

# **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Comments are submitted by the public and are not reviewed or endorsed by the Village.

To: President Martin McLaughlin, and Board of Trustees  
From: Linda H. Cools, Village Resident Advocate  
cc: Anna Paul, Village Clerk/June 26, 2017

Good Evening, President McLaughlin, Board of Trustees  
Linda H. Cools, Resident, Barrington Hills

After listening to the various finalists for engineering firms making their presentations at the last Roads & Bridges meeting, I came away with some definite conclusions and opinions as to what criteria; that we as a village, need to concentrate on the considering a retainer for engineering services for the future. I have included a separate sheet of the questions that sprung up from my review of each of the finalist's website. Please take a moment to refer to it as the discussions are ongoing before a vote is taken.

One of the duties of an civil engineering firm is to work with residents on issues that directly impact their property. As mentioned at the last Roads meetings by our residents, there appears to be some very unsatisfactory problems brought up by two residents we know of, two issues involving drainage on private properties that must be addressed and corrected. The village needs to be fully accountable and financially responsible for those problems residents are stating publicly. Our current engineering firm Gewalt Hamilton needs to explain why this is the case. I also learned quite by accident at the last ZBA meeting, that periodically when needed, the village uses our engineer to handle enforcement issues. Why? Perhaps it's time to review the duties and responsibilities that we want from a future engineering firm. The issue of continuing audio transcription should be discontinued, as it's the 4th costliest expense under June bills section. The village's goal should be to provide live streaming so that they reach every resident in their homes. The high apathy rate, and non-attendance by residents confirms a lack of interest on their part and poor communications. It only requires our BOT to simply take the next step, contract with a service provider in an open bid process and deliver on it. My job as a member of the public, resident and a taxpayer is to bring forward concerns so that you the BOT can think bring it into your deliberations. I also invite the new Trustees to consider my remarks tonight and issue a challenge to you to adopt a view of doing things

differently than we've done before, as to village contracts. Change is not always a bad thing, change can be good and positive. The issue of installing cameras as to taping meetings was brought up in 2011, but died because of a lack of support, but the Resident Survey results from 2013 said that 89% were in favor of it! Please consider making this one of your top priorities in this new administration. Since you are elected representatives, you have a greater mandate to deliver this service to a inquisitive and educated public who is eager to access the information. Public comment remains a very important part of our monthly meetings, it gives you and us an opportunity to test the barometer on various subjects that this board might tackle. Participatory government is only successful if it is based on mutually beneficial relationship. Any items brought up here is for you to listen and apply that constructive resident input to draft good laws which will only make us a better more well functioning municipality. That is my goal, and I know you share that same perspective.

I am confident that based on the information in the e-packet ,we will hire the engineering firm that most closely models the scope of services outlined if we remember that every one of our residents can play an integral part in driving that discourse if we let them.

otSincerely yours,

Linda H. Cools, Village Resident Advocate