

Vollmer Protests Heard by Trustees

It was standing room only for more than 75 people at Monday night's Olympia Fields board meeting. By 7:15 p.m. the 100 chairs in the village hall were filled with early arrivals anxious to protest the board's resolution to co-operate with Cook county in the widening of Vollmer road to a four-lane highway from Kedzie avenue to Halsted street.

The turnout had been organized by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanford and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Harris who contended that the widening and the raising of the Vollmer viaduct to more than 14 feet would encourage trucks to "roll from Halsted street to I-57 24 hours a day creating appalling noise and air pollution." Petitions containing more than 200 names of Olympia Fields and Flossmoor residents opposed to the project were presented to trustees in addition to other petitions presented previously. Several letters had also been sent to the board by Graymoor home owners condemning the widening on environmental, social and economic grounds.

SEVERAL speakers backed

their opinions with arguments evidently based on research. Others took shots at the board's integrity in passing the resolution. The crowd's aim was action by the board to rescind its supportive resolution.

Charles Licht questioned the board's consideration of environmental effects comparing pollution caused by cars and trucks. According to Licht, gasoline driven trucks put out 133.9 units of carbon monoxide per gas mile versus 4.5 per car. Noise levels of truck tires often run in excess of 110 decibals compared to 90 decibals created by car, he said.

Dr. David Beiser, a pilot, backed Licht, stating that airplane noise rarely goes beyond 95 decibals which can impair hearing. He claimed that the personality of the truck driver has changed for the worse, making truck traffic life threatening. He and others suggested that if the road has to

be widened its access should be limited to cars.

Other speakers reiterated these concerns, adding the worry about the safety of school children crossing the road and the depreciation of residential property values. Mrs. Harris reminded the board that they were elected to carry out the wishes of the residents and not their own.

HOWARD Gross charged that President Edmund Burke and Trustee Richard Small should not have voted on the resolution because they own land in Olympia Fields to which Burke snapped, "Everyone here does."

Theodore Kadievitch, chairman of the new Community Protection association contended that the board should have given more consideration to pedestrian traffic needs and other matters before passing the resolution. He discounted the traffic count made by the county and condemned it for inadequate planning.

"We're an angry group of people," Mrs. Harris said. "And we're making an impassioned plea to you to reconsider supporting the

county."

Alternatives given for the use of the money to widen Vollmer road were: traffic lights at Kedzie avenue, Western avenue and Dixie highway and bicycle and foot paths along Western avenue and Vollmer road.

SEVERAL present and past members serving on village boards spoke up against the resolution. Joseph Ettinger quoted the comprehensive zoning ordinance as obligating the board by law to prevent undue traffic congestion. Joseph Mohr said that the widening of Vollmer road cannot enhance the revenues of the village—only truckers and manufacturers of Chicago Heights.

Edward Dionne said that the widening might lead to the merging of the Flossmoor and Olympia Fields Illinois Central Gulf railroad commuter station

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Members of the clergy of the Greek Orthodox church break ground for the new sanctuary at Assumption church in Olympia Fields. Taking part in dedication ceremonies last Sunday were (from left) the Rev. Constantine Evagoras of Merrillville, Ind.; the Rev. Nicholas Katinas of Assumption, and Archbishop Ezekial, bishop of the Midwest.

CANDLES to Meet Nov. 18

CANDLES, an organization of parents of nursery school children, will hold its fourth meeting on November 18 at 8 p.m. The subject will be a comparison of reconciliation

concepts of both religions.

Rabbi Chaim Rozwaski of the Etz Chaim congregation will talk about reconciliation and atonement in Judaism and the Rev. Richard Hills of Infant Jesus of Prague will talk about the sacrament of reconciliation.

CANDLES membership is open and voluntary donations may be made at the meeting.

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Workshop Slated

A Hanukkah workshop by Olympia Fields Village Sholom's nursery school will be held on November 13 at 7:30 p.m. It will be presented by Mrs. Marvel Ginzburg, director of the school's religious classes of the temple's religious school.

The workshop is open to parents of nursery school students and to parents of children enrolled in the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes of the temple's religious school. They will be given an opportunity to participate in making Hanukkah decorations and crafts during the workshop.

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to Vollmer road, and Olympia Fields would lose the advantage of having a train station commuters could walk to. Mrs. Beverly Goldberg pointed out that citizen protest does work.

"It stopped the interchange from being placed at 183rd street," she said, "and prevented an east-west corridor through Thorn Creek woods. Two housewives changed the location of the freeway."

Trustees gave their reasons for voting for or against the resolution. Trustee Kenneth Potter said that in a meeting between the board and Graymoor residents, John Randall was vocal about wanting the widening and he thought Dr. Norman Brill was for it. He also said that the increased population (usually board meetings are unattended) and said he passed on the original resolution because he was uncertain about the wishes of Graymoor residents. He would now vote for the widening up to Western avenue from I-57 taking long-term future growth into consideration.

"IN THE next 10 years our population will increase by at least 1,000 people in a planned unit development alone. They will require roads," he said.

Trustee Richard Small who had been accused of self-interest because he owns a Cheker Oil station on Vollmer road was taken aback by the accusation.

"Vollmer road was always a east-west thoroughfare for Chicago Heights," he pointed out. "The I-57 interchange brought the present need for the widening about. The road is now unsafe due to the increased traffic which won't diminish. It will be completed in 1985, and we'll need it by then."

He noted that a 16-foot median for sheltered turns into Graymoor and Flossmoor, as a safety device, is included in the plans. He also noted that the widening had been planned for 25 years, and Graymoor's right-of-way had been laid out to prepare for it.

TRUSTEE Ernest Schanzlin said that the mistake was made when the interchange was put on Vollmer road, and he wants

to avoid the chaos which traffic has created on Route 30.

"We have to look forward," he said.

Two speakers pointed out that the board should not have to defend itself because there is no single point of view. They were followed by other speakers who insisted that there was no reason to rush a resolution of approval. Dr. Arthur Sagerman discounted studies showing a need to widen the road, comparing it with studies made for the necessity of a third airport in Chicago which contradicted each other.

The outcome of the meeting is another meeting—this time between the board and a committee representing those who oppose the widening. The board, at the urging of the group, agreed to notify the county that it is in the process of gathering additional information about the necessity for the improvement.

The board made it clear, however, that these actions do not bind it to rescinding the resolution.