

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: State of the Village Address – President Carolyn Milkie

BACKGROUND:

In our ongoing pursuit to maximize public communication Village President Carolyn Milkie has determined that she would like to deliver an annual State of the Village Address. President Milkie's remarks are designed to provide an overview of the Municipalities' current state of operations in light of a historical perspective as well as a vision for the future. All Trustees were given the opportunity to contribute their thoughts for incorporation into the address.

The transcript shall be released to the media to encourage coverage of her remarks.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None


OTHER OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:

None – This address is the President's prerogative.

RECOMMENDATION:

Enjoy the show.

**PREPARED AND
REVIEWED BY:**


Michael Andreasen
Village Administrator

Date 1-23-08

For immediate release

At the January 28th Mount Pleasant Village Board Meeting Village President Carolyn Milkie intends to deliver her annual state of the Village address. President Milkie's remarks are designed to provide an overview of the Municipalities' current state of operations in light of a historical perspective as well as a vision for the future. The written transcript of her remarks is attached for reference.

The Village of Mount Pleasant which was Incorporated in September of 2003 encompasses 34 square miles bordering the City of Racine and Interstate 94 in Racine County. The Village of Mount Pleasant is recognized as one of the fastest growing communities in the State of Wisconsin with a population of over 25,000 people.

For further information please contact Village President Carolyn Milkie at 262-947-9326.

State of the Village 2008 Mount Pleasant Wisconsin

The history of the Village of Mount Pleasant is rich and diverse. Our beginnings can be traced back to April 5th, 1842, when a small group of citizens decided to form a government that became known as the Town of Mount Pleasant. In 1972, the Town adopted its own Zoning ordinance. This was a visionary step to guide the Town into the challenging waters of land development.

Beginning in Calendar 2002 the Town of Mount Pleasant took steps to guarantee the delivery of sanitary sewer and Municipal water out to the inter-state for future development by executing agreements with Racine's water and wastewater utilities.

Most importantly in our history on September 16th, 2003 the "Village" of Mount Pleasant was born. With Village powers the municipality could protect its borders from annexation as well as participate in Tax incremental financing to aid in directed controlled development. Our history is rich with bold progressive steps all designed to make the Village of Mount Pleasant a better place to live.

Today The Village of Mount Pleasant is a dynamic, progressive, growing Community. Over 25,000 people call our Village home. Mount Pleasant encompasses 34 square miles, bordering the city of Racine and interstate 94. With an assessed valuation in excess of 2.6 billion dollars the Village of Mount Pleasant is aggressively poised to move into the dynamic growth opportunities of the future.

In 2005, The Village of Mount Pleasant engaged the Lakota Group to further refine our 2030 master plan to provide a clear planned developmental footprint on over 8000 acres of land adjacent to I-94. Shortly thereafter the Village partnered with Racine County Economic Development Corporation to launch a marketing strategy designed to reach out to developmental partners across the country.

In September 2006 Tax incremental district # 1 was established, creating a 488 acre mixed use developmental area along State HWY 20 and I 94. This

area of prime real-estate has municipal water and sewer as well as transportation at its doorstep.

One year later in September 2007 TID #2 was established, creating an 1100 acre mixed use development designed to *redevelop* existing commercial and industrial land located across the heart of the Village of Mount Pleasant.

To date these Tax Increment Districts have produced two separate developers' agreements guaranteeing over 37 million dollars of new commercial development as well as the potential of 250 new jobs, and this is only the beginning. There is continued interest in our area as the place to locate or relocate, bringing with it more job opportunities for our area.

The Village of Mount Pleasant is truly a transitional Community. As we move forward into the future we will have the challenge of providing municipal services to a Community that is growing at an unprecedented rate. The Village board is committed to serve the public with effective, efficient policies and procedures.

Four years ago The Village Board anticipated the need to provide adequate police services as the Village grows. The Board being proactive instead of reactive is in the fourth year of a five year program to add three officers to our police force every year for a total of 15 new Police Officers.

In 2006 the Village of Mount Pleasant and the Village of Sturtevant put together a Joint Police and Fire Dispatch Center. After years of failed attempts throughout the region to combine such services, the Villages of Mount Pleasant and Sturtevant had the foresight to make this cooperative effort a reality. Fueled by the success of our Joint Dispatch Center, the two Communities are exploring Joint Fire and EMS services for the future.

The Village of Mount Pleasant is in the forefront of advocating inter-governmental agreements to enhance efficiency and service delivery to the public we serve.

In the future look we look to work at expansion of our joint dispatch efforts to neighboring communities, as well as completion of a shared sewer interceptor agreement with the Village of Caledonia.

Looking to the east we will undertake a feasibility study of adjusting municipal boundaries with the City of Racine. This activity was a condition

of Mount Pleasant's incorporation in 2003, where the Village had to agree to this feasibility study with the City of Racine for the city to not object to our incorporation. This feasibility study does not mandate a change in boundaries'. The boundary study is in the very early stages and will have a great deal of public input, and may result in no boundary adjustments whatsoever. We shall also open the door to discuss the possibility of shared municipal services with the City of Racine.

The Village Board believes in inter-governmental cooperation as a means of holding the line on Taxes as well as providing better service delivery to all residents in the region. These changes however don't come easy, as many people resist change. Our Village Board is committed to the exploration of this change to leave no stone unturned to improve the delivery and efficiency of services to our residents. We need to all recognize that as the region changes we need to adjust to change in a positive manner.

In the public works arena, our major projects shall include the reconstruction of Stuart Road, the Lathrop Avenue Bridge and shall continue with the repaving program of existing roads.

In light of all the developmental growth in our Community, we have not lost sight of the need to nurture our environment. The Mount Pleasant Storm Water Utility District is currently conducting a multi-year, multi-phase project with respect to floodplain improvements and flood controls for the Pike River within the District limits. The project involves roughly 5.7 miles of the Pike River within a 17 square mile drainage basin. In addition to flood controls, the project will restore natural stream features, enhance river habitat, improve water quality, correct existing and potential erosion issues and halt, even reverse, the progressive deterioration of the stream. The Village will continue its work on finalizing a workable storm water ordinance and coordinate its efforts with FEMA to insure access to Federal flood insurance programs to address the diverse topographical landscape present in the Village.

For Parks and Recreation in 2008, we will see the addition of about another mile of the Pike River Pathway south of STH 20. In conjunction with the Village Storm Water Utility and their Pike River reconstruction project, the Pike River Pathway will be continued south to the Racine County Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail.

In 2007 the Village purchased 90 acres of land centrally located and adjacent to Smolenski Park. This assemblage of acreage will someday be home to the new Village Municipal campus located on about 20 acres of this parcel. Most importantly, this acquisition, along with Smolenski Park, will provide over 140 acres of public parkland current and future generations to enjoy. This land acquisition was not without its critics, but I firmly believe that our children's children will thank us for preserving this amount of open space before all the available land in our Village is consumed by private development.

In addition, our Facilities Committee will continue their work to design a new Municipal building for the future; we envision a municipal campus that is sustainable for 50 years and provide a public meeting space for Village residents to utilize.

Again, change does not come easy the planned Municipal campus move has had its critics. I believe our current location is no longer adequate to serve the needs of the Community. It is a dangerous point to dispatch public safety vehicles and has long outlived its useful life. This Village Board is committed to proactive change to benefit the entire community for succeeding generations.

The Village board is committed to public communication and input. In late 2007, the Village launched its own domain website for communication in our electronic world. Two years ago, the Village dedicated the time and resources to produce a quarterly newsletter to communicate information to the public. We are committed to maximizing our public communication by any practical means. The Village Board recognizes this need. Unfortunately, because we must operate in a climate of limited funding and staff, we cannot to do all we would like to do. We are also aware of the need to be fair and balanced in the dissemination of information to promote a true understanding of the issues before the Village.

Fiscally, this Village will continue to operate with the taxpayer in mind. The 2008 budget actually lowered the mill rate by 33 cents while maintaining our service level. Our budget process came in over one million dollars below state levy limits. This conservative budgeting is all accomplished while managing over 250 lane miles of roadway, serving over 25,000 persons with 2.6 billion dollars in property valuation. The Village of Mount Pleasant is

the second largest Village in the state of Wisconsin and growing every year.

In conclusion The Village of Mount Pleasant stands ready to aggressively face the challenges of our future. The Village Board has the diversity of thought and the dedication of purpose to address our issues in a holistic manner.

I pledge to you that we shall address all issues with the entire Village in mind.

I pledge to you that we shall continue to invite your input and consider different points of view.

I pledge to you that all of our deliberations will be in the best interest of the people we serve.

We are committed to making the Village of Mount Pleasant a Community we can all be proud of for generations to come.

Thank you