

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Special Meeting Thursday--Budget pretalks! Wither Vehe? Village Clerk; Primary web sites.

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Conversation: Special Meeting Thursday--Budget pretalks! Wither Vehe? Village Clerk; Primary web sites.

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Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE DEER PARK TUESDAY, JAN. 12, 2010

MEETING, THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 2010, 7pm at the Barn

We had a conversation with Trustee Keith Olson, who is in charge of Finance. Keith has some draft/preliminary documents he has created one a review of Sales Tax Receipts, the other some preliminary considerations for FY '10-'11.

If you would like to see his documents, email keithdolson@comcast.net. We have asked Keith to make a number of copies available for the audience on Thursday, and he expects to be using the overhead projector to show numbers.

The Agenda packet from the December meeting is still posted at the Village web site and at ours:

WITHER VODP'S BOTTOM LINE?

Just like any of our family budgets, you cannot operate when spending outstrips income. That's where we are in this village. And while the one thing villagers have been asking for is road/drainage repairs, there may not be any funding to do that. Bad priorities in the past (yes, Vehe!) and failure to be proactive on the income side have left us in very bad shape.

We pray that the current trustees get their heads out of their very partisan tugs-of-war and get serious about this village's bottom line.

DPN leadership thinks its way past time for an economic development committee. Even the most casual conversations among residents on what might

be done have been turned into internecine warfare, calls of “foul play,” and much useless, time-consuming rhetoric.

Frankly, we don't care who does the work to bring more disposable income into our sales tax coffers. As long as the work gets done. NOW. Every day that passes is days, even weeks lost in the competition for customers. This is one line—the eventual economic recovery—where we can NOT afford to bring up the rear.

Participation in this committee should be opened to all the residents and business owners in Deer Park; there's more than enough professional expertise among people willing to volunteer to get this job done. As far as we can see, there's simply no other way to bring in income.

Well, there is one other potential inflow: Professionalize the Barn, turn it over to a serious business concern, such as a catering or banquet operation, with the village taking a percentage of the proceeds. Now that the Vehe Farm Foundation is going out of business, maybe the partisan blockades to making use of the property will disappear, as well. This is another area where an economic development committee can make haste—and make hay.

Also remaining on the agenda from December are the following, according to Olson.

- Ordinance regarding recording of public meetings
- Status of letter stating termination of Vehe Farm Foundation
- Discussion of draft Vehe Farm survey
- Closed session to discuss personnel

VEHE

Yes, the Vehe Farm Foundation people have put in a lot of time, and a lot of love. But at the end of the day, it's been an expensive hobby that they could not/did not support financially. We have never seen the kind of ongoing fundraising required to run such an organization. Nor is the job done. The property remains with much of the original work undone, and extremely low rates of usage.

We would hope that if any dollars remain in their bank account, they would reimburse the village for expenses of theirs, like insurance premiums, supplies, computers, reduced rates for usage of the property. Or buy benches for other parks in town sit undeveloped while millions were spent at Vehe. That would be the decent thing to do, now that their mission is accomplished or abandoned, depending on how you see it.

Remember, it was only 2008 when the 2nd 5-year contract to “manage” the property was signed between the Village and the foundation. Of course, at that time, both parties were represented by the same counsel.

And now is the time for the Village to explore, in all seriousness, whether other organizations like the Lake County Forest Preserve have a real use for this property and what’s been developed to date. Look at what the LCFP has done recently:

[http://www.triblocal.com/Lake_Zurich/List_View/view.html?
type=stories&action=detail&sub_id=131925](http://www.triblocal.com/Lake_Zurich/List_View/view.html?type=stories&action=detail&sub_id=131925)

VILLAGE CLERK

What is taking so long? Given the current employment picture, how many highly qualified, eager-to-work professionals could take on the responsibilities of the clerk! There’s a primary next month, and this village needs to operate a polling place, so time is of the essence. The web site is sorely out of date, and this village needs to do a better job of reaching out to local papers and web sites to talk about Deer Park.

If the Trustees choose to make partisan warfare out of this appointment, so be it. There’s an election for 3 Trustees seats in April 2011, and the voters in this village have a long, long memory.

ELECTION INFORMATION

<http://www.lakecountyclerk.com/default.htm>
<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/ELECTIONS/Pages/default.aspx> (you can ignore the Google Maps error message)

Review “What’s on my ballot”:

[http://lakecountyclerk.com/elections/what'sonmyballot/
default.htm](http://lakecountyclerk.com/elections/what'sonmyballot/default.htm)
<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/Pages/default.aspx>

Remember, together we are stronger!

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