

William Koutsis – Candidate for the Village of Deer Park Village Trustee

1. Why are you running for Village Trustee?

Because I think I have the skill set from my business experience as well as the understanding as to how to get things done working with a team of fellow Trustee's.

2. My Qualifications:

BS Metallurgical Engineering ('72) Illinois Institute of Technology;
MBA ('75) Loyola University of Chicago (Finance);
Past member of Board of Directors of 2 Manufacturing Companies;
Currently Member of Advisory Committee to Senior Management of 2 privately held companies;
Bank Director for a Denovo Bank in Lake County until sold (2004)
Village Plan Commissioner for the past 5 years;
President of William C. Koutsis, Inc. a Sales and Marketing Company since it's beginning in 1986.

Volunteer:

USO at O'Hare;
Barrington United Methodist Church Finance Commission for 15 years (not currently serving; still an active member of the Church.

3. Balanced Budget.

Currently our Village has about \$1million in cash reserves, and the Village will be debt free by 2010, so we are in very good financial condition with our 2009 budget. Our challenge is to be creative to find the funds to make necessary repairs to our roads and drainage. My goal would be to always have a balanced budget as well as keep the cash reserve at the current level. All of my actions and votes would be with this in mind.

4. Extending Rt. 53.

I will admit to knowing less about the extension than maybe I should since it does not impact directly my Village. But my basic reflective thoughts are that it is necessary to extend the highway, and that it should be a toll road. These are, admittedly, not views held with strong information input. I reserve the right to change my mind on this (both the extension as well as it being a toll road) based on my having a more complete understanding of all the issues. There are 2 viewpoints I have heard about expansions of roadways in general. One could be called, "if you build it, they will come", meaning that after creation, people will find utility. The other could be called the "water seeks its own level" implying that people will find alternative routes as long as alternatives are available. My concern is about the availability of the alternative routes. I definitely am not a "if you build it..." supporter. I need more data/information

5. Single business issue.

There will be very important discussions on how to pay for roads and drainage repairs. One candidate for President of the Village has stated for the record that he favors a 1% sales tax increase to raise the needed funds. He is not one of my opponents since he is running for a higher position, but I totally disagree with how quickly he came to that conclusion as well as what alternatives he considered before coming out for the sale tax increase.

6. Plan for vacant building and properties.

I can tell you from my time with the Plan Commission that we will not allow any building that is not in line with the vision for the rest of the newly built commercial and residential buildings. We have worked with these builders to match their plan to our community's expectations, in terms of materials, user friendliness, architecture, landscape plans, etc. We have not had any builder in the last 5 years pull back from a project because they thought we were unreasonable. The Town Center is the bar for all expectations for any new commercial developments, and so far builders have seen the value to them in keeping this image.

7. What do you plan to do in order to promote local business?

We are considering some projects along the lines of roads and energy efficiency that will support and encourage people spending their money in Deer Park. Keeping out of the way is as important as trying to help.

8. Communications.

We very much want to be a 'good neighbor'. Communicating is fundamentally important, and takes a lot of work and dedication to stay diligent on the topic. I am not aware of any future developments on bordering properties because at this time the only property left to develop in Deer Park is in Triangle.

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

I will fully support developing as soon as possible the remaining approximately 14 acres with anything that can continue to enhance the Town Center's commercial value, as long it is constructed in accord with the vision that currently exists. These are tough times to be sure for commercial operations, and we want something that will be beneficial to both communities inside Deer Park, commercial and residential. To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing being proposed for this open parcel at this moment in time.