

## Speed humps are enduring topic of debate

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OF THE ITEM

Love them or hate them, those [speed humps](#) have proven to be a favorite topic of debate at Township Committee meetings.

At the meeting Tuesday, Feb. 2, residents once again questioned Committee members about the effectiveness of the humps.

Resident David Lax repeated a request he had made at a previous meeting asking the Committee's attorney to investigate whether the township incurred liability for installing the humps. He noted that the humps on Glen Avenue were installed in violation of state statutes because of the high volume of traffic on that roadway.

Lax made the point that any lawsuit that came out of an accident involving the humps would impact taxpayers.

Attorney Christopher Falcon responded that the township had not incurred any liability from the state Department of Transportation and added he is still researching whether the municipality has incurred any [general liability](#).

Resident Jeffrey Muska echoed Lax's request and asked the Committee to include the township engineer in future discussions regarding the humps.

Muska also called for a public hearing on any future installations, noting the controversy the eight humps installed throughout the township near the end of 2009 have created.

"It is very unfortunate that the action was taken without determining what the public wanted," said Muska. He noted that at previous meetings, both Committee members Sandra Haimoff and Robert Tillotson told the audience they were unaware of the

installations until they drove over the humps.

Rodney Shinnars said that by law, signage is required next to the signs stating the safe speed and noted no signs have been posted.

Police Sgt. David Bonney said the signs have been ordered, but admitted he didn't know what speed would be posted, prompting some audience members to question whether the signs were on their way.

Steven Suskauer defended the humps, citing the effectiveness of the humps installed on Glen Avenue.

"For the first time in years, people have slowed down," he said.

Abby Kalan asked the board to assess the effectiveness of the speed humps by comparing accident reports for roadways around the sites before and after installation.

The [Millburn](#) Police Department has presented the Committee with a draft policy for installing future speed humps. Adoption of that policy could come later this month.

Bonney presented the Committee Tuesday night with another proposed policy change, this time an amendment to the ordinance governing solicitation.

In particular, police would like to address safety issues concerning individuals collecting money from motorists stopped at intersections. The policy would address the hours solicitation would be allowed, as well as scheduling, visible clothing and other safety issues.

Committeeman James Suell asked Bonney to also look into where collections can be made. Recently, he said, [college students](#) had been seen fund-raising at the busy intersection of Old [Short Hills](#) Road and South Orange Avenue, which he felt was an inappropriate location.

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