



September 8, 2020

Dear Residents:

The Village Council continues to field concerns from residents regarding the excessive speed of some vehicles entering and leaving town. This is the single most common complaint we have received in my tenure as Village President and continues to be one of the most challenging issues to resolve. This a very serious problem that exists in all four quadrants of town. It seems inevitable that sooner or later an accident may occur in which excessive speed will be a contributing factor. If such an accident were to occur, it could result in a serious injury, or even something worse. It is everyone's responsibility to do what they can to help minimize the chances of this happening.

The Council has tried different approaches to address this issue, including requesting additional surveillance from the Clinton County Sheriff's Department to monitor and enforce the posted speed limits more diligently. We will again be requesting their assistance. We have also discussed the possibility of purchasing digital radar speed signs that flash the actual speed of the vehicle and a warning message when the speed is above the posted limit.

There is another option that we can all participate in and it might just be the simplest and most effective way to slow traffic entering and leaving town. We can just make sure that we obey the speed limit ourselves as we enter and leave town. This might sound overly simple, but by obeying the posted speed limits ourselves, it forces those vehicles directly behind us to slow down also. We might get a few dirty looks, but we might also save a life. Please spread the word and help us avoid a potential tragedy.

I would like to express my gratitude for the positive comments I have received regarding the "President Message" articles that appear on the flip-side of the monthly Village Minutes. Over 9 years ago, I did the first of these to simply explain that I was accepting the Village President position from Dave Boswell due to his new job responsibilities which he felt could potentially limit his ability to properly execute the duties of Village President. I then realized this presented an opportunity to keep residents a bit more informed of Village issues and also allowed me to express some of my views as to why I feel Westphalia is such a special place to live. Although I would never consider myself a skilled writer, I do hope that these messages were generally clear and apologize if at times they were not.

Fall colors will be upon us soon. Be sure to get out and enjoy them!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia