

ON 2ND THOUGHT, ROMEOVILLE ACTS TO ANNEX LAND FOR QUARRY

By **Vicki Vass**, *Special to the Tribune*

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Despite several emotional appeals from the standing-room-only crowd, the [Romeoville](#) Village Board voted to annex about 1,200 acres and grant special-use zoning to a company to mine a quarry around a 130-year-old cemetery.

Material Service Corp. has been seeking annexation to mine a gravel quarry on the west side of Illinois Highway 53.

The company operates a limestone quarry on the other side of the highway.

Residents of an unincorporated subdivision that abuts the property have protested the quarry expansion since Material Service's petition to annex was filed Jan. 13.

Collegeview subdivision resident Mary Kopecky told the board she was "worried about the decision the board would make because nothing has been done to protect the adjacent property owners."

"All this comes down to money," she said.

"It makes dollars but makes no sense."

Earlier this week, company officials offered the village an additional \$30,000 a year in property taxes, increasing the total figure to a guaranteed \$100,000 a year over 20 years.

Upon signing of the agreement, Material Service also will pay the village another \$100,000 for a total of \$200,000 to be used for road improvements.

The village also receives immediate access to a 12-acre park on the corner of Weber and Taylor Roads on the southwest corner of the site and donation of a 25-acre park when mining on the west side of Illinois 53 ceases.

Mayor Sandra Gulden called the additional money a "gift," adding that the village was "lucky" the corporation didn't back out after the first vote against it on March 30.

Throughout the ordeal, she has stressed she wants Romeoville to retain rights of control over the quarry, rather

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Contained in the land annexation is a small cemetery. Material Service plans to mine around it; its officials estimated it would be five years before quarry operations approach the cemetery. Kopecky and others are concerned about the impact that possible blasting and erosion could have on the cemetery.

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