

Monroe County

1722

C H A L L E N G E S a n d P R O P O S A L S . . .

HECKER, ILLINOIS

TOWN MEETING

November 18, 1977

AN IDEAL LOCATION

PROPOSALS

We the citizens of Hecker in order to encourage broad-based citizen participation in crime prevention propose information guidelines telling citizens what people should be reporting to police through the Chief of Police drawing up these guidelines.

We the citizens of Hecker in order to keep the public school open and convince the public and school board of the wisdom of this propose:

1. to maintain three school board members from the Hecker area, and
2. to communicate the advantages of small rural schools, and
3. to develop solutions which might make different use of present resources.

We the citizens of Hecker in order to encourage new small businesses propose:

1. a survey of present needs of the community and what businesses could be supported here done by a coalition of community organizations, and
2. an advertising campaign to attract small businesses.

PRESENT STRUGGLES CONTINUED

2. Concern about price of water.
3. Ambulance services needed.
4. Monroe County - Zoning control of growth.
5. Crime prevention - territory covered.
6. Zero recreation.
7. Drug and alcohol.

CHALLENGES

1. In the arena of the cultural, the fact that the Superintendent has not offered alternative solutions to closing the elementary school, and that student enrollment is low indicates that the underlying contradiction is the belief on the part of decision -makers that "Bigger is Better and less expensive". This is illustrated by the trend toward consolidating school systems in spite of projected future growth of the community.
2. In the arena of crime prevention, the fact that crime prevention costs and there is public apathy indicates that the underlying contradiction is reluctance to press charges against one citizen by another. This is illustrated by the number of BB guns fired in residential areas and local residents threatening youth with shotguns.
3. In the arena of initiating new businesses and projects the fact that taxes would increase with service increases and that there is not enough trade in town indicates that the underlying contradiction is seeing the importance of funding a project or business when it may be available in four towns less than ten miles away.

HECKER

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Lighted Ball Diamond, 2 tennis courts. (Commercial Club)
2. Fine dance hall.
3. 1893 on
4. Smallest in Illinois with water and sewer.
5. Two schools - Hecker Public School and St. August^l Catholic School.
6. Finest Slow Pitch Women's Softball Team.
7. Kouhry League - active.
8. Sports Program all ages 7 up.
9. Scouting Program initiated boys and girls.
10. Growingest in the county.
11. Farming and commuter.
12. No tuition in the Catholic grade school.
13. Outside water supply arranged.
14. Mental Health Center in County.

FUTURE HOPES AND DREAMS

1. Public school in existence.
2. Library (especially for children)
3. Swimming pool.
4. Factory or industry.
5. Doctor
6. Bank, Barber shop. (More Small Business)
7. New sewage system.
8. 20 years - no airport.
9. Better transportation to Centers - Interstate Highway.

PRESENT STRUGGLES

1. Keeping public school.
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HISTORY OF HECKER

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Hecker originally began as a farming community with the grain mill, general store, barber shop, blacksmith shop and saloons. However, as more people moved in from East St. Louis and travel to and from the larger cities and shopping centers was made easier Hecker has become more of a bedroom community. The work force of Hecker commutes to St. Louis, East St. Louis, Belleville and the coal mines primarily.

Medical needs are filled by physicians in the neighboring communities and St. Clements Hospital in Red Bud, St.

Elizabeth's and Memorial Hospital in Belleville.

Hecker has two grade schools the Hecker Public School and the Catholic Grade School.

HISTORY OF HECKER

Hecker was incorporated as a village of the State of Illinois in 1890. Hecker was named after a German Army Officer who stayed in the village a short time. Prior to being incorporated Hecker was called Freedom, however, when it came time to incorporate there was another village in Illinois named Freedom.

Utilities came into existence as follows:

1936 Illinois Power Company brought electricity to Hecker

1942 Purchased new fire truck

1955 Centralized water system by the village.

1958 Dial telephone was brought to the village when Continental Telephone Company purchased the local Hecker Telephone Company.

1963 Sewer system was installed

1968 Natural gas brought to town by Illinois Power Company

1972 First police car and part time policeman was hired.

Catholic church celebrated 150 years in 1974. Friedens

United Church of Christ celebrated 100 years in 1973.

Commercial Club was formed in 1961 and since then have provided the village with park facilities, lighted ball diamond, tennis courts and a community dance hall.

Kouhry League baseball was begun in 1963 for boys and girls in 1974.

Jaycees were organized in 1975 and has sponsored the Christmas lighting program every year since their beginning.

Scouting program for boys was begun in 1976 and girls in 1977.

WE ARE LOYAL HECKER FANS

WATCHING THIS TOWN LIVE AND GROW

CHEERING THE LOGGERS AND THE GIRLS PLAYING BALL,

KNOWING THEY'LL PUT ON A SHOW.

WE'VE GOT A HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

KNOWING WE'LL NEVER LOSE OUR PRIDE.

WE'VE BEEN HERE SINCE - - 1890.

WORKING, GROWING, PLAYING

WE ARE A HAPPY HECKER CROWD.

To the tune of Yankee Doodle Dandy