

LiveTimeline of 1/14/2020 Town Hall.

[Editor: Sorry I'm late; I didn't realize the Park Theft Had Been Fast Forwarded]

This is a rudely formatted, partial transcription of the Town Hall. Two or three editorial comments excepted, the text below is verbatim, said by someone. Click the questions; click the lines of discussion. Clicking anything will take you to the point in the Town Hall video where that sentence was uttered.

Informal Start

What can be done about the amount of dog feces in downtown Whitmore Lake?

- Zelenock: What are we gonna do?
- Beliger: Can't we use ordinances?

Next Question: how smoothly is the application process for marijuana businesses going?

Simple yes or no: Are you ok with wastewater overflowing into our waterways?

- Chockley: we had so much flow that it was running on the ground and into the storm sewers

[... yeah, I know. What storm sewers? There are none.]

?Audience: So, ironically, I was wanting to ask this question before I knew about the sewer overflowing today, simply because this has been a problem that the Township has been looking at for a very long time. So my follow up question is, are you willing now that there has been a catastrophe, are you willing to make forward momentum with getting a retention basin built?

What would the township like to see in terms of a marijuana retail store?

Why doesn't the Township put Park question on the ballot so all are aware of opportunity, if you're putting out a survey for the park next to the post office?

Why are you giving away the park next to the post office for undermarket value?

If you're putting out a survey about benches, it's all over town - what kind of benches are we going to put on the sidewalk to nowhere, then why can't you put out a survey for the park itself?

- *[Editor: Otto weighs in with false narrative about county disinterest in funding a park. The County was asked only about funding the walking path, reduced at this point to little more than a sidewalk around*

90 houses. Lying by omission is a cheap and standard political hack. It makes Liars feel clever. If you accept lies, you get Liars.]

- Margaret Riddell: That park was dedicated as a park right after it was purchased.
- [blank]
- Riddell: and it was said in some of the Board's releases that more than half would be park, so
- Riddell: the only parts that a problem is that everyone else on the board is wanting to sell it off, not have a park...
- Riddell: ... have a five acre park for 8000 people. That's where it's at. You're talking about seeing what you can do - but only what you can do for five acres. You're not asking the people what they want.

- Wayne Dockett offers to fund a ballot initiative
- Chick: It is so early in the planning of this whole piece of property that it was only recently that we received a legal description of the area that decided we wanted to see as a park
- Chick: we couldn't even apply for anything until we have that information
- Chick: we have to have a plan for the park as well if we're gonna apply for a grant
- Chick: that hasn't happened. and to answer the question about the cost of the property
- Chick: we received an offer but we have not taken that offer.
- Chick: there is no firm price yet.
- Chick: none of this is firm. it's all initial negotiations and discussions. there's no final decision on anything yet.
- Zelenock:
- Zelenock: We did a couple surveys that was before this administration. it went in the tax bills before I became treasurer
- Zelenock: and 390 people responded. So we send out about 5,300 tax bills, and 64% said they wanted a park only.
- Zelenock: then the same survey was conducted at the trunk or treat, again before this board came into office
- Zelenock: and there was like 93 responses and 61% said they wanted a park only
- Zelenock: then we had some visioning sessions, where about 50 people attended
- Zelenock: and the "Synthesis Plan" came about
- Zelenock: My other concern is when the subcommittee scored it, and that was just recently, it came out to be a D+, as far as meeting that plan
- [blank]
- [blank]
- [editorial: Check out the faces, Chick and Otto's filled with anger and hate, Chockley's shame, a bent dynamic.]
- Beliger: I'm very pleased with the one developer. I think he's sensitive to the, um, i wanna say to the feeling of the community
- Beliger: to making sure the park can be the best it can be, and even the units he wishes to make to be in accordance with the design and the community
- Beliger: to be. Personable; I wanna say personable, the gentleman seems to be
- [blank]
- Beliger: There has been no agreement...
- Chockley: I just wanna mention that putting the park on the ballot would be an advisory vote and those are not legal
- Dignan: that's where my question came from. If you're

- *Dignan: if you're gonna put something on the ballot like that, especially since the township owns it at this point*
- *Dignan: would you be willing to put it on there with a funding mechanism*
- *Dignan: meaning would you be willing to put it on the ballot with a design or phased designs, with a levy*
- *Dignan: to not only fund, maybe partially fund the construction of part of it, but also the ongoing maintenance, operations, insurance, and so on and so forth*
- *Dignan: as you put assets on that property you're going to have to maintain those assets on a very regular basis*
- *Dignan: As you develop that park it has to be ADA compatible. It has to be by law.*
- *[blank]*
- *[blank]*
- *Dignan: or whether they want it to be just a general open space as it's been used for decades, even when it was owned by the flying dutchman*
- *Dignan: for event parking, things of that sort*
- *Dignan: So if you're gonna put it on the ballot that would be I believe that would be the way to present it*
- *[blank]*
- *Beliger: there's something about millages that I'm troubled with*
- *Otto*
- *Otto: We have property behind the Township Building.*
- *Otto: We don't have all of it. We have some of it. We get that property usually because people do not pay their taxes.*
- *Otto: and it ends up to be at the Township's door to either pay the taxes or purchase the property*
- *Otto: So there is probably about 33 acres back there*
- *Otto: Of it there's probably about how many lots? how many do we own back there, about twenty?*
- *Otto: Cause we've acquired quite a bit.*
- *Otto: **Granted,***
- *Otto: **Granted, it is wetlands back there.***
- *Otto: **Granted, it is wetlands back there. There is no lake back there.***
- *Otto: But it is property that connects the 7 Mile Road. It would connect the 7 Mile Road.*
- *Otto: So we learned before that if we ever had a road that went from the development thru 7 Mile right over here it would cost of millions and millions of dollars to do*
- *[blank]*
- *Chick: I just wanna speak to the surveys. um the first two surveys that were taken. i mean, if I had*
- *Chick: If I had responded and I might have responded at that time, do you want to keep this all park, I would have absolutely said yes*
- *Chick: It's a beautiful piece of land*
- *Chick: No one was explained at that time when either of those surveys were taken what the cost to the Township was to maintain that park. (guess what Janet, they still have not)*
- *Chick: annually, they weren't told that*
- *Chick: they were not told the benefit to the Township of actually selling part of it and keeping part of it park*
- *Chick: they weren't told that*
- *Chick: They weren't told the revenue that we'll get that will pay for the park, the property taxes that will come in to help maintenance*
- *Chick: the sewer hookups to help the sewer department*
- *Chick: and then the annual revenue after that*

- *Chick: that we will, that the township will recognize so that we can actually provide some more services and amenities*
- *Chick: and maybe do more for the roads or whatever*
- *Chick: it is for the downtown area*
- *Chick: There's a lot that could be done. People weren't told that.*
- *Chick: So if you don't have, excuse me, if you don't inform the people, the respondents, these are your choices*
- *Chick: which one do you want? then they're gonna respond with what they like at that moment*
- *Chick: that's all I have to say about that*
- *Chick: i appreciate the fact that people answered the survey; i would have answered it the same way*
- *Chick: but I think that in order to have really good results*
- *Chick: that mean something you can actually make a decision from*
- *Chick: you need to educate the public first and let them analyze the information and see which one makes better sense for the township*
- *[blank]*
- *Riddell: Nobody ever asked that question, did they?*
- *Riddell: you just all assumed, the question, what's it gonna cost and are you willing to pay it*
- *Riddell: nobody's ever found out. you don't know what it's gonna cost. you don't know if you can get grants.*
- *Riddell: you don't know how much Kiwanis is willing to put out to help it*
- *Riddell: you don't know a lot of things but you're going ahead, like ok fine. it costs too much money*
- *Riddell: the townpeople won't wanna vote for a millage*
- *Riddell: believe me; I won't use the park but I will pay a millage to have it, because I think it's worth it to the people*
- *Riddell: You're getting ready to scrap a beautiful piece of property*
- *Riddell: and put houses on it*
- *Riddell: And Janet I understand when you're talking about the surveys but it seems to me*
- *Riddell: it was much more recent than that than you spending a dollar*
- *Riddell: you know the little one where everybody was spending a dollar - how would you spend it*
- *Riddell: And Gee, it seemed to me that parks and open land was right up there at the top*
- *Riddell: and way down at the bottom was residential development*
- *Riddell: I just don't understand*
- *Riddell: the only reason I can figure out you guys don't want to ask the people*
- *Riddell: if they're willing to do this*
- *Riddell: is because you're afraid of what the answer is gonna be*
- *[blank]*
- *Otto - so [put it on the ballot, suckers. it will be too late]*
- *Otto - If you look at the Parks and Rec plan, it did identify that if the North Village was to be a full park,*
- *Otto - They identified it as costing 3.5 Million dollars.*
- *[A Bald faced Lie from Otto - That figure includes the original multi million dollar listing price of the Van Curler property.]*
- *Otto - so when you go after grants, it's not that they just hand you this money; you have to have matching funds.*
- *?Audience: Who did this study that said it would cost \$3.5 million?*
- *[blank]*
- *I believe that this building is going to be paid off in two more years*
- *Dockett: the Public Safety Building will be paid off in 2022*

- So, if some concerned citizens
- What do we need a Board for?
- Zelenock: I do have one thing. So it's in the Parks and Rec, but as a Board can we address it or either give it to Parks and Rec to hire a firm
- Zelenock: to see what it's going to cost?
- Zelenock: to see what it's gonna cost to put in a beach, if even we can put in a beach
- Zelenock: see what it's gonna cost to put in a dock
- Zelenock: see what it's gonna cost to put in a pavilion
- Zelenock: so at least we have the cost
- Chockley - we need that in order to apply for grants... I...
- Zelenock: Can we add that to our next Board Agenda?
- Zelenock: Can I get an answer?
- [blank]
- Chick - To Mr Dockett's comment about the \$250,000
- Zelenoc - we'll get about \$83,000
- [blank]

Manley - If I can just have a quick follow up on that. The park is in just the beginning stages. Nothing's confirmed.

- Please keep sending us your ideas. We're open. And I think I agree with Lenore. We need to have some kind of study., so we know how much this would cost us.
- [blank]

Ciccella: When I left as Supervisor

When zoning is approved for marijuana businesses, will you continue to jam up the process?

- Otto

Manley - Mr Gordon gets the last question

Gordon - I was hoping that this type of question and answer period would not become a one off and would actually become a tradition of the Board

- [blank]
- Gordon: I was hoping that instead of having the Board simply reiterate their positions on various issues
- Gordon: I was hoping this would lead to some accountability
- Gordon: and my biggest question which obviously there's no time to answer at this point since the Board meeting starts in sixty seconds, is

Gordon: How can you pretend to be public servants when you don't listen to the public?

- Gordon: Marlene, you said that a scientific survey's the only one that really counts
- Gordon: We've only ever had one of those in the history of this Township in 1996

- *Gordon: but it identified preservation as the number one priority of the residents*
- *Gordon: Every single non-scientific survey since then has supported that*
- *Gordon: yet we spend all our time and money on growth and development*
- *Gordon: and absolutely nothing on preservation*
- *Gordon: and look at the budget for 2019*
- *Gordon: The manager's office who's here to help push development*
- *Gordon: is a \$171,000 a year*
- *Gordon: Planning and Zoning budget is \$151,000 a year*
- *Gordon: The Community Center gets \$128,000 a year*
- *Gordon: People's Express gets \$10,000*
- *Parks & Rec gets \$5,000*
- *Gordon: and the Land Preservation Committee gets nothing*
- *Gordon: So it's outrageous to me that you sit here saying you're in favor of doing what the public wants*
- *Gordon: but you haven't done what Mr. Dignan recommended*
- *Gordon: If the public says they want a park only, then you do a survey*
- *Gordon: and say what Miss Chick brought up, Did you know it's gonna cost this much?*
- *Gordon: But you don't know what it's gonna cost because you haven't even run the numbers yet.*
- *Gordon: You don't even know if you can put a beach there.*
- *Gordon: You don't know what the maintenance is gonna be, or the insurance, or the liability.*
- *Gordon: But you're ready to sell off 80% of the park without having done that.*
- *Gordon: And you can't ask the voters whether they're gonna help pay for it with a millage if you've already sold off the property.*
- *Zelenock*
- *[blank]*

End of Stream