

Subject: 85 cars at Barn for Special Meeting; reported AG to investigate OMA in Deer Park
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2011 5:02 AM
From: Al Barry, President | Deborah Barry, Secretary <info@deerparkneighbors.com>
To: "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com" <DPNeBlast@deerparkneighbors.com>
Conversation: 85 cars at Barn for Special Meeting; reported AG to investigate OMA in Deer Park
Category: DeerPark

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011

Resident Ed Toczyski, about halfway through last night's Special Meeting meeting, reported to the board that he had filed a complaint with the States Attorney in Lake County in response to his concerns about a possible Open Meetings Act violation at the 10/17/11 Village of Deer Park Board of Trustees meeting. What we heard him report is that he worked initially with the States Attorney in Lake County, but was then referred to work directly with the Illinois Attorney General's office.

Ed told the board that an investigation file had been opened by the AG yesterday—we may not have that nomenclature exactly right. Ed suggested that should there have been a violation of the OMA, it might nullify board actions associated with the violation, but that's for the AG to define.

The Board of Trustees would be notified directly by the AG. We urge the Board, upon receipt of that notice, to immediately post that notice for the residents to read—unless specifically instructed by the AG to do otherwise.

In other words, do not fail to make public the investigation of matters pertaining to the Open Meetings Act. Or, in other other words, be transparent about the alleged lack of transparency. If there were no violation, you have everything to gain by full disclosure.

If you agree, please email the President of the Board of Trustees Bob Kellermann and copy the rest of the members. DPN is not optimistic; we know you mean to take this step, but we're all very busy people. It's just that if you don't proactively require full and complete communications, officials might think you don't care much about these subtleties. And you should. You must. In our opinion.

<http://villageofdeerpark.com/index.aspx?page=53>

At tonight's Special Meeting on the Lake County Sheriff PENDING police contract, the parking lot count hit 85 cars. Speaking of cars, we believe that the vehicles to be purchased for the new policing system, at a cost of about \$70k each, will be titled to the Sheriff or Lake County. At least we asked, but were not answered clearly. We also believe that the funding of these cars might have been to sweeten the pot in the negotiations with the Sheriff.

Just to be clear. Deer Park ponies up, the vehicles are ordered by and titled to and retained by the Sheriff, should the contract be terminated.

Of course, any "rent-a-cop" arrangement has to include the operation of vehicles at some level. But amortizing those costs over the course of the relationship is a very different matter than anteing up the entire cost of the fleet as a down stroke on the contract.

Our information comes from the Sheriff's office, but the confirmation or counterpoint from President Kellermann was quite garbled. We welcome his clarification here, or on the village web site, and before the Lake County Board votes on Monday.

Microphones continue to be a problem in the meeting room—one of the basic tools of transparency that ought to be fixed. Five million dollars, and the sound system sucks.

There's more, much more.

We urge the Village of Deer Park to immediately post the MP3 audio recording of last night's meeting, as well as the 10/17 meeting. Nothing fancy: just upload the file to the server and put hyperlink to it. ON THE HOME PAGE where everyone can see it. Then no one has to deal with the question of how balanced these eBlasts are—or any other reporting, for that matter.

VODP board meeting files are generally files of under 100 megabytes, often around 50megs. You can burn it to your smart phone or MP3 player, and enjoy drive time more than ever!

Considering the nightmares residents and journalists have been through to access what little information there is on the village web site, this is the least the village can do to set a tone of openness. If anyone thinks this is onerous, DPN's collection goes through early 2009. Please visit http://deerparkneighbors.com/meetings/Meetings_MP3s/

Anyone who would like to accompany the DPN editor to the Lake County Board Committee of the Whole (no action will be taken at that meeting) early Friday morning, we can share the ride. It's always an education to see how other meetings are conducted—and for DPN members, a real eye-opener to see how a real committee system works.

The meeting of the full LC Board is Tuesday morning, Nov. 8, and again, happy to ride up to Waukegan together. We think we'll all be driving to Waukegan in the future much more than we have in the past—but that's just our opinion.

Good night, or rather good morning.

Remember, together we are stronger.

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