



VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK

Meeting Minutes

Board of Trustees

14700 Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
www.orlandpark.org

Village President Daniel J. McLaughlin
Village Clerk David P. Maher

Trustees Bernard A. Murphy, Kathleen M. Fenton, Brad S. O'Halloran,
James V. Dodge, Jr., Edward G. Schussler, and Patricia Gira

Monday, December 7, 2009

7:00 PM

Village Hall

2009-0399 Title 7 Chapter 18, Orland Park Video Gaming Prohibition - Ordinance

President McLaughlin stated that several residents signed in to speak to the Board regarding if video gambling should be allowed or prohibited in the Village of Orland Park.

Mike Pappas a 25 year resident and owner of Fair Share Amusement Company read a statement urging the Board to wait to vote on prohibiting video gaming within the Village until more rules and regulations of the law are available, which is expected in the next several months. Mr. Pappas, a board member of the Illinois Coin Operators Association, explained that allowing video poker machines in certain businesses within the Village could generate major revenue.

Supporters of the bill, including many union workers, requested that the Board allow video gambling, in order to bring jobs and revenue back to the area.

Barbara Pasquinelli President of the League of Women's Voters of the Palos-Orland Area read a statement on video gaming before the Board. She stated that the State of Illinois enacted House Bill 255 in order to support a capital bill. This was done very quickly with no public input. The League of Women's Voters opposes video gaming.

Anita Bedell the executive director of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems stated the machines are the crack cocaine of gambling because people get addicted to them so quickly. At first, the gambler may feel like a kid at a carnival, but those feelings lead to addiction and the loss of friends, family, money and time.

Marvin Chandler, 88, a resident of Orland Park urged the Board to ban gambling.

Gladys Bain a resident of Orland Park for 50 years and was a teacher at the Village schools stated that by allowing video gambling will not solve the economic problems we all face. She asked the Board to vote no on gambling in Orland Park.

Several other residents as well as nonresidents spoke before the Board

expressing their opposition of video gambling within the communities.

President McLaughlin stated that over the past three weeks he has built an extensive file of articles and information that has been sent to him from the gaming business and labor. There are petitions with hundreds of signatures against video gaming coming to the Village of Orland Park. There are phone records and emails in this file for and against video gaming.

President McLaughlin stated that he has to cast his one vote for what he believes is in the best interest of Orland Park. He is sympathetic with the arguments about Orland Park businesses competing with the businesses in surrounding towns; however, he does not agree that banning video poker will put anyone out of business. Over the years Orland Park has shown what a business friendly town we are, and how the Village will help where it can. Decisions have been made over the years to show what type of community Orland Park should be. The issue of gambling in Orland Park is not new, the Village Board voted against off-track betting a number of years ago.

President McLaughlin commented that he had read in a 1999 U.S. National gambling impact study commission report a statement that there is \$3.00 in costs for every \$1.00 in revenue. To get to the \$400 Million shortfall the state has talked about, gamblers will have to lose almost \$1.5 Billion based on a 30% tax. That will be \$1.5 Billion dollars not spent on cars, appliances, furniture, new homes, etc., and those are what create jobs.

President McLaughlin stated that there was a three thousand page study that originated at the University of Illinois that said bankruptcies, foreclosures, crimes, and addiction soar in areas with gambling. Sheriff Tom Dart stated on WBBM radio that his office regularly get calls from people whose spouses have lost their paychecks on video poker, the Village of Orland Park's Police Chief has the same concerns.

President McLaughlin stated that with all the information he has read, all the phone calls he has received, all the people he has spoken with, it is his own personal opinion that this will not make Orland Park a better place.

Trustee Dodge commented that there are two separate issues. The first is video gambling in Orland Park and the second issue is support for the capital bill that came out of Springfield.

Trustee Dodge is deeply sympathetic to the issues of households looking for jobs. Both his parents were union members so he is sensitive to that issue. This is not about whether or not this Board or this individual Trustee is for or against creating jobs, because we have plenty of evidence that Orland Park does its best to support jobs.

Trustee Dodge stated that the real issue comes down to his deep disappointment with Springfield. They looked for a financially easy path to fund the capital bill, and they took it. Trustee Dodge believes this is profoundly bad social policy and the extent of how bad of a social policy is only exceeded on how bad this is as a fiscal policy.

The way that Springfield approached this, by trying to load a funding for a capital bill which is critically important to us all for many reasons into a very uncertain revenue stream.

Trustee Dodge wants it clear that he stands in opposition to allowing video gambling in Orland Park. The video gambling is the wrong way to solve the capital problem and Trustee Dodge believes it is bad social policy.

Trustee Schussler stated he agrees with President McLaughlin and also what Trustee Dodge said with respect to the capital bill. He does not believe that video gambling should have anything to do with how capital projects are funded in the State of Illinois. Trustee Schussler agrees that the legislature took the easy way out, and knew it, because now the state is giving the municipalities and counties the ability to opt out of video gambling in their areas.

Trustee Schussler stated that video gambling does not totally fund the capital bill it is funded by several other sources. Video gambling is not going to solve the problems of the State of Illinois or the problems of the Village Orland Park.

Trustee Schussler stated by the Board waiting to hear the rules and regulations when they become available in the next several months is not going to change anything. When those rules and regulations come out they will not state if this is good or bad for Orland Park.

Trustee Schussler stated he does not believe video gambling will do anything to help Orland Park and he is going to vote against it.

Trustee Fenton stated that she does not believe she can make an educated and worthwhile decision this evening until she received all of the information from the state whether it is 100 days from now or one year from now. This Board did promise this community that the Board would wait until the rules and regulations were received from the State of Illinois. That is what was unanimously voted on at the August meeting, by this Board. That is why her vote will be to abstain on this issue.

President McLaughlin stated, that Trustee Fenton is correct, that the Board did vote unanimously to postpone voting on video gambling until the state had all the rules and regulations completed. The problem is because more and more towns are making a decision to opt out of video poker, the legislature is talking about the possibility of changing the rules before the rules are even set. President

McLaughlin's stated his concern is the state could take this decision out of the municipality's hands.

Trustee O'Halloran stated that he agrees with Trustee Fenton. As Barbara Pasquinelli President of the League of Women's Voters of the Palos-Orland Area stated the vote was passed quickly in Springfield, there was not enough public input, it did not go through certain committees, it moved through very quickly.

Trustee O'Halloran questioned isn't this Board doing the same thing? It was stated back in August very clearly that the Board would wait to vote on this issue until more information on the rules and regulations on video gaming was received. Also it was agreed back in August that this matter would be brought back through two committees. Trustee O'Halloran would like to hear Chief McCarthy's testimony on this issue. He would also like to hear the Village Finance Director Annmarie Mampe opinion on these numbers from the Village's prospective. Trustee O'Halloran does not believe that he is informed enough to make a decision on this issue right now.

Trustee Murphy stated that he agrees with everything that President McLaughlin stated tonight. He also agrees with what Trustee O'Halloran stated. The Board made an agreement on August 17, 2009 that the Board would wait to hear all the rules & regulations and that is what he is willing to do.

Trustee Gira stated she had requested back at the August meeting that more information be supplied before she could place a vote. Shortly after that meeting she attended the Illinois Municipal meeting down in Chicago. Mr. Pappas did not agree on the substance of those meetings. However, Trustee Gira believed that the information she has received at that meeting was very informative. Trustee Gira then informed the Mayor that she was ready to vote on this issue.

I move to pass Ordinance Number 4529, entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING VIDEO GAMING WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

A motion was made by Trustee James Dodge, Jr., seconded by Trustee Patricia Gira, that this matter be PASSED. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Trustee Dodge, Trustee Schussler, Trustee Gira, and President McLaughlin

Nay: 0

Abstain: 3 - Trustee Murphy, Trustee Fenton, and Trustee O'Halloran

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ David P. Maher

David P. Maher, Village Clerk