

3-2 Board Vote Kills Mall Rezoning Plan

By RICK DeLEON

Guilderland Supervisor Kevin Moss's plan to stop the Crossgate's Mall project didn't get out of the starting gate as Town Board members voted 3 to 2 against scheduling public hearings on the rezoning proposal.

Tuesday, the board met before a capacity crowd at Guilderland Town Hall to consider Moss's plan to rezone the Crossgates site to light industry and create residential-business planned unit development and a new residential designation in the town. If the proposal had won by a majority vote of 3 the issue would have proceeded to public hearings.

Virginia Horan, first to speak, went on record as saying she was "against the Crossgates develop-

ment, both officially and unofficially." After explaining her past position against the mall and efforts to prevent its construction, the councilwoman blasted Moss's plan.

"The action Mr. Moss proposed lacks integrity and denies the responsibility received by this town's legislative bodies and other boards," she stated. "Mr. Moss apparently, subscribes to the philosophy that the 'end justifies the means'."

Mrs. Horan had these special points to note.

—Northeastern Industrial Park has many available rentals; moreover, the park is on a rail line.

—Charles Park has expansion

(Continued on Page 4)

3-2 Board Vote. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

possibilities, but has yet to fulfill them.

—Karnar Road Industrial Park has room for much more development; it already has sewer and water lines laid and roads built.

—R.P.I. represents formidable competition for the limited prospects for this area. What investor would not be attracted to the proximity of such a prestigious institution in his backyard?

—A reputation for rezoning when a new board is seated would deter future developers.

An upset Moss commented afterward, saying, "I take exception to your comment it lacks integrity." The supervisor stated he made the proposal "out of deep concern for the future of this town. What would happen to the fabric of the town, the quality of life?"

Rezoning advocate John Smircich argued with Councilwoman Horan for several minutes, stating that the Town Board has the right to legally rezone at anytime, he battled insistently with Horan.

New Democratic Councilman James Cleary responded that he would be in favor of the proposal if it was amended. He was advised by Town Attorney Frank Williams, Jr., that since the proposal was not yet law it couldn't be amended.

Councilman Donald Cropsey noted a "special use permit was granted" for the mall last month and expressed concern about the image the Town of Guilderland portrays to the community. Noting there was already a surplus of industrial park area in the district, he stated he was afraid of the town being labeled "anti-development" and "anti-business."

Cropsey stated that "some of it (the proposal) needs rewriting" and favored more review by the Zoning Board of Appeals to "make sure we've covered everything."

Concern among board members was whether they were sure of what they were voting on, often arguing on matters beside the main issue. Moss commented at one time to Clerk June Kline: "Do we understand what we're doing here?"

When it came time to vote it was Cleary who cast the first stone, "opposed." Donald Cropsey, citing his concern for the "adverse impact on business," was next as he stated "opposed."

Board member John Smircich, next in line, reiterated his position the board has the right to legally rezone at any time and voted "favor." Virginia Horan voted simply "opposed."

As about half of the capacity crowd of 150 or so people broke into applause all three local T.V. cameras swung to a now somber-looking Moss.

Supervisor Moss stated he was upset the board had the opportunity to "change the course of history and to change the course of the future" for the people of Guilderland and did not act. Obviously upset, Moss then commented that Mrs. Horan "did not live up to her campaign promises."

"It is ironic," he said, "that you have opposed it (the mall) in the past. Now when we have a chance to stop it, you chose not to move forward and act."

With that Moss said, "motion denied" and the meeting ended.

Commenting afterward, Moss said he was "surprised" and "thought the Democrats were going against us. Sure enough, they did."

Another member caught quite surprised, John Smircich, said: "I figured it'd be 4 to 1 or 3 to 1."

"Mrs. Horan was against Crossgates the whole time and here we had a legal way to proceed and she voted against it," he added.

Crossgates attorney Mike Shanley commented he was "very pleased."

On the way out, Virginia Horan was not at a loss for words concerning Moss's remark she did not "live up to her campaign promises."

He was "extremely out of order" she said; Moss "put the board in a no win situation." Explains she likes to "avoid political connotation," she stated Moss was acting "very politically" and "amatuerish."

Mrs. Horan stated she was still against Crossgates but voted to uphold due process of law and a good reputation for Guilderland.

Rhonda Childs of Concerned Citizens Against Crossgates was obviously upset about the outcome of Tuesday's meeting. Saying the Democratic board members were "sold out to the pressures of (Albany) City Hall" she promised "we will not give up." Mrs. Childs was quite adamant in explaining they "sold out the people who voted them into office," adding "it was disgusting." Commenting they will continue to fight against Crossgates and that they now have suits pending Childs stated, "The mall will not be built."

Country Squire Motel

Rte. 20 & 146, Sch.

Low Winter Rates

Weekly \$59.00

Weekend Special

Fri.-Sat.-Sun.

\$35.00

Happy Hour Friday Night

7-8 p.m.

Ladies Night Saturday

75 per drink

355-3110