

# **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

To: President McLaughlin and Village Board of Trustees  
Cc: Anna Paul, Village Clerk  
September 25, 2017

My name is Linda H. Cools, Resident, Barrington Hills

After reviewing the engineering services packet, all of my neighbors, residents and myself were particularly struck by the answers provided by the various engineering firms for the number of hours required by our municipality for expected services in one calendar year. Even plus or minus the inclusion of the annual road program, two the firms calculated hours between 150 at the low end to 300 at the upper end, a low of 600 and a staggering high of 1600 for the current firm Gewalt Hamilton. So that means 1600 hours divided by 50 weeks, gives 32 hours per work week. That means if one works an eight-hour day, we have someone at work four full days on our dime. We are basically funding a full-time employee. So there is a great deal of variability between the current firm and the other two finalists; as to number of expected hours.

I found it quite sensible that Trotter & Associates would not invoice the village for appearances at our Roads meetings, as well as our BOT meetings. That should be a standard practice for all firms. I also concur with the cost cutting measures mentioned, by delegating work possibly to a staff engineer or other personnel; including increased utilization of our village staff in preparing Roads and ZBA packets to reduce overhead. That applies as well to the nine hours dedicated to processing of permits, and reducing the billed time to the village to respond to residents, village contractors or Village staff. There should be a greater intent and desire to delegate and internalize tasks among existing village staff. They should be shouldered in house and not transferred to the taxpaying public..

I don't believe we need to utilize the skills of an engineer billed at a high hourly rate to address enforcement issues that should be handled by the building department.

Reading the August 18 letter from IDOT to President McLaughlin regarding preliminary letter regarding LongMeadow Phase I preps, our village needs to start seriously figuring out about how it will comfortably absorb the financial increases that IDOT mentions. That includes infrastructure cost, like signalization, utility and ROW relocations, and all matter of capitol improvements.

The President has made it clear that we as a village do not have the financial resources to support or to pay for what they are contemplating. So, although commendation letters are good, it comes down to the numbers. We need to hire a firm that will be more financially sensitive for the next budget year ahead. For example the total bills just for Gewalt Hamilton this month is: \$42,750 (divided by 23 hour workday \$1860 divided per day mentioned by IRS employee as his analysis.)

Personally, I would give each firm the assignment to bring forward their recommended solutions for the widening and alterations to LMP on Route 62. That

would be a good litmus test to see how they manage resources, and what they come up with in terms of a plan that will address safety issues in our village.

**In Gewalt's letter to our Administrator dated, " September 18, 2017.**

**Within the task list provided, approximately 41 of the 337.5 hours apply to tasks that are not directly related to municipal engineering, such as assistance with the Village's asset inventory, maintenance of the Village weather station, and various website updates.**

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And, just as we change our village Trustees, and President every four years, and so to engineering services. It's not about offending anyone, it's really only about business. May I remind you, that a new broom always sweeps much better than an old one!

Thank you,

Linda H. Cools, Village Resident Advocate