

# TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

**August 1, 2017**

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen  
Councilman Robert Weingartner  
Councilman Lewis Grubham  
Councilwoman Linda Yonchuk  
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Oliver Blaise III, Attorney  
Gayle Diffendorf, Town Clerk  
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works  
James Smith, Budget Officer  
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Bd. Chairman

## 1. Discussion – Town Garage. (GEK)

Supervisor Kniffen explained that after the last big rain storm there was 10 inches of water in the town's highway garage. Although most of the water came from a beaver dam up stream which plugged up the pipes, some of it came off the highway as well. DEC is waiting for the water to go down so they can drain it and get rid of the beavers. He said this brings up for discussion whether we should build a new garage on the Armstrong property the town purchased to get the garage out of harm's way. In past discussions the Board determined that there is enough insurance to cover future problems and maybe it's wise to keep the current garage and do some updates. Supervisor Kniffen said we also talked about putting more money away for a new garage, noting that currently we only have about \$50,000 between the normal building fund and the garage fund. He questioned if we want to plan on moving it and if we do, we will have to start putting more money away, maybe not for this Board but for a future Board, noting we are talking about \$1 million. Councilman Grubham said he feels it will cost a lot more now than \$1 million. We were looking for help with the money but there was nothing available. Supervisor Kniffen said FEMA would have helped but only if we were going to physically move the current garage. In regard to the most recent storm, Councilman Grubham said he doesn't know if the flooding would have happened if there wasn't so much rain. Councilman Diffendorf said it was lucky that all the water coming off the road did not go on any residential property. It came down through the state troopers' property and into the garage. Councilman Grubham said there is also an issue with the telephone company and there was a stream coming out of their manhole and it's been like that for years. That is another source of water that he hopes will be gone. He said one thing that helped was after the big flood the garage was reconstructed so that we wouldn't have to tear everything apart again. It was basically hosing things down and then cleaning it out. Councilman Grubham said he and John Finch about the fact that we have a natural water problem there anyway, about trying to get some kind of a design to catch the water, particularly out back, because it lays there all the time. To be able to pump it out of there would require a large dry well system and this would solve a lot of the wetness in that area. He said that unless we know where to find well over \$1 million, he doesn't think a new garage is an option, although he's not saying it's not the best option. Supervisor Kniffen said we won't get that kind of money now or in the near future, so he will talk to Jim Smith about putting money aside, even if it's only \$10,000, we would be

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doing something. He said if we are not going to use the land then we should sell it. Councilman Grubham said that money could also be used to fix the current garage. He said a decision needs to be made if we are going to fix it or wait and see if eventually something works out on the Armstrong property. His opinion is that we should try to fix the current garage. Supervisor Kniffen asked Councilmen Grubham and Diffendorf to work as a committee to determine how to proceed. Councilman Grubham said the big thing is to maintain the structural portion of the building, add air conditioning, heat, etc. Supervisor Kniffen asked for a report back in two months.

## 2. Discussion – Water Mains – Schedule Public Hearing. (GEK)

Supervisor Kniffen explained that the Board had a big discussion about a year ago regarding people filling their pools out of the hydrants either through local businesses or through the fire company. The issue came up that a local business is being hurt because the fire company does not have to pay what the local business pays. The Board looked at it and agreed something should be done. He said Section I, B, 3, b currently reads: Hydrant fee for commercial and industrial uses (e.g., commercial hauler or business filling a tanker truck) and he is proposing the following wording be added: and includes the fire companies for pools only. He said we don't want to charge the fire companies for getting water to fight fires but if they are going to sell it to residents, then they should pay the same as a local businesses. Since this will be a change to the local law a public hearing will be required. Resolution.

## 3. Discussion – Mowing of private properties. (GEK)

Supervisor Kniffen explained that every year we have to address mowing of private properties that have been abandoned and the Code Office has been unable to locate the owner. It was an oversight that a resolution was not adopted at the last meeting to pay for this for this year. He said outside sources were hired to mow and payment needs to be authorized. When this was originally discussed there were six properties involved this year but Chad was able to contact the people responsible for five of the properties so that left only one property on Dennis Street that still needed to be mowed. Since we had this done a resolution will now be required to authorize payment, which is \$50. Councilman Diffendorf questioned if we are making sure that we get paid back from the County for the cost we pay for mowing. Supervisor Kniffen said we did get the money back last year and this year there is only the one property. Councilman Diffendorf said the County sold properties for taxes this week and everyone that purchased property had to make out a separate check for maintenance costs. He said he was curious about it because the County was collecting that separately. He wants to make sure that we do a follow up after we submit something to the County that should go on the taxes. Supervisor Kniffen will check into it.

## 4. Discussion – Request from Brian Kinney to Grade D Water Distribution Operator Certification Course to be held September 18 – 22, 2017 in Cortland, NY, at a cost of \$550, plus all reasonable expenses paid, in

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accordance with the Reimbursement Policy for Employee Training Expenses. (JAF)

It was noted that Brian will commute each day to the training. Resolution.

## 5. Discussion – Auctions International Sales Update. (JAF)

John Finch reported that the first items auctioned brought in \$15,377. The second auction just closed yesterday and that brought in an additional \$25,600, for a total of about \$40,800. He said we were able to clean up a lot of our equipment that was not needed. There were two tractors sold for \$12,000 and we bought a new one for \$11,100 so we basically upgraded and made \$900.

## 6. Discussion – Trailer Prices. (JAF)

John Finch said we currently have two trailers at the highway department. One is a light duty trailer for the parks department to use for moving mowers and another tilt bed trailer used to haul the loader and mini excavator. A few times this year we have needed more than one piece of equipment at the same location so John would like to purchase a 20' trailer with a tilt bed. He said with the excavator we could put the bucket on and also have the milling head on and wouldn't have to unload and load. He got two quotes, \$5,500 and \$5,575. He said he doesn't need a larger trailer because of the weight and the tilt feature. He said we would be able to use both trailers at the same time instead of dropping a machine off and having to come back for additional equipment. He said the trailer can haul 14,000 pounds. Resolution.

## 7. Discussion – City Line Booster Station Update. (JAF)

John Finch explained that W2O checked the two pumps and found that the motors and casings are bad. According to W2O by the time we replace the motor and casings it would be just as cheap to buy a new mobile unit that will drop right in. He said money was set aside to do this and it was approved by permissive referendum, but since then the price has increased by about \$3,300, so we will have to go through the process of another permissive referendum for the additional amount. Mr. Blaise said that is the case if we are taking the additional money out of the capital reserve but if we take it from somewhere else the permissive referendum is not required. John said the cost of the new pump is \$29,985, which includes the additional \$3,325. It was noted this is for one pump only. John said we will budget in the future to fix the other pump. He said everything else has been done, removal of pumps, painting, lead abatement, electric, etc. Councilman Diffendorf questioned why the money couldn't be taken out of a budget line in water, such as equipment, and not go through the referendum process, which would add an additional 30 days to get this project completed. Jim Smith said we could look for an unused budget line for funds to use, possibly something in contingency. John said once the pump is ordered it will take six to eight weeks to get it.

John said Binghamton is still looking into the valve issue and if it doesn't work it will be up to them to replace it. Basically they haven't done anything yet. Supervisor Kniffen added that we don't anticipate any problems and Binghamton is not in a hurry to fix it since they will not be

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selling water to us. John said the valve has not been checked recently but it worked when it was last used. Supervisor said he thinks we would all feel more comfortable if they checked the valve and were going to take care of it after we have spent all of this money. Councilman Grubham said we don't know if the valve needs repairing. John said it likely will work.

## 8. Discussion – Well 3 Update. (JAF)

John Finch reported that well 3 is operational again. He said the old motor is sitting in the yard. The company that installed that 2 ½ to 3 years ago will check it out to see what happened to it. He told them we need to find out what happened and why it happened and they will have to do something about it and he feels there should be some sort of reimbursement. It was out of warranty but he thinks it may have been a problem with the installation, not necessarily the pump itself. If they say there is nothing they can do John said we may have to proceed with legal action. There is nothing the insurance company can do. The old pump is not usable. John said well 3 is the one we use at night to fill the tanks. It cost \$33,000 to get a new pump installed. This was emergency work at overtime costs. He said he thinks the original pump cost about \$17,000.

## 9. Discussion – Woodhill Court Drainage Update. (JAF)

Councilman Grubham said he went up there in three heavy rains and once it drained off there was just a little puddle left in the corner of the parking lot. He is not interested in putting any money into this. John Finch will get back to the lady that contacted him with the water issue.

## 10. Discussion – Options for Public Works Department:

1. Ability for employees to buy back one (1) week of vacation time and ability to roll over one (1) week of vacation time.
2. Hire a full time employee for the Public Works department year round.
3. Hire two (2) additional 90 day employees (April – June and July – September)

John Finch said he has been trying to come up with a way to get more help for the highway department, that they always seem to be short-handed whether someone is out or they need to get more things done than they have guys available. He has been out doing some of the work, like getting mowing done with the new mower and trying to check on everything else that has to be done. When they have someone call in sick and another guy is out on vacation that leaves him with four guys in the highway department and we can't do any kind of road work such as ditching or culverts because we need flaggers, two trucks and an operator. He said it really limits him on how much work gets done. He is trying to do as much as he can and it feels like he keeps trying to go forward but he keeps getting pushed back with the lack of manpower. He is proposing three options as listed above. In regard to item 1, John said the employees currently get a chance to roll over one week of vacation but he would like the Board to consider letting them buy a week back so he can utilize that person for one extra week, which is five

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extra days of work. The second option would be to hire a full time employee. He said about 18 or 19 years ago between part-time and full-time people, there were 11 or 12 guys there in the summer. He said obviously if he hires another person it would be the most expensive option. The third option would be to hire two 90-day employees. One employee would work April through June and the other July through September. Per County regulations, John said we can only hire a part-time person for three months. He said typically for those types of jobs we are probably looking at retirees. He can definitely use any manpower by using them to flag, paint, patch holes, etc. John added that when his father was here, he had two guys that worked non-stop patching holes all summer long. It was their only job. He does not have the manpower to do that now and one person would be a big help. He said option 3 would cost about \$12,300. Councilman Grubham questioned if the employees were receptive to buying back a week of vacation. John said they are. Councilman Grubham said that means we would be paying twice for that work and he is not interested in that. Councilman Diffendorf said we are paying whether they work or not. Supervisor Kniffen said number 3 would be the easiest and least expensive with John adding that it would be very beneficial. Councilman Grubham said he is not interested in hiring another full time person. Mr. Blaise questioned if this has been cleared through the County and John responded that he will do that after the Board tells him it is an option. If the Board wants to do this next year Mr. Blaise said a resolution would be needed authorizing it after it is cleared with Broome County. He doesn't see a problem as long as John is sticking with their part time regulations. Councilwoman Yonchuk questioned if someone is hired for 90 days part time if can they be hired again for the second 90 days. Mr. Blaise said he doesn't think so, since the County says we have to put someone else in. Councilman Grubham said the problem with the 90 days is after that someone can apply for unemployment insurance.

In regard to vacation time, Councilwoman Yonchuk questioned if John has a system where employees bid for their vacation time so as not to get into a situation where there are five guys out with the same week of vacation. John said he avoids that and it helps that he shuts down the department the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Kniffen said we should make sure this is in next year's budget.

### 11. Discussion – Create Equipment Mechanic Position – Hire from within – Transfer a current MEO to Equipment Mechanic. (JAF)

John Finch said he is looking to add a new position of Equipment Mechanic in the highway department. His plan is to hire from within. He said we have never had an Equipment Mechanic and there is one person he has in mind. He is requesting an increase of \$1.00 an hour for that individual if this is adopted. John said this gentleman is an upstanding worker, he knows what has to be done and saves the town thousands and thousands of dollars fixing equipment. John said this person works hard all the time and John thinks he deserves to be an Equipment Mechanic with a pay increase. He said if the town were to lose him we would be in a world of trouble. John will get authorization from Broome County if this goes through, adding there is money in the budget. Councilman Grubham clarified that we want to pay him an additional \$1.00 an hour because he's saving us money on repairs. John said both this

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individual and Bill Tozer are excellent mechanics. He said they do all the brake jobs, change oil pans, and rebuild engines and transmissions. Councilman Grubham said all the vouchers he sees have a breakdown for labor and it would be good if John pulled some of them to use for information as to what we have been spending for repairs. John said the minimum labor rate is \$90 an hour. Resolution.

## 12. Discussion – Raise for Bill Tozer. (JAF)

John Finch explained that Bill Tozer is his Deputy, is an excellent employee, he does everything he is asked to do and does a great job running the shop in John's absence. In referring to the list of DPW pay raises John provided, he said if Bill was not his Deputy he would only be making 17 cents an hour more than the two gentlemen that were just hired last year and Bill has been here for four years. He is requesting a \$1.00 an hour raise for Bill. This would bring his rate up to \$18.62 per hour. In regard to the Equipment Mechanic, John said he would be making \$17.45 per hour.

Councilman Weingartner questioned with hiring from within and by making an MEO an Equipment Mechanic if this would make them short-handed for anything else. John said they won't be short-handed because under the duties of the Equipment Mechanic they can also use him as an MEO since he already has his MEO Heavy license. Councilman Weingartner questioned if we won't be hamstrung by the terms of the labor agreement as far as giving people raises. Mr. Blaise said Bill is not part of the union since he is the Deputy. John said there is no set rate for the Equipment Mechanic and he has already discussed this with the union and they are fine with whatever amount we come up with. Mr. Blaise said we would do the modifications by putting an MOU in place. Resolution.

## 13. Discussion – Purchase of a new 2017 Volvo truck. (JAF)

John Finch provided a copy of information as to the amount of money remaining in the equipment budget and the equipment reserve budget. He explained that Burr Truck in Vestal has a new 2017 Volvo truck which was ordered in hopes that the town was going to purchase it under the last bid award, but someone else came in as the low bidder. Burr is basically kind of stuck with the truck. In his 5-year plan, John said he was looking to purchase a new single axel truck in 2020. He is not sure how much the truck would cost then, but it will be more. In December of 2015 Burr submitted a bid of \$184,000 for the Volvo truck and they are now willing to sell it to the town for \$174,340, which is a savings of \$10,000. He noted that price is actually lower than the low bidder for the truck they did get. He looked at the budget and talked with Jim Smith to be sure they have the money. Since there is money in the equipment budget and reserve to pay for it, he thinks for the price it costs now compared to the cost in 2020, they would be ahead of the game and save quite a bit of money on the truck. He said by getting it now we could replace a 1999 truck that is in our fleet now and is one of our primary vehicles when it's 19 years old instead of 21 years old. He said he doesn't like to keep them longer than 11 or 12 years so this one is definitely pushing it. He said if we were to do this our other two 10 wheelers, a 2007 and a 2008, which are the biggest trucks we have, by 2020 will be 12 and 13 years old and near the end of their useful life. If we do this now we can start

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saving our reserves in which we put aside \$60,000 a year. This will give us a jump on purchasing another truck and if we do it now we won't have to worry about bonding or getting a loan to pay it back. John said this is under NJPA pricing, which the town is a member of, so they wouldn't have to go out to bid. Councilman Diffendorf said he wants to go to bid, adding that he doesn't even know if we need this truck. We have a loader to pay for. He said he does not want to use NJPA on a big item like this. Councilwoman Yonchuk said, given what has been presented, she thinks it makes sense to do it now if we know the money is there and there's a plan to pay for it. Jim Smith said there are reserves that would be building up and if we didn't do it the money would stay there until 2020 but the price at that time would presumably be higher. In the plan for 2020, John said he thinks he estimated the cost at \$200,000. He noted that the price for the new truck includes the plows and is set up ready to go and can be driven off the lot the way it is. Supervisor Kniffen questioned if the savings could be up to \$30,000 and John said it could be, depending on the yearly increase. Councilwoman Yonchuk said this shouldn't have happened that we be put in this spot. Councilman Diffendorf said we are not liable for their mistake. John added the town has 4 big trucks for plowing and a spare. The spare is in the garage now because the dump box needs major work since it is rotted. This is work we can't do here, it would have to be sent out. He said the whole floor has to be done. He said Windsor is still interested in truck 33, the 1 ton, and may also be interested in the spare truck. Based on the work that needs to be done now, he told them he would sell both trucks to them for \$29,000. We would have that amount and wouldn't have to spend at least \$3,000 to \$4,000 on the backup truck so that it will be reliable to put on the road. The more we can get for that one the better. He added that the 1999 truck is still in good shape. Supervisor Kniffen said we bought the International in place of the Volvo and the plan was we wouldn't need another one for three more years and now the request is to expedite that and have an extra truck so he questioned if there is someone to man it. John said the 1999 Volvo in the fleet now would be a spare, noting that they always need one, and the new truck would take its place. Councilman Weingartner questioned if John couldn't go back to Burr and say it's been on the lot and costing a lot of money and ask if they could get the truck for \$172,000. John said he is still working on that. Supervisor Kniffen said if they go to bid it might be even less. Councilman Weingartner said that John presented this pretty well and he kind of feels the same way as John, that it's something we pay for now and it will save us in the long run. He still thinks John should try to get it for less since it's been sitting on the lot. Councilman Grubham said he would like to wait, questioning if it has to be decided at this meeting. He added that he would like to take the time to review the numbers. John added this truck was ordered in 2015, built in 2016 and it was titled in 2017. Councilman Diffendorf questioned if the surplus could be used for the loader we bought. Jim Smith said it could be, adding that it was scheduled to come out of the equipment budget for three years. John said he does not have anything to pay for out of the reserves or out of the equipment budget for the next three years. Hold for next meeting.

14. Discussion – Road Rehabilitation Bonding/Grant Update. (JAF)

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John Finch reported we have received the grant application and have been told we will be getting the \$400,000. The process to get the grant money has started and we hope to get it as soon as possible.

## 15. Discussion – Electronic Sign Board. (LJY/JAF)

Councilwoman Yonchuk said she and John Finch have been working on this. For next year's budget she proposed replacing the current sign board across the street with an electronic sign board. Information and quotes were received from Robbins Signs (Kelly). A traffic study was done in terms of how many vehicles pass the sign, including the demographics of the people that pass by as well. Pictures of two sign boards were provided as it would basically look in Kirkwood. She said there are more and more municipalities and school districts going to this type of sign because information can be changed, recycled and multiple messages can be up at the same time. She noted how it could be beneficial for the town's Hometown Christmas celebration. It includes graphics and videos such as flags, Christmas and other holiday graphics. An unlimited number of messages can be displayed at once. The sign is computerized and uses a WiFi signal with a straight line of sight and can be programmed from inside the building. John said it actually can be programmed from anywhere, it has its own broadband. The price quoted for the standard message board is \$16,250 and \$22,250 for full color. This is very versatile and it's easy to change messages regardless of the weather. Councilwoman Yonchuk said she feels it would be a good promotion of Kirkwood. Possibly standard school info could be posted such as graduations and voting. There are a number of events for the town that can be posted such as Grievance Day and the senior picnic. John added that currently there are conflicts because only one thing can be put up at a time and it involves manpower hours to update the current sign. Councilman Grubham said there is \$15,000 in the sign reserve fund and every year they add to it. Supervisor Kniffen said the reserve fund was set up for the maintenance of the Welcome to Kirkwood signs. In comparison to the location of some other municipal signs, Councilwoman Yonchuk said given the location of this sign she feels the majority of people passing by are Kirkwood residents and/or people that use Kirkwood facilities and attend Kirkwood events. A question was raised if this would be a safety issue since people passing by would be looking at the sign. Mr. Blaise said there are flashing signs like this on Front Street and other areas and he is not aware of an issue. Councilman Diffendorf questioned if this is the best location for the sign. Councilwoman Yonchuk said she thinks that location has the best exposure because of the highways here and geographically Kirkwood is spread out, especially with the four school districts. Councilman Weingartner said he thinks it's a good spot because you have to stop there. Councilman Diffendorf said, speaking for himself, if he wasn't on the Town Board he would never be going through that intersection. He said lots of people never come this way at all. Various location options were discussed. All Board members voiced their approval for going forward with the purchase of a new sign, with positive comments about the colored sign. John said the price includes installation. This will be for the next budget year so funding will have to be determined. It was mentioned that possibly a portion of it could be taken from the sign reserve

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fund. Mr. Blaise noted that a permissive referendum would be required for any funds taken from the sign reserve fund.

16. Discussion – New legislation for volunteer firefighter cancer benefits.  
(ONB)

Mr. Blaise explained that the State recently passed a law providing additional benefits to volunteer firefighters. Under the Volunteer Firefighters Benefits Law (VFBL) basically the workers comp coverage is there for all firefighters. If volunteer firefighters can demonstrate that he or she developed cancer as a result of his or her fire service this legislation provides additional benefits when an eligible individual developed cancer as a result of their fire service. Mr. Blaise noted that the NYS Association of Towns put out a statement against the proposed legislation saying that what they have already in terms of their VFBL coverage is sufficient and they saw it as another unfunded mandate by the State. He said this legislation makes it easier to prove that the cancer was contracted in the line of duty and if it was they are going to get coverage for it. Mr. Blaise said he thinks this legislation is a result of 911, after which there were a lot of first responders that got ill and had a difficult time proving their claim. He said he does not know what impact this will have on Kirkwood or towns in general, but it's something the town pays for through their insurance. Councilwoman Yonchuk said she wouldn't want to take anything away from any volunteer firefighters, but 911 was such a unique situation and many people responded from all over the state and were exposed to all of that, but in a small town like Kirkwood she would really have a hard time imagining that a volunteer firefighter would develop cancer as a result of fighting fires, adding that 911 happened 15 years ago. Mr. Blaise said this opens up a potential avenue for claims. Supervisor Kniffen said we appreciate firefighters and are always thinking about what we can do for them, noting that they do a good job on their budget every year, they make sacrifices and really care about Kirkwood and they don't receive any pay for it. Mr. Blaise said if they take anything of value for their service they are no longer volunteers and that wipes out their volunteer firefighter benefits. Supervisor Kniffen questioned how we could get around the volunteer aspect of their service if we wanted to do something. Councilman Diffendorf questioned if a tax exemption at the local level was an option. It was noted there is a state tax exemption for volunteer firefighters. Mr. Blaise said there are things already built into the law for volunteer firefighters but he will look into it further.

17. Discussion – Call in time for employees other than the Teamsters Union employees. (GEK)

Supervisor Kniffen explained this involves non-union employees. He said when employees in the water and sewer department get called in for an emergency, they get a minimum of two hours overtime. He noted this is not in writing, it has just been handed down from generation to generation and needs to be documented. He said if we're going to do that, we're discriminating against our other employees. He used the example of having to call his secretary Mary Kay in on her day off, that she should get two hours. Councilwoman Yonchuk

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said she understands what Supervisor Kniffen is saying, but when we are talking about a public works employee, water and sewer and even parks, those employees being called out in an emergency situation such as a flood, storm, accident, etc. is foreseeable but how often really are we talking about our non-union employees in other departments. She said that's highly unlikely. Supervisor Kniffen said that is true but there should be something in place to compensate them if it does happen. Councilman Diffendorf said he agrees that if someone takes the time to leave their home and comes in to work they should be compensated. He questioned what would trigger Mary Kay having to come in to work. Supervisor Kniffen said he has no specific reason, but if it should happen she should be compensated. Supervisor Kniffen said this will be documented.

18. Transfer of Funds.  
Resolution.

19. Audit of Claims.  
Resolution.

20. Conklin Summer Program.

Supervisor Kniffen said he was contacted about the summer program that Conklin currently runs, that used to be in Kirkwood, but now Kirkwood has basically merged with them. He was told they have a lot of kids from Kirkwood attending, adding that a free lunch is provided and the program is very successful. It costs Conklin \$9,000 to run the program of which Conklin pays \$2,000, businesses contribute \$2,500 and they received a grant for \$4,500. They are not asking Kirkwood for anything, only letting us know how successful the program is. He said maybe we would like to put something in the budget for next year. It is not known how many kids from Kirkwood are attending. Councilman Grubham explained they had the program at Bell School and two years ago Bell School wouldn't let them use the facility because they were remodeling. At that time there were Conklin kids in the program. Conklin started their own program and that year there was only one kid from Kirkwood so something must have changed to get Kirkwood kids to go over there. Windsor has a program as well and they have bus pick-up for Kirkwood kids that are in that school district and that is a big part of Kirkwood. Councilwoman Yonchuk said they should look at the numbers but she would think most of the Kirkwood kids going to the Conklin program are SV kids. Councilman Weingartner said the program was so strong many years ago because it was held at Cedarhurst and the kids were from all of Kirkwood. He thinks the way we should deal with it is pay for a counselor, the same way Conklin dealt with it by paying for one.

21. Bridge Street Intersection With Crossover Road.

Councilman Grubham noted that when Jason Garner's representative attended a Board meeting earlier in the year he mentioned to the representative a concern about the intersection of Bridge Street and the crossover road, about cleaning the brush and trees out that had grown up and putting in a flashing yellow light once the Dick's building in Conklin opens. He noted that

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they did clean out the brush and trees but a lot of it has grown back. He still wants to pursue the flashing light to make people realize there is an intersection there. He said a lot of people are concerned about this because when cars come down the bridge they are going like hell. Councilman Grubham said there is a concern about the traffic on Main Street when Dick's opens as well because a lot of people will use that as a short cut and they will be flying down the road. He said they do it now and it will only get worse.

## **22. Signage for Willow Run.**

Councilman Grubham said there are still a lot of tractor trailers driving past Willow Run, going down Route 11 and turning around in peoples' driveways and yards, noting that it just happened recently at the dentist's office. He said the sign we put up a number of years ago is so small people can't hardly see it. Although he knows it would be out of our pocket and Willow Run should do it, he is questioning if we shouldn't figure out how to put up a bigger sign for the rest of the people in Kirkwood. Although there may be restrictions and it is not the town's responsibility, Councilman Grubham thinks we should do something.

## **23. Garbage Service.**

Supervisor Kniffen said the town does the roads, has parks, we care about our youth and seniors, we have a town fair, there is a beautification committee, etc. and we don't have a police department. He said he has been thinking about what else we can do for our people. In regard to garbage pickup, he said we are a big enough town that possibly we could put it out to bid for all the residents and businesses where the low bidder would pick up everyone's garbage. Mr. Blaise said this would be creating a garbage district, adding that they just dissolved a garbage district in the Town of Dickinson. He said the cost of the contract was counted against the tax cap and although the price went down for a while at the time there were 3 bidders, it came to the point where there were only two companies bidding and the price started creeping up and got to the point where it was blowing out the tax cap. He explained that he put the bid packet together and the price was anywhere from the lower end of \$180,000 to about \$190,000 and there were three companies bidding. Then one of the companies bought out the other so then there were only two bidders and it went to the upper end of \$180,000, to \$230,000 and then the winning bid went up to \$250,000. Supervisor Kniffen said we would make our residents aware of what we were doing and trying to get them a better price and advertise it. Mr. Blaise said the town would be hiring someone to service the garbage district and the cost would be spread out among every property in the district. Councilman Diffendorf said the savings would be in the sales tax, since they wouldn't have to pay that anymore. He said people are paying over \$20 a year in sales tax.

## **24. Upper Court Street Manhole.**

Councilman Diffendorf questioned work that was done on a manhole on Upper Court Street. John Finch said there is a catch basin near the first business on the right on Barlow Road – across from Kutz's old place. The catch basin has been in disrepair for about five years and it was all washed out and fallen in. There used to be an old cinder block one that had fallen apart. He said it was supposed to be fixed a number of years ago and Chad, the Code Officer, asked

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him if he could get to fixing it because he is trying to get the businesses to fix up their properties and they keep asking about the catch basin that has been in this condition for five years. He said he got bids from three contractors and Brian was the low bidder. He put in a new concrete catch basin and did a lot of work getting it back together. John said he hasn't had the time to get his guys in there to take care of it. John said this is a Court Street address but is actually on Barlow Road. This is a drop-in for storm water.