they come to the therapeutic recreation department they are given a variety of activities to fill their days from exercising with a walker to playing game in the field house to playing in the aquatic center and strengthening their social skills. Many employees at the RecPlex have had the opportunity to interact with the children in the therapeutic recreation department and have seen the impact and the joy this program has brought into the lives of the individuals it has touched. This program is a vital service that needs to continue to be offered and the future of this program and the individuals it aids is boundless. Thank you.

Don Monson:

Don Monson, 9136 11th Avenue, Pleasant Prairie. In 1985 I was transferred as Chief Counseling Psychologist for the Veterans Administration. When I decided to retire I looked at a lot of places. And one of the places I was familiar with but things had changed in Pleasant Prairie. The good old boys had done a pretty good job. The taxes were absolutely the lowest in the area. The police department was absolutely fantastic. It is fantastic here. The police department that I was acquainted with in the Seattle area I called them twice and both times they had to call me back to find out where I actually lived so I could get there. I mean they had the address but they just didn't have the information necessary to do the job that we have here.

We have employees in Pleasant Prairie that have been fantastic. They've helped me out. The snow job. What have I been hearing for the last six or eight months or year? Every one of those facilities, the police department, the employees, our people that run the program here have all been criticized time and time again. With the help of the *Kenosha Evening News* it is every week we have criticism about Pleasant Prairie. Unwarranted criticism. The *Kenosha News* characterized two people. They said Alex and Jeff, the Gatling brothers taking care of things, shooting things in the cow field someplace. The *Kenosha News* gives an awful lot of space, free space for these two individuals to be able to criticize

This community is unbelievably one of the best I've seen. People are crazy mad to get into this town. The houses that are being built for this area aren't being built here because the taxes are twice someplace, twice or more than anyplace else. The point is we cannot tolerate when the *Kenosha News* supports two individuals that are deliberately trying to tear down a community. The *Kenosha News* 25 years ago wanted the City of Kenosha to be the State line. They wanted them to grow to the State line. They were very upset and they're very upset to this day that

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Pleasant Prairie exists. I assure you that anybody that has a derogatory comment about Pleasant Prairie will find the space in the *Kenosha News*.

I am very happy and I am very proud of the good old boys of the past and the good old boys of the present. I thank you for the few moments.

Jane Romanowski:

John, I didn't have any more sign ups.

John Steinbrink:

Anybody else wishing to speak under citizen comments?

Gina Tiahnybok:

Gina Tiahnybok, 8757 Lakeshore Drive. What prompted me to come to tonight's meeting was the editorial that was in today's *Kenosha News*. Contrary to what the gentleman who just was up here was saying, the *Kenosha News* is extremely supportive of Alex Tiahnybok and Jeff Lauer. I think today's article maybe highlighted the fact that I think they're a little bit more aware of reporting what exactly is happening.

I came here today because I kind of was a little frustrated by the information that was shared. I wasn't here for the November 20th meeting. I look forward to seeing those notes as well to see what the Village Trustees' responses were in regards to therapeutic recreation. I was not aware if that was necessarily the topic of discussion on November 20th. I thought this had to do with the \$6.4 million for a pool expansion. I don't know necessarily if the \$6.4 million for the pool expansion included information for therapeutic rec association.

As being a Village resident, a Pleasant Prairie RecPlex member, a special ed teacher and administrator in the State of Illinois, I am particular sensitive to students with special needs, and indirectly I believe that I'm sure I've had some type of influence on the household in which I live and which the Village Trustee Number 1 is also aware of. I want to let everyone know that's here this evening I don't know what Trustee Number 1 or Number 3 or whatever said on November 20th, but I will highly say I can represent Trustee Number 1 that we believe in therapeutic recreation. At least I know for sure that there's extreme benefits.

A lot of parents came up here tonight and were talking about how the need for these services to help their families for them to work. I completely understand that. I'm very disheartened to hear that for whatever reason, once again, I believe there's a political move toward trying to make Trustee Number 1 and Trustee Number 3 look as if they're not supporting something. I think this is a complete scare tactic that's being used. Last year the election that went through focused on supporting the KOPS organization, putting a big fear factor out there that . . . was anti police services and anti whatever. I think this is another heightened thing, an alarmist thing that was thrown out for a political reason to go ahead and make the two people here on the Board maybe not look as if they're supporting something.

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I don't know what Jeff or Alex or whoever else was up there on November 20th said, so just strictly from the perspective I personally feel, I look forward to hearing the Trustees' responses from their comments tonight. And I hope that what will be shared this evening will truly clear any type of misunderstandings that may have possibly come through on the unbiased reporting from *Kenosha News*. It did highlight the fact that there was a miscommunication. And it also highlighted Mr. Pollocoff mentioned that this information of this pool had nothing to do with the therapeutic recreation.

So I don't know what got everybody out here tonight, I don't know what kind of whatever was transpired. Maybe I'll get it from November 20th's minutes, but I will let you all know that I know for sure that there is someone here, Trustee Number 1, that has influence with special needs students from his wife, from the people we work with, the people we know, family members, our own situation that we have. I want to let you all know that everyone we know he's a very sensitive individual and everyone here today I think it's wonderful you came out this evening with your children. I know what a difficult task it was and thank you so much for coming tonight. And I want you all to know that everyone here—I think this was just a misunderstanding and I look forward to hearing what the trustees have to say. Thank you for your time.

John Braig:

John Braig, 4707 84th Street. I've got to believe this is a tempest in a teapot and it will blow over and things will settle down and the status quo will continue. But, I want to say that I'm a charter member of the RecPlex, and when you see these kids in this program and what's happened to them over the years, I remember when the kids first came in, and when I see their reaction now I can see there's a tremendous physical benefit because they obviously can do more. There's a social benefit. I see smiles. I see kids that when they first came in were withdrawn. I'm not saying that—but they feel welcome and at home at the RecPlex and things are working out.

There is a group that really benefits from this that has not been addressed tonight. We've got a young staff at the RecPlex. These youngsters are working with these disadvantaged kids, and I swear this must give them a different perspective on life than if they never encountered these kids. Thank you.

John Steinbrink:

Anyone else wishing to speak?

Larry Matson:

Larry Matson, 8550 122nd Street. I, too, am a member of the RecPlex and joined about a year after its construction. At the time I was a resident of Illinois and that facility is what drew me up here to Pleasant Prairie. That is why I built here. I do see the children from the therapeutic needs program that attend that. My thought every time, there for the grace of God go I. I think Mrs. Tiahnybok did a commendable job of talking about Mr. Tiahnybok, her position and how it affects their household. Jeff Lauer, for 15 years Mr. Lauer has had two disabled adults living in

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his house 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. I think he understands the needs of the children at the RecPlex.

I was at that November meeting when this discussion occurred. I thought both sides presented what they felt was right. I believe the discussion was about impact fees. There were impact fees that were charged to the developers that the Village collected that the State had said we can't do that anymore. I believe the discussion was about returning those impact fees. Those fees were for the expansion of the pool at the RecPlex. As I recall that meeting it didn't sound like anybody, not one of the people up here, was willing to axe that program. I don't think that was even part of the discussion, stopping that program that so many people enjoy. So I just thought everybody should hear from somebody who did attend that meeting who isn't sitting up there. Thank you.

John Steinbrink:

Anyone else wishing to speak? Yes, ma'am.

Nicole Brown:

Hi. My name is Nicole Brown and I have worked with the therapeutic recreation department. I'm one of those young individuals that gets to spend a lot of time with these individuals. I understand that maybe the exact words weren't said about our program being cut and I appreciate that that was never brought up and I hope that it never is. But I do remember reading, and maybe I misunderstood it, and I know that it was about the \$6.4 million pool, but I do know that where therapeutic needs was said and that it was almost biased against in the fact that they said that the State should have to pay for it and not this community.

I understand we don't make a lot of money or that we're a huge population within the community that need therapeutic needs but I think what we read from it was just more offensive, almost discriminatory statements being said against people that need that extra care. My first impression of the pool wasn't for therapeutic needs at all. In fact, I thought it was just extra lap lanes that we could have swim meets. I never heard anything about it being for therapeutic needs at all until these minutes came up. Maybe I just said it wrong but I just want it to be said that having worked with these kids and adults and all these parents for the past two years you kind of become very defensive of them. Maybe it was a misunderstanding but I hope that maybe the words would be rearranged to where we understand that you weren't trying to bash us in a sense or trying to compare us to something like diabetes which I understand is limiting in a lot of senses, but in my case it's nothing compared to what I've dealt with in the past two years of my life. So I just want to say thank you for listening to all these parents and all these tear jerking stories. I know shed a few tears tonight and it's more off of the love I have for these kids. So thank you.

John Steinbrink:

Anyone else wishing to speak? Anyone else? Hearing none I'll close citizens' comments and open it up to Board comments.

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Jane Romanowski:

John I have three pieces of correspondence.

John Steinbrink:

If you could read those, please.

Jane Romanowski:

This is a letter I received by e-mail today from Kathy Burns from the Department of Human Services Prevention Services Network. She writes: "Dear Board members, I'm writing to respond to disturbing comments I read in the November Board meeting minutes regarding the therapeutic programs being offered at the RecPlex for individuals with special needs. I coordinate an annual grant that is awarded to the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services and the funds are used to pay for respite care. Respite care is designed to give family members a break from the demands of caring for a child with special needs. The County of Kenosha supports programs such as those offered by the RecPlex by paying for the service through the grant I coordinate and through companion programs such as family support.

"There are several reasons that these programs are so important. First, if free sources such as therapeutic programs are not available to families it increases the odds of those families who will consider placing their children out of the home in residential facilities. For the fiscally prudent this is a huge expense as the recent articles in the *Kenosha News* about the County budget have indicated.

"Second, families need facilities such as the RecPlex so that special children have the same opportunities as their normally developed peers. Third, Pleasant Prairie was recently named as the State's best Village. Shouldn't a Village with that reputation provide exceptional services to all families?

"I encourage this Board to keep the programs available and to seek alternative funding sources where possible to help offset costs. I am writing with the support of Dennis Schultz, Director of Kenosha County Human Services and John Jansen, Director of the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services." Both are copied on this letter and, once again, that is signed Kathy Burns.

This next letter I received today is from Chris Hribal, Coordinator of Planning and Development at the Department of Human Services. This is a letter to Mr. Pollocoff: "Please consider this correspondence a response to recent comments made regarding the therapeutic recreation programs at the Pleasant Prairie RecPlex and concerns about County responsibility for such things. I would ask that this letter be included in the citizen comment portion of your January 15, 2007 meeting. Please do not interpret my comments to be commentary about the Board's deliberations regarding the \$6.4 million for therapeutic pools.

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“While a long-time resident of Kenosha County I am not a resident of Pleasant Prairie so I do not wish to interfere in your Village decisions regarding that project. My points are directed more at the tone of some comments attributed to a couple of Board members toward persons with disabilities in general and perceptions regarding the roles of other levels of government such as the County and State. It is my understanding that the RecPlex was designed and developed as a resource for all Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha County residents. It would seem that recent comments had a decidedly discriminatory tone towards those who have disabilities, whether they are physical, sensory or developmental in nature.

“Please remember that federal law requires facilities such as the RecPlex to be accessible to all its residents so as not to limit the ability of anyone from sharing equally in them. As importantly, it is appropriate for persons with disabilities, regardless of age, to be able to integrate into their community and use the same facilities as their nondisabled peers. To suggest that the County or State creates separate facilities and/or persons with persons with disabilities ignores the fact that it would significantly increase the tax burden rather than decrease it, not to mention segregate children, adults and the elderly with disabilities from their fellow residents and community.

“Relative to the role of County or State levels of government in the provision of services to citizens with disabilities please consider the following. In 2006 Kenosha County through the Family Support Program, Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver and the Community Integration Program provided over \$35,000 in federal, State and local revenue to the Pleasant Prairie RecPlex. That figure does not consider families with children who have disabilities, adults with disabilities or the elderly who private pay their own fee. And regardless of whether these families or individuals access public funds or pay privately the majority are also taxpayers. It should also be pointed out that we anticipate the figure quoted above will increase in 2007 as others who have access to these publicly funding streams choose to use the facility and program. Obviously the inference that the RecPlex programs are not supported is erroneous.

“The analogy comparing diabetes to the needs of persons with disabilities requires a response. Diabetes in and of itself is a medical condition which often leads into physical sensory limitations for the individual over time and as a consequence of aging as well as the condition’s impact on the body. I do not wish to minimize this condition nor its impact on an individual but to compare what appears to be at this time a controlled diabetic condition with the immediate, long-term, physical and cognitive needs of others is in my opinion disingenuous. I am at a loss to understand what, if any, special accommodation might be required at this time. And I’m sure we would all agree that not requiring any special accommodation should be viewed as a wonderful thing. So it would appear that not needing any assistance is a fairly easy choice at the moment. It should be seen as exactly that and not generalized to others or their circumstances, nor should it be seen as permanent as such opinions have been known to change as quickly as the condition of the person or circumstances they find themselves in can change.

“I leave you with the reality that Pleasant Prairie has developed a facility and programs designed to accommodate all of its citizens regardless of ability or need. It should be proud of the fact that it continues to advocate for support from other levels of government to allow the RecPlex and it’s programs, therapeutic or otherwise, to prosper and thrive. And far apart Kenosha County will continue to support the right of consumers and/or their families and guardians to choose the

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RecPlex as an appropriate public fully funded service to the extent that funding allows. Thank you for your consideration.” Once again, this is signed by Chris Hribal, Coordinator.

Then the last e-mail I received today is from Ann Langer who is a Case Manager at Family’s First Project. “Dear Pleasant Prairie Village Board members. I am a Case Manager for the Family’s First Wraparound Project which is a voluntary program in Kenosha County for families with an emotionally disturbed child. Part of my job is to help the family find the services and support that they need in order to maintain their special needs child within the home, school and community.

“Recently I heard that you are considering shutting down the Discovery program at the RecPlex. Please reconsider this because this program has been a lifesaver for several families that I’ve worked with in many ways. The RecPlex provides a wonderful facility and program that serves many disabled children and their families and makes the community of Pleasant Prairie a progressive minded community and a fine example to other communities in the areas.” Once again, that’s signed by Ann Langer.

6. VILLAGE BOARD COMMENTS

John Steinbrink:

Thank you, Jane. I guess I want to thank everyone who spoke on therapeutic recreation programs tonight and for coming out here. Especially Erin Winch and Ann Hamby and Katie Briggs and all of the staff that provide such a superior quality and needed service in our community. They make a positive impact on the lives of the participants by enabling them to enjoy the benefits of recreation. They also make it possible for parents and caregivers to work outside the home and to have some reprieve from the constant care they must provide. I also want to thank Kenosha County for their continuing support of the therapeutic recreation program. They have performed an important service to both the participants, parents, caregivers, and I know they wish they were able to do more.

This is a very special program to me. I have always supported it and I will continue to do so in the future. It represents the compassion our Village has for those who need extra assistance to be able to enjoy the same opportunities as everyone else. We should have no concerns about providing this service, and we should continue to provide a quality service. I’ve represented you and this Village for over 20 years. I’m very proud of this Village. I’m very proud of what we do here and what we provide for our citizens and even those that live outside our community. We’ve always been innovative. We’ve always been caring and we’ve done things that other communities could not do and found ways to fund it. This is one of those programs. The RecPlex is one of those facilities.

I keep reading about the Village’s debt. I keep reading about the IcPlex and RecPlex in the black or the red. Let me tell you all of those are in good order and I think we’re going to try to explain that to everybody in the coming months. Because some people out there are trying to pass on confusion as to what the state of the Village really is. But the state of the Village is good, and it’s that way because of Board members who care and want to make sure we provide what’s needed to be provided in our community.

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I've been very blessed to work with a lot of talented, caring people over all those years. Probably one of the best I've worked with is Mike Pollocoff. He found ways to bring things to our community that never would have been possible. We have what other communities envy and we're proud of that. And we're willing to share that with others because it's important that we do that. It's important that we care and it's important that we continue these programs.

The last two years have been rough here. We didn't have to deal with that in the past. Hopefully we won't have to deal with that in the future and more will be done for the Village and the people that we serve. We've always been able to do that and we'll continue to do that. We heard one gentleman get up and he made that comment is the RecPlex in the black. Unfortunately I believe that speaker represents very few narrow minded people in this Village. That was unfortunate to hear those comments tonight.

The truth of the matter is the quality of service we provide at the lowest taxes probably in the State of Wisconsin for a community our size and yet we can do it without cutting things and being compassionate and doing what needs to be done. A lot of times the reference is made to the excellence award the Village received. We received that award because of all of you and what you do, the people that work for this Village, the people that represent this Village. Once again, that was a narrow minded view I didn't enjoy hearing. But that's not the view of the majority of the people in this Village. And the quotes that were discussed here do not represent the kind heart of our Village, and it is my hope that everybody does realize that. The quote seems to be the thrust of that.

Impact fees seem to have brought about a lot of confusion as to what they do and who pays them. Impact fees are designed to protect the taxpayers of this community by making sure that we continue the level of service and the programs we provide without raising your taxes or without cutting your services or your programs. They allow this community to grow without a financial impact to it. Unfortunately there are those in Madison that didn't see it that way and that was very unfortunate because those are the folks that do not understand local government and the pressures upon it by development.

In being located between Milwaukee and Chicago we are one of the biggest growing areas in this country. Some people say it's not good. I was born here. I've lived here my whole life. I've seen a change. Change wasn't bad. Change was good. Good neighbors, good development done in a manner that I'm proud of and yet able to provide the services and the quality of service we still provide.

We're going to come up to an election and you're going to hear a lot of stuff and you're going to hear us have to qualify ourselves and explain to words and the actions of people out there and their statements against the Village and against us. We're willing to do that. We're willing to make sure we do not cut what's important to this Village. So, once again, I want to thank you for coming out and if we do have that quote maybe we could put that up and maybe that would help clarify some of the questions here. I believe these are excerpts of the November 20th meeting. I'll let you read those for yourselves.

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Jean Werbie:

Mr. President, do you want me to start at the top with Steve Kumorkiewicz?

John Steinbrink:

Sure.

Jean Werbie:

“Steve Kumorkiewicz: You forgot one thing. I used to work like you did and I’d come and see Mr. Pollocoff. John Steinbrink: Steve. Jeff? Jeff Lauer: Thank you. Just a couple quick comments. First I’ll just restrain myself and not say anything to what just Steve said. I’ll trust it to the other topic. Mike, you mentioned about the pool. You don’t like to be blind sided. You gentlemen know me. Everybody who knows me knows me. I say it, I’m honest, I’m truthful and I don’t beat around the bush and I say it the way it is. Being blind sided I am tired of being blind sided since being elected. I’m not going to be blind sided again. I would do what it takes to get the message out. We can bring it up for Board discussion and I’ll give you a good example. Name of future roads, streets, buildings and everything after a staff or Trustee currently serving. I accepted your 100 percent amendment. I accept Alex. This Board voted unanimously to have it rewritten and bring it back to vote. Guess what happened when that was? Was I blind sided? In my heart I thought you weren’t going to vote for it and I was right. So talk about being blind sided. We talk about it and we’re going to do it and then all of a sudden there’s a flip flop.”

“The \$6.4 million pool is not a need. There may be people who need therapeutic needs, but you know what, it’s not the government’s job to provide \$6.4 million for those people. I’m a diabetic, what are we going to do for me? I don’t want anything. I will survive on my own. I will take care of myself. I do not need others to take care of me. The \$6.4 million pool was a big issue with me. You gentlemen know it and there’s reasons why. We can go back to the minutes. It’s not defensible. The State changed its rules now and we can’t collect it so we give the money back. Legally it can be done. I’ve checked it. I’ll get the documents. When I get them you guys can have them as well. But since we’re not going to use it, we’re not going to raise close to \$6.4 million as I’ve been talked to, I think it would be a good thing.”

“I don’t like to blind side, but you know what, I’ve learned my lesson. I’ve given everybody the benefit of the doubt. And I can’t come and see other people here to find out what’s going on, but you know what, if I don’t get the whole truth to me it’s a lie. Half a truth is a whole lie, period. I don’t want to be told just enough or spoon fed to make me vote one way or the other. I want the whole truth and I haven’t gotten that. I know I haven’t got it. It’s documented. It was in the Board minutes as well. So that’s why if you’re blind sided by the *Kenosha News* article the people need to find out what’s happening. We can discuss it here at the Board meeting, but I think it’s been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt what happens to Alex and I if you try to make an idea or a suggestion.”

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“So if I have a commitment that that won’t happen in the future that’s great, that’s awesome. Everybody knows me. I will say the truth and say what I feel and you might not agree. My wife don’t agree with me all the time, but we don’t lie to one another. That’s the key thing.”

“Alex Tiahnybok: One last quick comment. I’m not going to go into details. I could talk about blind siding, too, but I won’t. I won’t go down that road. One comment that Jeff made and I think it’s worthy of clarification. The whole notion of special services, special needs services, obviously I’m not opposed to the State government doing that. I’m not opposed to the County government doing that. But I think what Jeff was trying to say is that that’s really not a purview of municipal government as far as I know of offering therapeutic services. That’s usually State or County. And for a municipality to do it on its own wonderful if you have the resources and capabilities of doing it, but in these times considering what we heard during citizens’ comments I think we need to be conservative.”

“John Steinbrink: I’ll let you speak but I’m going to address first and you’re probably going to add to it. The statements made about the Village finances, we go through this meeting after meeting, election after election. Unfortunately we hear statements that either show a lack of understanding, knowledge or just misleading comments. But , once again, we’ll present our side and I believe our side is defensible by numbers and everything else out there.”

“The Village’s finances are in good shape. Our bond rating is very stellar. Once again I’ll point to the award the Village received for the way they conduct their business and what we have to offer. We’ve seen the lines blurred between pools and past fees, police building, roads, per capita debt. The ambulance, jaws of life, heart monitor those are all important things for the Village and not leaving out the snowplow for providing services.”

“The Village, once again, has the lowest tax rate of anybody of our size or stature in the State. The lowest tax rate. If you were to take the increments needed to provide for those items, add them onto the taxes, you would still be one of the lowest in the State or anywhere around us. I believe it’s our job then to show people what they’re getting for their dollar and how much their dollar is to the Village, what the cost of services are and what’s being provided to them for their dollar. I don’t think anybody can disagree with the fact that snowplowing in the Village is exemplary. Fire/ rescue, response times, training unbelievable. Police protection probably the best you’re going to see around. Probably one of the safest communities anywhere around. That’s why people come here to live.”

“But there’s confusion when the tax bill goes out because the Village sends it out and we collect everybody’s portion, the Village, State, County, Gateway, schools. For some reason that seems to get lost in there the explanation of what is the Village portion of your tax bill.” It stops.

John Steinbrink:

Thank you, Jean. Other Board comments or questions?

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Jeff Lauer:

I thank you all for coming tonight. I'd like to start on a few comments. First, Diane, when you were speaking for your son Peter, when you found out in advance there was a health issue, you said you still raised him and had him because you've learned a lot from him and I praise you for that. Most people in your position probably wouldn't have done that but I praise you for doing that. Caring for developmentally disabled adults and kids most of my life I can see where you're coming from and I praise you for that.

Regarding Karen I remember when you did come last year. I think I explained my situation in my household as well and I appreciated that coming forth and supported you 100 percent regarding the RecPlex issues. And Kathy, I think it was Kathy Krueger, is that right? I think someone, Kathy, spoke regarding they do fundraisers and that and I was going to say you can jot me down because we try to do fundraisers to help people we care for in other communities. So if any of you know Kathy you can pass that along the message with her. I'm in the book so I'm easy to find.

A quick little history here. First of all, myself and my family, I've been caring for certain types of developmentally disabled for over 20 years. It started when my mom and dad started to do it and I've learned how to care for individuals like that. My wife and I as a speaker mentioned have been doing it over 15 years. I understand the value of therapeutic programs. I've been doing it for years. I've helped other clients. I go to their house if they need a ride or whatever and pick up their son, daughter, whoever and bring them to the appropriate place where they need to be brought so I understand the value of it very, very much.

The issue back on November 20th what we were talking about was the refunding of impact fees. As some of you may or may not know the Village had implemented impact fees and part of that package was for a \$6.4 million pool. I do not agree in building a \$6.4 million pool and have the taxpayers pay for it. It is wrong. It is not correct. As the Village Administrator mentioned in the paper, the \$6.4 million pool was never intended for therapeutic use, never was and never is. It was brought up on November 20th, it wasn't read here tonight, that Mike Serpe said it would be good for therapeutic use. Well, it was never intended for that. Nobody on this Board, and I think Mike had a quote in the paper, that no Board member ever has come to Mike to cancel therapeutic use at all. I mean I'd be the first one to fight it because I've done it most of my life, over 20 years.

So it saddens me, it really does, it saddens me when—the writing is on the wall. I can fill this room up in a heartbeat with as many people that I've helped, State, locally, even out of State, even in Illinois that I've helped with developmentally disabled. You name it, I've probably helped that person. And it appears that this is all being politicized by somebody. There is an election coming up. Some don't care for me and that's fine. But to try to take things out of context, you're an elected official and you've got to always make sure the mic is on and the President will tell you that as well. But for . . . to be made that Jeff Lauer does not like developmentally disabled, well, I've got a track record longer than a lot of people think with caring for these people, taking them places even out of State, in State, driving to Madison.

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Recently our church started a room to care for developmentally disabled because we didn't have anything. But they knew my wife and I did this so they asked us to put it together and to run it. We do that. There was a lady about eight months ago her daughter is very, very seriously ill developmentally disabled, cerebral palsy and that and she couldn't place her anywhere. She'd been kicked out of institutions. There was a place in Madison that said it wasn't available. I made a few phone calls, I'm not praising myself, but she got in the next day.

So there's a track record of me showing that. What happens, unfortunately, when you're in politics or an elected official some try to take the words out of context and tell you the definition. I wish those who were coming tonight would have called me in advance. I'm in the book and I could tell you. I'd rather have the people come to me and ask me. But unfortunately it is what it is when you're an elected official.

I'm very proud that the RecPlex offers therapeutic use. I mean I'm pleased as all get out. When I first heard about that I said if our individuals we care for or others need it I'll send them there which I have. Some people have called saying where can you go and I say go to RecPlex. They have good things there. So they brought them there and now they go there. I think that's a great thing. It's just unfortunately that it's come to this point where people would try to misuse other people's words that are said. Sometimes it's better to be here at the time when things are being said. It is just a shame. It's an emotional issue. Last year it was the cops thing and an emotional issue. This is an emotional issue because you have certain individuals in life and society that for one reason or another have a disability of some sort. I realize that. I pray for them every night. When I come home from work one of our individuals that we care for she's the first one to run to the door and say hi daddy. I have two kids and she beats them to me. It's a good feeling to know that. I understand all that. I understand the therapeutic use. Nobody on this Board recommended it and if they did I would chew them up and down for it. It all dealt with returning impact fees that were collected that are not legally being able to be collected anymore. Let's return those fees back to their rightful owner. That's what it is. It's nothing more than that. Unfortunately it's come to this. I'm not saying it's anybody out in the audience, but somehow somebody got this information from somewhere.

Richard, in closing how you mentioned sometimes there's disagreement and arguments you just saw it again tonight. They have this all planned, they put my words up there to try to miscue to make the people get an impression of something and you see it and you wonder why there's disagreements. That is why. I am not here for the power. I'm here to serve the people that elected me 100 percent, nothing less. That is why there's disagreements. I think there is time to have good disagreements. I really do. But it's how it's handled. And once again you see let's put up Jeff Lauer and we didn't read Mike Serpe's comments prior to that, but the new pool, the \$6.4 million pool was never intended to be used for therapeutic use. Nobody even talked about eliminating therapeutic use at all, programming. In fact, if it could be expanded, great. The pool works great now. It's more or less pay as you go so it is doing what it's supposed to be doing which is great. I know the YMCA offers it and Southport Rehab offers it in case the RecPlex is full or whatever, but there's other communities that offer and I just want to—I don't want to be long winded but that's where I stand.

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Unfortunately if we all look at it it's politically motivated and it's a shame. It really is a shame. If any of you want to meet with me one on one I'll go out with coffee with you or that, if you want a laundry list of what I've done all my life the past 20 years for the developmentally disabled, you want references I'll give them to you. It's not a problem. People call me saying, Jeff, should I come tonight and speak for you? I go no. It is an emotional issue. That's why. It is an emotional issue. That's why, Diane, I praise you for what you've done. It is very difficult. My wife and I rarely get to go out because we can't find anybody to care for ours. It's very difficult.

Also, throughout this in closing if some of you need respite care and you need me to come to your house call me. I have the experience. So just let me know. Thank you.

John Steinbrink:

Other Board comments or questions?

Mike Serpe:

When the impact fees were being collected for the pool which I totally supported the expansion of the pool, I honestly felt and I still feel that with the addition to the pool we could increase the therapeutic recreation in the pool for those, for the handicapped kids. That's where the therapeutic part came on the pool. We've heard tonight a number of people tell us that they settled here because of what Pleasant Prairie has to offer.

And while we're all here and we all have the same interests at heart, I just want to give you a little bit of background on how we got to this point. About seven and a half years ago Mike Pollocoff got a vision. He had a vision to build a recreational facility, the RecPlex. When he talked to the Board about that vision we made a couple of trips, one to Kansas City or St. Louis, I can't remember which, and we sent one of our recreation people to Denver. The end result was the building of the RecPlex. Mike Pollocoff's vision. Shortly thereafter Mike Pollocoff's vision brought therapeutic recreation to be paid for or to help sponsor that with the cell tower revenue that we collect every month from a number of sites in the Village. Mike Pollocoff is the leader. Mike Pollocoff is the reason that award sits on that wall. Mike Pollocoff is the reason this Village runs the way it does because Mike Pollocoff is a leader. Every one of us here that spoke and feel so strongly about therapeutic needs can thank Mike Pollocoff. I for one am one of the good old boys and proud of it and proud to be working with Mike.

John Steinbrink:

Other Board comments or questions?

Alex Tiahnybok:

First off I want to thank everyone for coming out today, too. Many of your comments were definitely moving and emotional. I know some of you personally. Of course I know my wife pretty well, too. Jeff touched on a lot of things I was going to say. But I think something that's

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truly worthy of pointing out is what you see here. If you all as a citizen group came here to address the Board I'd say while this is an independent organization motivated by what I agree are very good motivations and that would have been the end of it. You would have seen very quickly from us that there is no intention to do anything that you're concerned about.

But another statement was made about everything being politicized. The fact that you have the power of the Village putting something like this up on the Board to nitpick this is not the first time it's happened. You should come to more Board meetings. To nitpick things that either Jeff has said or I have said is an example of the politics. In one respect we say let's get the politics out of it, but every single chance to inject politics is taken, every single chance.

Anyway, the issue I think has been discussed in plenty of detail. Some of the things that I think are worthwhile in highlighting and that is these are two absolutely separate issues. The issue on November 20th was impact fees and the \$6.4 million pool. If you read the *Kenosha News* today you'll see that Mr. Pollocoff himself said there's no connection between the pool and therapeutic services. Perhaps down the road it may be used that way. Mr. Serpe said that's a possible use. Granted it's a possible use. But what happened on November 20th had nothing to do with therapeutic services.

In previous budget conversations the therapeutic recreation program came up and I don't think there was one person on this Board that disagreed with anything. I think it's important, though, to recognize that these are expensive programs. We live in a Village of 18,000 people. A comment was made by the lady from the Navy is that this is a draw of people. Great Lakes today is the only boot camp in the U.S. Navy. I don't know what the population of Great Lakes is—

(Inaudible)

Alex Tiahnybok:

Right, okay. This is a Village of 18,000 people. The taxes that are required to run this Village come from the 18,000 people. If we had such an attractive draw to this Village that would incentivize people to want to be close enough to use the facilities, and if we didn't have a reasonable way to pay for it, and I'm not saying we don't have a reasonable way. In my comments I said, you know what, if you have the good graces of being in a position where you can afford all these things more power to it. But we were right in the midst of budget conversations. If you were paying attention to them you saw that we have to go to referendum to pay for an ambulance, to pay for a snowplow, to pay for jaws of life, to pay for heart defibrillators. The finances of this Village at that point in time did not have a solution to that problem. So when you can't pay for services like that that a Village, I mean that's the base core services that a community government needs to provide to its citizens. If you're trying to figure out how to do that and you're contrasting it with granted the very called for very needed services, my point was you have to put this in perspective if we have the resources, if we have funding.

Since November 20th obviously there have been communications written suggesting funding does come from the County and the State. As long as a program like this is self-sufficient you'll never hear me say anything negative about and I support it. The word properly compensated was

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brought up or the phrase. I think that's a critical element. If the Village and an independent enterprise like the RecPlex is properly compensated through some channel for these services, again, no issues.

So, again, getting back to my first point I'd like to think this is not politically motivated but it is. I don't need to apologize to any of you because I certainly didn't incentivize you to come here. But if you were led to believe that you were going to come to see some guys that are against these services you were misled. I support it 100 percent. My wife explained to you that she's a special ed teacher so I hear a lot of stories about issues like this. We don't care for special needs kids like Jeff does but I know what you deal with. I know Diane Lebanowsky. I know her son. And to mischaracterize us as being against this is really political. Again, you have nothing to worry about from me.

Steve Kumorkiewicz:

A few words I can say to what Mike said already about how the whole issue of the therapeutic recreation was started. It's a program that's paid by private finances. No public taxes go to that. Furthermore, as a Kiwanian, I'm a member for the Kiwanis breakfast club in Chicago, past president in Chicago and in Kenosha past president also, we make money contributions to the program because we see the needs in this community and in this area for this program. I support that program 100 percent. I'm not a member of the RecPlex. I should but I'm not. I belong to the Kiwanis and the Shalom Center and whatever so I do my part for the community in different ways. People know me for that.

The issue of the pool Mike made it very clear it could also be a benefit for therapeutic recreation but that was not the intention of that. The issue is political . . . not my opinion because I read about it in the newspaper today. Nobody called me. Nobody said anything to me. I came today and found three letters on my desk. I was not aware of that. Now there are so many I's and me words in this Village Board as I heard in the last two years. Previous to that we'd say we. I've lived in this Village next month for 43 years. I know this Village from the beginning when it was 6,000 people population and a township. I know where we come from. I know where we're going. You've got to know your past to know where you want to go in the future. Somebody said those who ignore history ignore the past therefore . . . the future and they were very correct. You probably don't remember who it was.

But to say that this issue here is political not in my opinion . . . and Mike Serpe came and picked me up at my house or I wouldn't be here today. So I don't think that it is political. There's a lot of people here I don't know so that's all I can say.

John Steinbrink:

Mike?

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Mike Pollocoff:

Thank you, Mr. President. First off I want to thank Trustee Serpe for his kind words, but I'll tell you that putting the idea and the concept together was easy. The best move that I think one of the things I did in my position you're usually lucky when you hire people and I've been very fortunate to hire some excellent staff. And anybody that's involved in the program knows the work and love Erin Winch puts into her position. That's what starts everything going. That's what puts it in place. We have an excellent staff member that does that. I know my heart goes out to her.

Trustee Tiahnybok made some comments that I think I want to make sure nobody leaves with any--well, you may leave with thoughts in your mind about what's going on, but I guess there's some things I want to clear up. One is that we were requested to put the minutes up by a member of the audience so that people could see what they are. Our minutes are verbatim. You saw us struggling with getting the recorder going before the meeting. That records whatever is said and it's foibles and it's stuttering and stammering and whatever anybody says that's what ends up in the minutes. They requested those be up there. I don't think it's political to put them up there. The Trustees review them and approve them and they are what they are and no more than that. I think all anybody can deduce from minutes is what they read and if they have questions they need to ask the questions.

Secondly, the therapeutic rec program is funded very uniquely. It is funded by revenues that the Board sets aside from monthly payments that are made for cell towers throughout the Village that are on Village property. That ranges from \$15,000 a year up to \$20,000 a year and there's usually more coming all the time. It's also funded by donations. It's funded by contributions from Kenosha County that gets federal and State and County tax dollars that go through it. In the budget that this Board adopted, and if somebody remembers something different than I do, I did not see one dollar out of property taxes go to the RecPlex. As a matter of fact I saw \$286,000 that came out of the RecPlex and went to the Village to pay for the time for personnel, for parks and grounds maintenance, for dressing up ball fields, for doing the payroll, for hiring people. The Village does not subsidize the RecPlex in any way. The RecPlex pays for every service it receives from the Village.

So on one hand to say we were struggling with how we were going to fund ambulances and compare that to the RecPlex unless we were anticipating using RecPlex membership revenues to pay for the ambulances and the snowplows, the two are completely separate concepts, separate funds and they're not related. Therapeutic rec program from a budgetary standpoint is a very tight program. We have a triathlon and I'd encourage all the Board members to volunteer to help us put that off. That raises quite a bit of money for the program.

I'll be darned if you just can't always know what kid's going to come through the door. Is that child going to be autistic? Is that child going to have cerebral palsy? Is that child going to require one-on-one care or one-on-three care? You never really know. And as much as Erin tries to put together a budget that says I can take care of so many kids, some kids are a little bit tougher to take care of. But, on the other hand, the RecPlex and this Village has adopted the thought that we're going to take care of anybody who comes in that we can reasonably take care of and it's

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not going to endanger themselves or not going to endanger anybody around them. And we'll make every attempt to accommodate everybody. So the therapeutic rec program is not paid for by local tax dollars. The other establishing policy that was created when we first started the program was that parents who use the therapeutic rec program shouldn't pay any more than a child who is fully able. What it costs to send a kid to therapeutic rec even though it's more expensive to take care of those kids they pay the same as people who have children with less or different challenges.

I know that the parent group is working hard to find ways to keep the program funded next year, looking for different avenues. We're going to continue to seek out State and federal financing. But unless you believe that this is something that we should do for our community because it's the right thing to do, I think everybody is going to be constantly frustrated because you've got to have that basic concept first and then we found a way to pay for it without having the property taxpayers pay for it. You didn't see one dollar and you haven't seen one dollar in the last five years go to pay for therapeutic recreation programs or any RecPlex program.

It's correct that the pool is separate from therapeutic rec although I'll be the first to tell you that it would take that segment of the warm water pool and it would open up for more kids in that therapeutic rec program but I guess that's more of a want than a need. No one has ever said we should build an additional pool to load the therapeutic program into. Everybody in that facility is going to benefit in one way or another if a pool is built. If we decide not to build it then we do something else.

Hopefully I think there's some clarity that's been brought to the discussion tonight by the Trustees as to what they meant or didn't mean. I think it was a good exercise for not only the Board but the whole Village to hear the comments of the community that depends on the services of therapeutic rec because I think it is something special and it is something unique.

John Steinbrink:

Thank you, Mike. If there are no further comments I want to thank once again everybody for coming. Before we move onto new business we'll just take a short recess.

(Recess)

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

John Steinbrink:

We'll move onto Item 7, Administrator's Report. Do you have anything, Mike?

Mike Pollocoff:

No.

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8. NEW BUSINESS

Mike Serpe:

Mr. Chairman, we have an Item F on the back. Kevin Long is an attorney and he's going to be talking on that item. I think he's late for his meeting he's supposed to be at, so I would ask that we bring that item forward and discuss this so Kevin can get out of here and maybe finish what he had started to attempted to start.

SERPE MOVED TO CONSIDER ITEM F AT THIS TIME; SECONDED BY TIAHNYBOK; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

F. Consider Ordinance #07-04 - Ordinance to Create Chapter 260 of the Municipal Code pertaining to Police Services.

Mike Pollocoff:

Mr. President, we have been operating under the State statutes which we have to for police services, but we haven't structured a separate and specific ordinance to provide those police services. This is something that was identified for us by ADA Ginkowski. So what we've done is we've really taken a look at first at finding some of the very specific things that make up police service, and the organization of what the department is. All of this is based primarily on what we have right now and what we've budgeted to this point, how we operate. We have 1.5 full-time sworn officers per 1,000. The States norm is 2,000. We've been able to operate at that level. We have 12 percent of our department involved in investigative duties, and it defines the authorities of the Chief and the officers.

It defines out desire to have more than at least half the crime solved that we deal with, that we need to have response times for emergencies at less than four minutes. And given the history we've dealt with over the last year and some change in State statutes, since there is now the ability and the provision to contract operations with the County Sheriff, I believe we probably have the ability to contract with the City or some other entity. It provides the framework for how that occurs. It describes that the Village, if that decision is made, it would go to the Board to issue our fees to do that and that would be by a three fourths majority of the Village Board.

In essence it goes on further to say that if we're going to contract with somebody we want them to provide services at the same levels that we do that. It provides how officers are going to be selected by a contracting agency and also provides protection for the community if for some reason the contracting agency either fails to perform or leaves or terminates a contract for any reason.

This is a first reading of this ordinance. It will be back again for our next Board meeting or subsequent Board meetings that we may have. Kevin, any comments on this?

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Kevin Long:

Certainly. The ordinance as appropriately characterized by Mike and it does the things that Mr. Pollocoff indicates that it does. Our review of the ordinance was primarily for clarity and it was for consistency for State statutes. As Administrator Pollocoff indicated presently there's a State statute that says that a Village shall establish a police department. The Village has established a police department decades ago, and this doesn't do anything differently in that regard. All this does is indicate that under certain circumstances a Village is enabled to contract with other municipalities for police services, and in light of the possible consideration of that in the future this lays out a framework that the Village Board in the future could consider such a proposal. It lays out various pros and cons and some protections that would be made available to a Village in the event that a contract took place. I'm happy to entertain any particular questions.

Mike Serpe:

Kevin, on the organizational chart would it be advisable to put that chart with numbers on it, for example, the Chief of Police and then under the Chief is the Assistant Chief or captain, two lieutenants, three sergeants, four detectives, whatever. Whatever the police department may hold when it's at full staff. Should we identify that in the ordinance and every time that changes, in other words, the Chief of Police wants to add a detective then we come up with an organizational change instead of five, and if we want to add officers instead of the 16 sworn or whatever we have we'll go to 18 but we identify in the ordinance? Is that good or not good?

Kevin Long:

There are pros and cons to it. I think a con would be obviously this is a Village that's going to grow and needs are going to grow as we move forward and build new changes. If you have an ordinance and you have changes you're going to be coming back and redoing the ordinance. The intent of the ordinance as drafted originally is to sort of build in some ratios that gives you a ballpark and a threshold that you need to meet but doesn't say we'll have four such positions or three such positions. It includes a 12 percent threshold of officers that will be investigative and such. I think there are pros and cons either way. If you're asking me what my vote would be I would say that it's better to have a framework rather than a particular so that gives you more flexibility going forward with respect to that. But I think it's a close call.

Alex Tiahnybok:

Just a question for curiosity purposes. Does the police department currently reflect everything that's—is adopting this going to require enhancements to meet these ratios, etc., or where do we stand?

Kevin Long:

I can't speak with perfect knowledge with respect to that or any substantial knowledge with respect to that. In working on this with Administrator Pollocoff and the Police Chief it is my understanding that we do need these present thresholds. And I believe we need both the

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thresholds that exist for under duties but also the thresholds that would be met for contracted services. That question is probably most appropriately put to the Chief for a definitive answer but that's my understanding.

John Steinbrink:

Chief, would you care to comment on that?

Chief Wagner:

Good evening. Chief Brian Wagner, 8600 Green Bay Road. In response to the question that Mr. Tiahnybok asked, the answer to that question is yeah, we do. What's described in this proposed ordinance reflects what exists today.

John Steinbrink:

Any other questions for the Chief? Alex?

Alex Tiahnybok:

No more questions for the Chief. Unless other Board members have any other comments I move approval.

Jeff Lauer:

Second.

John Steinbrink:

This is the first reading.

Alex Tiahnybok:

Okay, fair enough.

John Steinbrink:

Thank you, Chief. Other comments or questions by Board members?

Steve Kumorkiewicz:

I think it's automatic what's explained here. The ratio is 1.5 for 1,000 population . . . we go to 40,000 population and we need to go contract with somebody else this contract is going to be served with the numbers that we've got at the time. I think that pretty much sets the record as it is.

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John Steinbrink:

Thank you, Kevin. Thank you Chief and thank you, Mike. I want everybody to read this and come back so if you have any other questions you can bring them forward at that time.

- A. Receive Plan Commission Recommendation and Consider Resolution #07-01 to approve Addendum #1 To Creekside Crossing Condominium to correct the incomplete legal description on the Creekside Crossing Condominium Plat and the Creekside Crossing Declaration of Condominium.**

Jean Werbie:

Mr. President and members of the Board, this is a request by Kari Kittermaster who is an agency for Regency Hills Creekside Crossing LLC. Specifically the petitioner is requesting approval of an addendum to the Creekside Crossing condominium plat and an amendment to the Creekside Crossing declaration of condominium. The purpose of these requests is to actually correct an incomplete legal description in the documents that had been recorded at the Kenosha County Register of Deeds office on December 12, 2005. The Plan Commission heard this matter and there was a public hearing before them at their last meeting and they recommended approval of this document.

SERPE MOVED TO CONCUR WITH THE PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #07-01 TO APPROVE ADDENDUM #1 TO CREEKSIDE CROSSING CONDOMINIUM TO CORRECT THE INCOMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION ON THE CREEKSIDE CROSSING CONDOMINIUM PLAT AND THE CREEKSIDE CROSSING DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM; SECONDED BY LAUER; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- B. Receive Plan Commission Recommendation and Consider Ordinance #07-01 to amend Sections 420-118, 420-119, 420-120, 420-121, 420-122; 420-123, 420-124, 420-148; 420-152 of the Village Zoning Ordinance related to defining a convenient cash business, allowing a convenient cash business in the B-2 District with approval of a Conditional Use Permit with specific conditions, and prohibiting a convenient cash business in the B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, M-1 and M-2 Districts.**

Jean Werbie:

Mr. President and members of the Board, the City of Kenosha and the Village of Pleasant Prairie areas have experienced a proliferation of convenient cash businesses and similar businesses such as check cashing businesses and payday loan stores that can make non-traditional, short-term consumer loans. Instead of offering a product that enables borrowers to escape emergencies, payday lenders flip borrowers, renewing their loans repeatedly for high fees without extending further credit which traps borrowers into paying back many times the original amount of the loan at annual interest rates that are typically 400 percent or higher.

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The clustering of payday loan agencies in and around economically challenged neighborhoods causes significant financial problems for the residents of those areas, and research has shown that such businesses target lower income neighborhoods. Convenient cash businesses because of the frequency of the cash transaction and the amount of money exchanged are considered attractive to criminals seeking to commit robberies, and health, safety and welfare of Pleasant Prairie residents should be protected by legislation limiting the geographic concentration of convenient cash businesses and similar establishments and the proximity of these establishments to residentially zoned areas.

That being said, the Village Board of Trustees on November 6, 2006 adopted a resolution to impose a 180 day moratorium upon the granting of any zoning or building permit for a convenient cash business or similar establishment to provide the time for the Village Board to work with the Village staff in order to develop an ordinance to prohibit such businesses from locating in certain areas and only to allow them to allow them in other areas.

The Village staff has been working with Village attorneys to draft such an ordinance. This is a matter that was a public hearing before the Village Plan Commission at their last meeting. I'll first begin by defining for you our new definition for a convenient cash business also referred to as a payday loan business, title for cash business, check cashing business, deferred presentment service provider or similar enterprise licensed pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 218.05, or a person licensed pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 138.09, who accepts a check or title, holds the check or title for a period of time before negotiating or presenting the check or title for payment, and pays to the issuer an agreed-upon cash, or who refinances or consolidates such a transaction.

A convenient cash business as proposed under our ordinance is going to be allowed in the B-2 District with the approval of a conditional use permit subject to the following requirements as listed. Convenient cash businesses in the B-2 Districts that is proposed to be commenced or expanded shall not be less than 300 feet in a direct line from any lot on which a school, church or day-care center for children is located or has a vested right to locate, or from any lot or portion of a lot zoned residential, or at the time of the application for site and operational plan approval for the commencement or expansion of such proposed convenient cash business use is decided by the Village Plan Commission.

The second provision is that no convenient cash business shall be located within one-half mile, or 2,640 feet, of another similar business regardless of whether or not that business is located in the Village or the City of Kenosha. The hours of operation for a convenient cash business shall not be between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. In other words, they should be operating under normal hours during the daytime. They shall not be opened Saturdays except between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and shall not be opened on Sundays. I know some of the concerns that the City of Kenosha had with the number of businesses that opened up is that many of them are open 24 hours a day and on the weekends which does cause some additional significant problems for the City of Kenosha.

There are a number of sections of the Village Ordinance that are being amended as a result. Specifically, there are provisions being placed in the B-1 and the B-3 and the B-4 and the B-5

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Districts that cash convenient businesses would not be allowed. They would be prohibited uses in these particular sections or districts of the ordinance. It would not be allowed either in the M-1 or the M-2 Districts of the Village Zoning Ordinance as well.

And just as a point of clarification, in the M-1 and the M-2 District we do allow for ancillary services which provide services to employees or customers of uses within the corporate park areas, and they refer to financial services such as banks, credit unions, savings and loans and stock brokers. However, we did provide an exception or an exclusion so that it would not be interpreted that a cash convenient business could be located in an M-1 or an M-2 District.

The staff with the Village attorney researched a number of different ordinances including City of Racine, City of Wauwatosa, City of Kenosha and some other areas that have been experiencing some problems with these types of businesses. And we feel that the ordinance will work for the Village of Pleasant Prairie as written. The Plan Commission held a public hearing and recommended approval of the ordinance as presented, and the Plan Commission and the staff recommend that the Board follow.

Mike Serpe:

I think it's great what we're doing. The unfortunate thing about this whole thing is surrounding the Village of Pleasant Prairie are communities that have a great number of these facilities operating. Mike, I'm going to defer to you I guess. What would be the likelihood or the chance that we maybe adopt a resolution and send it via John to Madison for some type of regulation on these businesses?

Mike Pollocoff:

We certainly could do that. That's an appropriate subject for resolution. John, I guess you could probably better speak what the likelihood of them acting on it would be. But it is something that's just like banking. One community really can't regulate banks. In essence in many cases they are owned by banks but just under a different name.

Mike Serpe:

The problem is banks are still somewhat respectable. This reeks of gouging the people that are not able to care for themselves in an appropriate way and it just irks me to no end. They prey on the weak and they capitalize on everything that they can give them. And the money as I understand it for the most part doesn't even stay in America. It's going overseas somewhere. I think if government has to step in at any time I think this is a good case for that to happen. I don't like to see it on the federal level and that would be probably next to impossible, but on the State level regulation I think there's at least a chance to effectively address it.

John Steinbrink:

Mike, the State did pass some regulation on this. It was very minor. It just clarified certain things for a buyer beware part of it to make the public aware of what these institutions are. I

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talked to Mr. Ginkowski about it. I referred to it as putting lipstick on a pig. The pig when you're done with it unfortunately I think there are a lot of communities around the State dealing with this same issue now. This is a very lucrative operation. As Mr. Ginkowski said that money does not at any time stay in our community or our State. As you say it leaves the country. It's a way to skirt around our financial institutional laws and I think there's loopholes there that have to be filled.

So with many communities being represented, representatives have this issue probably coming before them and I think there is a good chance of bringing something forward at the State level to better clarify this issue and hopefully get some resolution so that communities aren't confronted with this and try to plug the hole in the dike here. It's a serious issue.

Alex Tiahnybok:

First off, I think Mr. Ginkowski needs to be publicly commended for his legal and I guess structural advice on this matter and also on the issue of the ordinance, just creating the ordinance for the police department. I don't like this industry any more than anyone else on this Board of course. Just out of curiosity, and I don't know if anybody knows the answer to this question, but for the person that's motivated to using these services are we shutting them off from an avenue of last resort? Do they have options? I don't know that. I'm just curious whether or not we're slamming the door shut on access.

Mike Serpe:

Good point. No, I don't think so. I think the regulation, at least what I would like to see is what these people can ultimately charge on interest rates which are approaching 400 percent in some cases. They offer to do their banking for them and to pay their bills for a charge, more regulation in how much you can charge. I don't know, maybe nothing will come of this, but I will certainly hope that we can protect the unsuspecting a little bit more than what we're doing.

John Steinbrink:

Other comments or questions? Jeff?

Jeff Lauer:

Just probably one comment or question. Mike, I don't know if this is for you or Jean. I know it was discussed a little bit briefly at the Planning Commission regarding Item 3.a. about being not less than 300 feet from a school, church, daycare, and then item b. no convenient cash business shall be located within 2,640 feet of each other. I know I think it was presented Monday we want to be consistent with other things within the Village. However, given the type of businesses these are can we actually increase the footage on that without any I don't want to say legal problems but without any problems? I think 2,600 feet is actually close. I know it's feet, but.

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Mike Pollocoff:

You have to kind of look at this as I guess from a marbled cake perspective I guess for lack of a better description. Is 2,600 feet close but what's in that intervening half mile that the 2,600 feet is? Is there something that would further limit that use? And it definitely is within the purview of the local government to decide how their community is going to develop and implement the land use plan through the zoning regulations and that's what this does. I mean there's some studies that indicate that these things do have a deleterious effect on the values of properties. As Jean has indicated where you have them open 24 hours a day, Chief Wagner would tell you somebody is hanging around a cash convenient place at two o'clock in the morning something is up to no good.

I mean it just isn't—and those things do one of two things. One is they put some people that around those places at risk but they also put the taxpayers at risk. The more stuff like that you allow to run at all hours of the day and night, and where you're putting that concentration of people that need the money, you have places with cash available that's open at that time you end up having to service that. So that's our Village's implementation of our land use plan. Through zoning regulation we're deciding not to do that for the same reason we don't allow any businesses other than gas stations to be open past midnight. If you want to start staffing up the police department and making that third shift big do what Kenosha does and start opening everything up 24 hours a day because there's always nonsense going on late at night and we get away from that. So that's clearly within our purview.

Now, that doesn't mean that those guys couldn't litigate with us and challenge it but that's true with all of our ordinances. This has had a legal review on it, and we feel we're within our rights as a community to adopt this ordinance if the Board sees fit.

Jeff Lauer:

Thanks. I think the hours are actually fairly good.

LAUER MOVED TO CONCUR WITH THE PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND ADOPT ORDINANCE #07-01 TO AMEND SECTIONS 420-118, 420-119, 420-120, 420-121, 420-122; 420-123, 420-124, 420-148; 420-152 OF THE VILLAGE ZONING ORDINANCE RELATED TO DEFINING A CONVENIENT CASH BUSINESS, ALLOWING A CONVENIENT CASH BUSINESS IN THE B-2 DISTRICT WITH APPROVAL OF A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT WITH SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, AND PROHIBITING A CONVENIENT CASH BUSINESS IN THE B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, M-1 AND M-2 DISTRICTS; SECONDED BY TIAHNYBOK; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- C. **Receive Plan Commission Recommendation and Review and consider the draft Chapter III of the Comprehensive Plan related to the Inventory of Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources.**

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Jean Werbie:

Mr. President and members of the Board, I believe that most of you if not all of you heard my presentation before the Plan Commission. It was rather lengthy, about 45 minutes to an hour to go through page by page and slide by slide of the entire Chapter III which is SEWRPC's draft chapter for the Multijurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County for the design year 2035. This chapter as presented is also going to be posted to the Village's website as well as if there are any changes recommended by the Village staff or Plan Commission Board would be posted as well. They are actually trying to set up a separate section so it's easy to get to through the community planning section that you can read through and look at all the slides, at all the maps, at all the tables and all the charts.

But just as a brief overview, Chapter III is the inventory of agricultural, natural and cultural resources. I'll just go through a couple. The conservation wise use of our resources and the preservation of cultural resources are fundamental to achieving strong and stable physical and economic development as well as maintaining community identity. This information is necessary to avoid serious environment problems and to ensure the protection of our natural resources.

Information within the chapter covers soil types, farmland, farmland operations topography, geology, non metallic mining resources, water resources, woodlands, natural areas, critical species habitats, environment corridors, park and open space sites and cultural resources. The base year for the inventory data presented in the chapter range from 1994 to 2006. Inventory data has been collected through the regional land use and natural planning activities conducted by SEWRPC, from information from Kenosha County and each of the local governments participating in this process as well as State and federal agencies, Wisconsin DNR, Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Historical Society and the Department of Ag.

The information in this chapter is detailed and specific. It refers to Kenosha County and all its communities as a whole. Where possible, information both in the slide presentation and in the chapter is culled out for the Village of Pleasant Prairie. It was discussed at the Plan Commission meeting that there be some additional discussion and commentary inserted into the chapter as it relates to ground water, as it relates to the Village's diversion and the amount of radium that's in the ground water in the Village of Pleasant Prairie and what that does for our community and some other analysis with respect to that. So there will be some insertions of some additional information.

The copy that I have, I have also made some corrections to the particular document which I will be taking to our next meeting which is the fourth Tuesday of January. There is some concern that some information with respect to the park and open space sites might have gotten a little confused in our translation between here and SEWRPC, so we will be going through that information so that it's a little bit more clear with respect to the information being presented. This information is really existing basic inventory information that's needed in order to help form the basis of the Comprehensive Plan update for the County as well as the Village of Pleasant Prairie. There isn't really any planned data in this document other than our statements of what we would like to protect as pursuant to our natural resource base and environmental resource base in the Village of Pleasant Prairie.

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With that if there's any questions that the Village Board has. Again, it's my intent to go through chapter by chapter and page by page for the Plan Commission so if you want to hear that discussion I can certainly present it again. However, if there's any questions that anyone has individually or any information that they would like to have me insert when I go to the meetings I would be happy to do that. As we get further along through the process and we start getting to the planning documents in details, at that point we will be setting up more of an open house forum and more of a coffee house type setting to get input from the Plan Commission, the Board and the residents of the community.

Mike Serpe:

To get to this point how much work did you put into this?

Jean Werbie:

How much did I put into it?

Mike Serpe:

Or your staff.

Jean Werbie:

About four or five hours.

Mike Serpe:

For this?

Jean Werbie:

Yes. A lot of this is base inventory information that was prepared by the Regional Planning Commission. So this is information that we had available that we as a Village—over the years we've been putting this information together. If you go back and say how much time did we spend putting our Park and Open Space Plan together that was days and days and days. How much to put various elements of this together that was extremely time consuming. But we've been pretty aggressive in that we've been keeping our inventories up to date and we've been constantly working with our GIS department to get this information in digital format so that we knew when we got to the point that we were preparing this plan that it would be more of a seamless transition to get this information to them so that they could get it into the documents. I'm sure that SEWRPC spent a lot more time working with the ten jurisdictions in compiling all this information in those areas where it wasn't readily available. But in our community we're keeping this up to date.

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Mike Serpe:

Is this a receive and file?

Jean Werbie:

No, we need an action by the Village Board on this draft chapter. I would like support for this particular.

Steve Kumorkiewicz:

I move for approval.

Jeff Lauer:

Second.

John Steinbrink:

Motion and a second. Other comments or questions? Jean, there is a part somewhere in here where it said contributing communities and non contributing communities. What does that mean exactly?

Jean Werbie:

The non contributing communities are the ones that are not involved in the grant award process and on the committee of the multijurisdictional group that we have formed. There are some communities in Kenosha County, for example Twin Lakes, that have gone through this planning process already. I believe the Town of Randall went through this planning process. They received a State grant award and they completed this process. So we're obtaining their information and dropping it into the County's plan, but they are not participating on a monthly basis with us in updating this other than giving us what they've already been through and what they're already accomplished.

John Steinbrink:

Other comments or questions? Jeff?

Jeff Lauer:

Just a quick one. Kind of humorous, Jean. I was thinking when I was going over this last week we probably would have gone nuts if we didn't have computers to store this and keep it on files. I can just imagine the time it would take then to do something like this.

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KUMORKIEWICZ MOVED TO CONCUR WITH THE PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND REVIEW AND APPROVE THE DRAFT CHAPTER III OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RELATED TO THE INVENTORY OF AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES; SECONDED BY LAUER; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

D. Consider Ordinance #07-02 to amend Sections 18-34 B and 18-45 A of the Village Municipal Code related to Village Zoning Board of Appeals Decisions.

Jean Werbie:

Mr. President and members of the Board, Wisconsin Act 34 in 2005 which became effective on August 30, 2005 requires the appointment of two alternate members to the Zoning Board of Appeals. It also requires that the Board of Appeals may take action by a majority of the members presented provided that the quorum is present. Furthermore, a quorum is now defined as a majority of the members of the Board.

The Village ordinance currently sets forth that two alternate members be appointed. However, that new requirement requires that the Board of Appeals may take action by a majority of members present provided that a quorum is present, and it requires an amendment to Section 18-34 B and 18-45 A of the Village Municipal Code. The current ordinance as it relates to Board of Appeals states that it requires four affirmative members of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals in order to approve a variance or some type of appeal. This change in the State law states that no longer is it four affirmative votes to grant something, but it requires a majority of the Board members present. We already have alternatives that sit on the Zoning Board of Appeals so that provision did not need to be changed in our ordinance, but we just needed to say that a simple majority will now grant the approval if there's an affirmative action taken on an appeal for a variance before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Alex Tiahnybok:

Move approval.

Steve Kumorkiewicz:

Second.

John Steinbrink:

Motion and a second for approval. Further discussion?

Jean Werbie:

I just would like to add one thing. That although this went into effect on August 30, 2005, we went back to the Zoning Board of Appeals records to that date to make sure that there were no decisions that were made that were in conflict or that were not made appropriately as a result of

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this ruling and State law. And the answer is there were no situations that would have conflicted or caused a problem for this particular provision.

TIAHNYBOK MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #07-02 TO AMEND SECTIONS 18-34 B AND 18-45 A OF THE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO VILLAGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS DECISIONS; SECONDED BY KUMORKIEWICZ; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

E. Consider Ordinance #07-03 - Ordinance to Amend Chapter 180 of the Municipal Code Relating to Fire & Rescue Definitions and Fees.

Chief Guilbert:

Good evening. I'm Paul Guilbert, Jr. I'm Chief of Fire and Rescue. I work at 8044 88th Avenue. I'm here tonight to present to you the proposed changes to Chapter 180 of the ordinance that governs the Fire and Rescue Department. Basically the proposals reflect annual housekeeping revisions or biannual housekeeping revisions. The intent of the PowerPoint is just to walk you through the memo you received as well as the copy of the proposed revisions.

Chapter 180-1 is definitions. That was revised to provide clarity to one section and it was revised to provide definition for terms used later on in Section 180 and that's 180-17 on fees. We had the definition fire inspection. We added the word prevention, fire prevention inspection, and that's to make us come into alignment with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce definitions. And then new definitions that were added were occupancy inspection, re-inspection, re-test and special inspection.

Section 18-15, our ambulance fees, what I have is a housekeeping revision. I call it a budget reduction. It's actually in the budget package program reduction, and this is something that was adopted as part of our budget package, whereas a child that's under the direction of a school of attendance or participating in an activity under the direction of their school of attendance or participating in a recreational activity sponsored by the Village they were previously exempt from being charged for ambulance fees and they're now being included in the ambulance fee structure.

180-17, automatic fire sprinkler fees, section A.(1)(a), B.(1) and B.(1)(2), C(1), (2) and (3), Section D. And Section E are all revised fee structures. That's to reflect a cost of living increase charged to us by our subcontractor and also reflects an increased fee for administrative costs. Continuing with 180-17, we did a revision, we had two separate lists that was difficult for the contractors doing work with us to locate those in the chapter. We incorporated that into a single list, Section I (2) and J. Are revised fee structures. Section K. Is a new section, a program reduction for occupancy inspections. And as we discussed in our budget presentation earlier in 2006 the fire department regularly accompanies the building department on inspections of new occupancies and changes of occupancies. Previously we had no fee structure and this will now allow us to charge a minimal fee as we accompany them on inspections.

In 2006 we did 83 occupancy inspections with over 104 hours of work and ten re-inspections with an additional 7 hours. So when a new occupancy comes in we spent almost 115 hours last year

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alone just in new occupancy inspections. This fee structure will then allow us to charge for those inspections.

Section L. And Section M. Are new sections. Section L is a program reduction on special inspections and that's where we're called to perform an inspection along with the building department for both new and existing buildings and tenant spaces. Re-inspections are where we perform a regular fire prevention inspection, an occupancy inspection or a special inspection and then we then have to return back to that occupancy to assure that they have brought the building into proper code. Sections N., O. And P. are revised fee structures.

The next two sections are again housekeeping. Section 18-23 is a fee for service on roads, streets, highways, public waterways and railroads. That basically when we respond to accidents. There is a specific fee structure charging for a fire engine, a pumper tanker, a ladder truck, a grass truck, a command car. What we had not included was an ambulance. And many times our ambulances are used as transport vehicles although they're not providing EMS service. So if we go to a fire alarm, we go to a building explosion, we go to some type of an incident where we have the ability to charge and the ambulance is used as transport we're now including that within these two sections just to allow us to charge. Those are our proposed changes or revisions.

John Steinbrink:

Comments or questions for the Chief?

Alex Tiahnybok:

Does this require a motion?

John Steinbrink:

Yes.

Alex Tiahnybok:

Motion approval.

Jeff Lauer:

Second.

John Steinbrink:

Motion and a second. Chief, there's one item here that's not directly connected to this but something we need to work on at the State is compensation for a Village when you respond to an incident on the Interstate. It's kind of antiquated and outdated and for some reason it just doesn't want to move forward. Maybe you could explain that to the Board.

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Chief Guilbert:

Certainly. And how we come to know that, when I started here we were a town form of government. And State statutes clearly allows a town to recover the expense of traveling to a State highway, which also the Interstate highway is considered a State highway, whereas after we attempted to bill and we were not paid we could then send a bill to the State and they would pay us and then they take some other action to go after the person who did not pay us in the first place. A city can do the same thing but a Village cannot.

Now, you know that basically the intersection of I-94 and Highway 50 brings together the Town of Bristol, the Village of Pleasant Prairie, the City of Kenosha. We're all doing the same work yet we all fall under the different statute within the State and we all are able to do different things. Working with your office as well as I believe it came out of the Village of Ashwaubenon and the North Shore Fire Departments which are the 17 units north of Milwaukee, they attempted to get a revision done there. It went very far in the Capitol but never got passed. I know I personally have talked to the Department of Transportation and they don't want to see any additional communities come on Board that can take money from the fund. But be that as it may that certainly doesn't help us. So there's inconsistency as to who can collect and what they can collect.

John Steinbrink:

So they want and need our service but they don't want to compensate us because we're a Village. If we were a town or a city it's a different story. It doesn't make any sense.

Chief Guilbert:

It does not, no.

Jeff Lauer:

I was going to bring that up but John did. We talked about this before. Is there something that as a Village we can do like maybe adopt a resolution of some sort or send it to Madison or is it just one of those things? I mean it's common sense if you're paying the City while there, Bristol, Kenosha, the Village I mean to me it's a no brainer.

Mike Pollocoff:

You need to adopt a resolution to be a city.

John Steinbrink:

It's not just the Village of Pleasant Prairie. It's all villages out there. Not to stray off the thing Chief but I just wanted to bring that up. So when we ask why there's needs to change fees and other things it's to be fairly compensated for the services we provide because they are expertise

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services and they're costly services at times. It's a use we provide whether you're a resident or not.

Chief Guilbert:

And not to belabor the point or to keep you here longer, but Saturday night, at I-94 at Highway C we used four ambulances. We transported eight people. Six additional people signed off basically, they denied injury or refused our assistance, but we gave care to 14 people when the weather changed very rapidly. There were many vehicles involved in that and now we will bill them each individually for the services we provided. Not the EMS ambulance service but for the fire fighters and the fire apparatus as far as extrication and cleaning up the fluids on the highway. Then it will be entirely our responsibility as the Village to attempt to collect that money.

TIAHNYBOK MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #07-03 - ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 180 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO FIRE & RESCUE DEFINITIONS AND FEES; SECONDED BY TIAHNYBOK; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

G. Consent Agenda

- 1) **Approve Bartender Licenses on File.**
- 2) **Approve Letter of Credit Reduction for the Westfield Development.**
- 3) **Approve Letter of Credit Reduction for the Stummer 114th Street Extension.**
- 4) **Approve Letter of Credit Reduction for Creekside Hill Development**
- 5) **Approve Letter of Credit Reduction for Meadowdale Estates Addition No. 1 Subdivision.**
- 6) **Approve the request of Lance Skala, agent for CenterPoint WISPARK Land Company, LLC owner, for a Certified Survey Map to subdivide the property located north of 108th Street between STH 31 and 72nd Avenue into two parcels.**
- 7) **Approve 2007 Mobile Homes Licenses.**

LAUER MOVED TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1-7 AS PRESENTED AND SUBJECT TO STAFF COMMENTS; SECONDED BY TIAHNYBOK; MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

9. ADJOURNMENT

LAUER MOVED TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY KUMORKIEWICZ; MOTION CARRIED 5-0 AND MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 P.M.