

Dale Sands, Candidate for Village of Deer Park Trustee

1. Why are you running for office?

Answer: I have lived in Deer Park since 1993 and my family and I have greatly enjoyed living in this area. I am running for Deer Park Trustee to offer my 35 years of environmental engineering experience to the community to make sure the future of the Village is as positive and productive as its' past. I believe public service is both a responsibility as well as an opportunity to serve the community.

2. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

Answer: I have a fundamental desire to serve the community in order for the Village of Deer Park to be an attractive area for people to live and raise families. From an academic perspective, I have earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Central Michigan University, a M.S. in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of Michigan, and a M.B.A. in Management Science from California State University at Hayward. In my professional work, I have served in many executive leadership positions including President of a global environmental engineering firm. I am currently Senior Vice President and Director of Practices for AECOM Inc., a global engineering firm with 43,000 employees with offices in more than 100 countries. My wife and I have always believed in community service and we have held international leadership roles in Marriage Encounter, we serve on the Operating Board for a Marriage Preparation Program called "Discovery", a program of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and I have served in various leadership roles for St. Mark's Episcopal Church. I have coached youth programs for soccer, basketball and baseball in Barrington. I have also worked with other volunteer organizations and international corporations, and know how to bring people together of different perspectives to create 'win-win' solutions and I look forward to applying my academic training and experiences to make Deer Park Village a place that is attractive to families and retirees in the Chicago area.

3. If necessary, what services or programs are you willing to cut in order to have a balanced budget?

Answer: I do believe it is absolutely critical that the Village of Deer Park operate in a fiscal responsible manner. We must bring expenditures in line with receipts as soon as possible and I pledge to make the tough decisions in the year ahead to achieve better fiscal management practices. Funding priorities must be focused on public safety and much needed infrastructure improvements. For the past several years, the Village has operated in a deficit position, using the financial surplus that was established over many years. This deficit spending habit has come during a time of unprecedented commercial growth in the Village – at a time when we should have been building financial resources rather than draining reserves established in previous years. Moving forward, I will work to establish better fiscal and operating management processes to live within our financial resources. The Village of Deer Park financial resources are at an all time low today. This happens at a time now when we face difficult economic times as a community and as a country. The Village of Deer Park has

deferred or delayed infrastructure improvements in favor of paying for the reconstruction of the Vehe Barn at a cost of \$4M. The Vehe Barn started as a \$1M project in 2004 shortly after the current President took office.

4. What is your position on the Rt. 53 Extension? Please explain why you support or do not support this project.

Answer: Traffic in the area has continued to put pressure on many major arteries and highways. The fine commercial growth in the Village of Deer Park on Rand Road has created significant traffic congestion. The Illinois Department of Transportation must review all options to alleviate congestion on Rand Road, and surrounding roads, to alleviate this congestion. The options to be considered must include evaluating the extension of route 53 as well as developing other alternatives such as adding traffic lanes on existing roads.

5. What single business issue do you feel will be the most important to address if you are elected?

Answer: I believe it is critically important that the Village of Deer Park operate in a fiscally responsible way, matching expenditures to receipts while making much needed infrastructure investments in roads that serve the community. Our biggest single business challenge may be adjusting our spend rate at a time of declining sales tax revenues as a result of the severe economic down turn. In the last several years, the Village has gotten accustomed to spending without regard to limitations and this must change quickly.

6. What are your plans to promote local business?

Answer: The Village of Deer Park has attracted many excellent stores and entertainment facilities. We do need to expand awareness in the community and surrounding communities. We will do this both through advertising as well as promoting more summer festivals and sporting events that bring people and families to our community.

7. What are your plans to improve communications and cooperation between villages in order to reach agreement regarding future developments on bordering properties?

Answer: The Village of Deer Park must expand relationships with surrounding communities as we are linked together in one larger community. What happens in one community can directly affect a surrounding community. It is essential that we join forces to begin an ongoing dialogue to confront the economic challenges of today as well as preparing for unanticipated emergency situations that may occur tomorrow. This dialogue process must also include future commercial and residential development projects which will create more demand for infrastructure improvements. By working together as a team of concerned community leaders, we will make better decisions for all of our citizens.

8. What are your plans for future development in Deer Park, and what will you do to make it happen?

Answer: Deer Park has some remaining development space and options for this space must be carefully considered. We need to attract businesses that add to the quality of stores and commercial operations, extending the range of options available for the community. As a word of caution, given the significant growth of the past five years, we need to temper further expansion with infrastructure improvements so as to maintain our desired, countryside atmosphere in the community. We need to make sure that we are addressing the needs that this previous growth has caused before we move forward with additional growth. The lack of investment in roads has contributed to the traffic congestion.