



Village of Downs

Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Committee

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Mike James

Chairperson /
Indian Hills

Lori Aldridge

Clerk

Paul Myszka

South Mallard
Point

Mike Freimann

North Mallard
Point

Randall Stine

Village Eastside

Lori Aldridge

Village Westside

Report For November 2009

Chairman's Message:

The monthly committee meeting was held but a quorum was not present. Monthly meetings are open to the public and are held at the Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm. However, the December meeting will be on the 17th due to Christmas and News Years.

Work within the village has slowed over the last 3-4 months while an inter-governmental agreement was established with Downs Township. We have before the board the modified agreement of which we had previously approved. Once approved, we will be moving forward with work that has been put on hold.

The committee will continue to work to achieve the most from the little funds that we have available. Last month you saw a note from the Finance chairperson, Maureen Roach. Please understand that the committee takes our budget seriously. As well as, how effectively we spend your tax dollars. The state reports that while most all revenue sources have declined significantly, Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) is the only area that has increased over the last 3 months and that is by only 1%. However, we will still look to curtail planned spending on MFT projects. Priorities for work will be set based on that which is causing damage or potential damage to personal property, ease of repair, cost to repair and threat to the life of the roads/culverts/ditches.

During my campaign I promised that if I make a mistake I will admit it...last month, I put before the board an ordinance that would have imposed a fee for those that wanted to exceed road weight limits without talking with those that it affected. I apologize for not talking with these business owners and will do my best to not have this happen again. This month I have corrected that ordinance. We still need to implement a permit process for exceeding weight limits, but will not be charging businesses for this permit.

Also, I promised to do my best to make Downs a better place to live. I realize that I can't do this without the expertise, talents and time of those willing and able to help. I also need/want your input, ideas and suggestions to how I can serve you better. Please put a note in my mailbox at the village hall, send me an email (mike.james@mchsi.com), call me (309-830-7374) or come to our committee meetings to let us know your thoughts.

In Your Service,

Mike James - Village of Downs Trustee and Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Committee Chair

Committee purpose:

To establish planning and funding for all projects pertaining to streets, alleys and sidewalks within the Village of Downs.

Committee Recommendation(s): N/A

The following summarizes the activity completed since the last Village Board Meeting.

- 1) Part-time employee, Les Fitzwater, started work on various clean-up projects.
- 2) Mike met with the McLean County Highway Dept about the sign replacement program and ditch work on Washington.

Planned work for next month:

- 1) Inventory of all signs within the village
- 2) Fill holes with cold patch and rock
- 3) Start work on culverts and ditches
- 4) Organize a sub-committee to work with the school, etc for establishing a plan to submit for Illinois Safe Routes Program

Ordinance of the Month

Chapter 8, Article I, Section 5: It shall be unlawful to walk upon or drive any vehicle or animal upon, or damage any newly laid street or alley pavement while the same is guarded by a warning sign or barricade; or to knowingly damage any street, sidewalk or alley pavement.