

1 THE CLERK: 14 C 5675, 300 West Sibley versus
2 Village of Dolton for status.

3 MR. MURPHEY: Good morning, your Honor.
4 John Murphey for the Village.

5 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Murphey.

6 We heard from plaintiff's counsel that he is
7 running late or unable to be here.

8 What's our status?

9 MR. MURPHEY: The status is that we are moving
10 forward. Under the settlement agreement, the case is to be
11 dismissed once a consultant study is approved by the village
12 board qualifying the subject property for tax increment
13 financing purposes.

14 The consultant has promised a draft report by the
15 end of this month to confirm that the property is
16 deteriorated and satisfies the statutory criteria. So the
17 village board has to formally approve that.

18 So given the normal meeting schedule, I would think
19 that we would target this to get the matter approved by the
20 village board at the first meeting in April, whatever that
21 date is, the 3rd.

22 It's possible they could do it the end of March,
23 but I would think, realistically, given the normal
24 functionings, the target date for village board approval
25 would be the first Monday in April, in which case, under our

1 settlement agreement, that calls for the matter to be
2 dismissed with prejudice. So maybe second week of April or
3 something like that for a status update.

4 THE COURT: How about April 12th?

5 MR. MURPHEY: Fine.

6 THE COURT: That's a Wednesday. Good.

7 Mr. Murphey, I think you have just done a terrific
8 job on this case.

9 MR. MURPHEY: You know, your Honor, if I can speak
10 about litigation for a second with you?

11 One of the -- I remember you saying -- I think it
12 was you -- in court said that, why is it that the criminal
13 attorneys are so civil to each other and the civil attorneys
14 treat each other like criminals?

15 THE COURT: I have said it before. I don't know if
16 I said it to you, but I've definitely said that.

17 MR. MURPHEY: It was just a question of, that was
18 then, this is now and what's best for the town. Forget about
19 all the acrimony.

20 THE COURT: Well, that's exactly why I say this. I
21 feel like you have been just a true public servant in the
22 sense that you kept your eyes on the best interest of your
23 client as opposed to personalities. I just -- I am always
24 impressed. I think you do a great job, but in this case in
25 particular, which was really a mess and had these very, very

1 complicated motions involving extremely uncertain RICO
2 allegations. I just think you pulled peace out of war, and
3 you have done not only your client and the taxpayers a big
4 favor, but you have really -- the plaintiffs, I think, owe
5 you a debt of gratitude as well.

6 MR. MURPHEY: I greatly appreciate it, Judge.

7 You know these south suburban towns are -- real
8 estate values -- I represent a lot of them. Just for a
9 moment, real estate values are down --

10 THE COURT: Sure.

11 MR. MURPHEY: -- 40 percent from pre-crash. They
12 are crawling back by an inch, so it's really tough for these
13 towns.

14 THE COURT: It is.

15 MR. MURPHEY: Anything you can do to try to get
16 life is worth the effort.

17 THE COURT: Yes. Well, as I say, I think you are
18 doing everybody a big favor here.

19 Good luck. Thanks. I will see you in April.

20 MR. MURPHEY: Thank you, your Honor.

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22 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the
23 record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

24 /s/ Frances Ward February 15, 2017.
25 Official Court Reporter - F'