

Neighborhood Meeting, Sandhill Meadows Park

8/5/11

Attendance: Fred, Barb, Chief Meilahn, Chief Sparks, Dean, Keith, Michael, John, Deb, Renee, Scott, Beth, 25 people

Fred: -Introduction

Dean: -Explain reason for neighborhood meetings and their format.

-Talked about how the tax rate in Weston has stayed steady and the breakdown of what percentage of taxes comes from the Village of Weston, D.C. Everest School District, Marathon County, and NTC.

-Explained how the Village of Weston moved from a A3BAA1 status to a AA2 status on Moody's scale.

-Compared the Village of Weston to other municipalities of it's size, and how it is lean getting the work done with fewer staff.

-Shared how the Village of Weston is trying to improve quality of life with parks, Weston Fest, bike paths, Everest Men Respect, Peyton's Promise and what new businesses are coming to the area.

Keith: -Updates on occurring road projects. Camp Phillips and Schofield Avenue are on time and scheduled to be completed on October 14. The pedestrian bridge is a little ahead of schedule, so it should be done mid-October. Alderson is behind schedule due to weather and staffing.

-Road projects for the future include Neupert, north side of Alderson, Northwester, Ross, Fuller, Park Ridge/Labrador/Jelinek.

-Looking at enhancement grant for bikes and pedestrians and paving Ryan to J for bikes and pedestrians.

Chief Sparks: -Traffic is the major issue. 3 patrol officers cover 44 square miles.

-Average 1,000 calls a month.

-Need the help of residents-if a call is made, it helps if it's specific (i.e. traffic problem: time/day/certain car, etc...)

-Don't leave cars unlocked or garage doors open.

-EMPD will do home security surveys.

Chief Meilahn: -10 full-time firefighters and 32 volunteers who serve the Town of Weston, Village of Weston, Easton, Ringle, Town of Wausau, and get 1,400-1,500 calls a year.

-Do their best to save money: \$100,000 defibrillators for \$22,000, ISO rating from a 6 to a 4, new ambulance for \$180,000 instead of \$230,000.

-Fire Department will do home checks: prevent slips, check detectors, etc...

Dean: -Skate Park, Dog Park have added to community of nice and functional parks.

-Aquatic Center cash flows and there are determinates on when to be open/closed

-Parks Department does all the mowing, right of ways, landscaping (which has brought in businesses and kept businesses)

-Looking to build a Boundless Playground which allows ALL children to play together.

No questions/answers

BUS SERVICE DISCUSSION

Village of Weston: -\$105,000 and it really becomes a best bang for your buck issue.

-Want to hear from the public what the bus service means to them.

Birchwood Highlands Representatives: -Bus service is a great value for the poor and disabled.

-Spoke to people from High Ridge, Colonial Gardens, Aspirus Clinic area, Bethlehem Baptist area and many were in support of the bus service.

-Petition and copy of the statement read was presented to the Village of Weston.

Village of Weston: -The Village of Weston has not heard back from the head of the bus service or previous funders with the exception of some interest from Goodwill.

-The Village of Weston will need a funding a source and understanding of exactly where the bus needs to go because it doesn't seem to serve the Village of Weston as a whole.

Caroline: -Takes bus from Pick N Save to Wausau 5 days a week. She uses the bus service to go to work, visit friend, to get to appointments. The bus service helps her be independent.

Man: -It is an obligation to have a bus service-would pay more in taxes.

Birchwood Highlands Residents: -Some people do not have a car.

-ADRC/Site Manager takes the bus to work.

-The bus service gives them independence and is a reason many of them moved to Birchwood Highlands.

Man: -Father takes the bus, and allows him to be independent.

D.C. Everest Employees: -Occupational therapy worker-students take the bus!

-Teacher: students will take the bus to the Wausau area for after school activities because it is an economical way to travel for students who are less fortunate.

Bus Driver Al: -Thank you to the Village of Weston for having a bus service the past 5-6 years.

-Wheelchair passenger got on bus, and asked him what his name was, and then replied with her name of Serenity. Bus service helped her.

-Middle-aged woman who was scattered brained took the bus to get cancer treatment.

-Middle Eastern men were interested that he helped strap in a woman in a wheelchair on the bus because in Egypt people in wheelchairs do not even leave their houses.

Man and Woman: -without k-line and c-line lady would not be able to go to work.

-moved to Village of Weston for bus service.

Question: what ever happened with First Student considering funding the bus service?

Answer: Local manager was excited about the project, but management was not interested because it does not cash flow.

Marlene (works for an independent living center in Stevens Point): -For two years she has helped Weston residents become more independent, and without the bus they could not go to work.

Bus Driver Al: -If we don't use money for the bus service, it will just go somewhere else!

Closing: -Dean: The Village of Weston listens, and they do take things seriously.

-Fred: There are two sides, and the Village Board sits in a different seat because they need to make a decision that is representative of ALL the taxpayers in Weston (not just the people at this particular neighborhood meeting). At this point in time, most of the Village of Weston is still against it.