

Issue # 5 - Ryles Announces Key Focus on Residents Before Trees & Computers

When elected Mayor on April 9, 2013, I will immediately take the lead in investing in our emergency health services for residents and make them a priority over computer networks and trees.

During my first week on the job as your new Mayor, I will:

- Immediately stop all payments for computer system upgrades and trees until we have new, current technology, cardiac monitor - defibrillator units up and running in the mobile units of our fully trained First Responders.

- Take the lead in an immediate and comprehensive review of the tools and infrastructure that our First Responders, Fire, Police and Paramedic, currently need to ensure that no Park Ridge resident ever dies or suffers physically because our First Responders are not fully trained and equipped.

- Appoint a First Responders Task Force to work with both, Frank Kaminski, Chief of Police and Mike Zywnski, Fire Chief, to identify both critical and near-critical tools and infrastructure demands need to protect the lives of our Park Ridge residents.

I will ask that they complete their study and make their recommendations within 90 days.

Then I will lead the discussion with our Alderman to identify funding sources for these recommended improvement."

My future actions will be in direct contrast to Mayor Schmidt's current behavior during the recent City Council meetings in January 2013, where he lead the City council to make three fundamentally bad purchasing decisions that may harm the lives of our residents.

1) Vote "No" On \$76,657 for Defibrillator Units

For Our First Responders

Mayor Schmidt supported the vote to defer a \$76,657 investment in new cardiac monitor - defibrillator units for our First Responders.

In a memo to City Council on January 14, 2013, Fire Chief, Mike Zywanski wrote:

"Our current Zoll M-Series units are 8 plus years old, have been out of warranty for three years and are beginning to experience increasing rates of downtime due to repairs. This critical piece of life-saving equipment is used daily to monitor heart rhythms, deliver life-saving counter shock to a patient's heart that has stopped beating properly and provide heart pace-making capability, monitor blood oxygen saturation levels and blood carbon levels."

Mayor Schmidt's former Campaign Treasurer, Alderman Dan Knight, offers his input according to the meeting minutes as follows:

"Alderman Knight pointed out that this item was initially intended to be funded by a grant. This is no longer the case. If voted favorably upon, it would not only not be funded by a grant, but also would come in over-budget. He wondered if this item could wait until the new fiscal year so it could be budgeted for appropriately."

Hmmm, what other citizen safety investments do Mayor Schmidt and his former Campaign Treasurer, Alderman Dan Knight want to put off until the beginning of the new fiscal year on May 1, 2013???

2) Vote "Yes" On \$89,872 For a Faster Computer Network

Mayor Schmidt supported the vote to invest \$89,872 in buying a new fiber-optic system for the city. Information

Technology Director Diane Nelson stated that an updated network is necessary to meet the city's growing technology needs.

"It's pretty critical at this point," she said. "We've gone well beyond the normal replacement cycle."

Hmmm, didn't Chief Zywanski just say his cardiac monitor - defibrillator units are three years out of warranty???

3) Vote "Yes" On \$50,000 on 2 Inch Trees

The Mayor supported the vote to invest \$50,000 in buying 137, 2-inch diameter trees. He stated:

“Everyone knows how I love to cut funding but not when it comes to trees,” he said. “Delaying reforestation even just a few months is a terrible idea.”

Hmmm, delaying a necessary investment in citizen safety is a much worse decision!

Summary:

“I am deeply concerned that Mayor Schmidt is supporting purchasing decisions in other, non-essential areas, while ignoring the need to equip our First Responders with new cardiac monitor - defibrillator units to replace ones that have been out of warranty for three years.

When elected Mayor, I want to assure the residents of Park Ridge that I understand the difference between a slow computer on an office desk or a newly planted 2 inch tree sapling and a resident's heart that cannot be restarted on the street because of a failed defibrillator unit.

I have worked with trees and forests my entire life and love them dearly!

However, every decision I make will be based on, “Is this the morally correct thing to do?”

When it comes to purchasing priorities with available funds, I will never put resident safety second to anything!!!