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MEDIA RELEASE

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THE VILLAGE HOSTS FIRST ELECTRONIC TOWN HALL MEETING The Innovative Approach Allowed Nearly 800 Residents to Participate

Franklin Park, IL – The Village recently hosted its first electronic town hall meeting to help foster greater participation of Franklin Park residents in a format that meets the needs of their busy life styles. Residents were called by the Village and asked if they would like to stay on the line to participate in the two-way dialog about important issues and concerns the Village faces. Residents were able to participate without leaving home or interrupting their busy routine.

“I want to make it as easy as possible to allow as many people as possible, to participate in our town hall meetings,” stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. “It isn’t easy to just stop what you are doing to drive to a meeting. This innovative approach allows many more residents to participate than the traditional method of meeting together in a room somewhere. I was very excited about the level of participation and positive feedback I have received from our residents.”

In fact, the numbers are impressive. At one point during the 30 minute phone call, almost 800 people were listening to the Mayor discuss important projects and initiatives the Village is working on and answering questions, live, from callers.

MEDIA RELEASE (continued)

The format was simple. The Village called every household that it had a current phone number listed. A recorded message asked the resident to hold on if they would like to participate in the electronic town hall. Then Mayor Pedersen joined the call and briefly discussed the upcoming referendum on electrical aggregation. Listeners were also encouraged to press zero to ask a question of the Mayor about that or any other topic.

“I am always so impressed with how well informed and knowledgeable our residents are about the issues facing our Village,” said Pedersen. “I especially enjoyed the opportunity to poll participants about their level of interest in the potential aggregation program.”

The March 20th ballot asks residents if they would support the Village entering into an electrical aggregation agreement which would simply allow the Village to shop for better prices for residents and small businesses by combining electrical service for all individual customers into a single bid. The Mayor informed listeners that if the referendum passed, Franklin Park could see lower electric bills. In fact, in communities where aggregation programs are in place, they consumers have seen up to 15% savings on their monthly ComEd bill.

“I have had several residents contact me to say that they love the electronic town hall concept because it was so convenient to participate,” said Pedersen. “We hope to do several more of these electronic town hall meetings this year.”

If a resident would like to make sure they are included on the call list for the next electronic town hall meeting, they can sign-up by sending an email with their name, current address and phone number to: villagenews@vofp.com or they can write their phone number on the return portion of their water bill.

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