

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

First Floor Conference Room
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 — 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Environmental Quality Control Commission of the Village of La Grange was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, in the first floor conference room at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum): Commissioners Battistoni, Christianson, Hirt, Gabrek, and Weber, with Chairman Wentink presiding.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Village Manager Andri Peterson, Director of Public Works Ryan Gillingham and Village Forester Don Wachter.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Battistoni, seconded by Commissioner Christianson to approve the minutes from August 31, 2010 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Emerald Ash Borer

Chairman Wentink introduced Ryan Gillingham, Director of Public Works and Don Wachter, Village Forester. Mr. Gillingham and Mr. Wachter updated the EQCC regarding the presence of Emerald Ash Borer in La Grange and the Village's plans to manage the pest. Copies of brochures and related information that is currently located on the Village's website regarding the Emerald Ash Borer was disseminated.

There was significant discussion by Commissioners related to the matter. Chairman Wentink

summarized the discussion by recommending the following action items to staff for additional consideration and review: 1) consider additional resources to the public (printed and posted on the website) to aid in its understanding of the EAB and provide specific treatment / product options available (public and private trees); 2) evaluate the cost / benefits of treating (the use of volunteers was suggested but will need to be evaluated as a result of current pesticide application laws) infected or all parkway ash trees as opposed to removing them; 3) consider operational adjustments such as planting new trees in advance and adjacent to infected trees so that the growing process can begin before the infected tree is removed and 4) consider updating the Village's current tree inventory possibly by exploring grant opportunities.

Staff advised that these matters would be evaluated and discussed in conjunction with the Village Board in conjunction with the upcoming budget process, which includes the Capital Projects Workshop in February.

B. Energy Star Program

Assistant Village Manager Peterson presented the Environmental Quality Control Commission (EQCC) with an overview of the status of the Village's participation in the USEPA Energy Star Benchmarking Program. At the suggestion of the EQCC, the Village submitted all required information to the EPA which was evaluated in order to help us to better understand the Village's energy usage and to position the Village appropriately for grant opportunities. Due to the unique nature of our public buildings, none of the buildings were eligible for a rating at this time. However, the information is still valuable in tracking energy usage from year-to-year. As improvements to Village facilities are made over time, the Village will also be able to better evaluate how the improvements equate to a reduction in energy use.

C. HVAC Grant Award

Assistant Village Manager Peterson reported that the Village was the recipient of \$442,017 in grant funding in order to update aging HVAC systems in the Village Hall, Fire Department and Public Works buildings. The Village Hall component of the project will be first and will include the complete replacement of its heating, cooling and lighting systems – some as old as the 1950s. Besides dramatic improvements in comfort, reliability and system control, the project will also significantly reduce energy consumption (natural gas and electricity). As an example, the estimated energy savings from the new boiler will be an increase in efficiency from approximately 80% efficient to 96%. Construction is expected to begin this spring and is expected to be complete in the fall.

D. Quarry Blasting

Chairman Wentink provided background information to the EQCC regarding the significant quarry blasting event on August 31. Assistant Village Manager Peterson updated the EQCC of the steps taken by the Village to address resident concerns. These steps include public outreach; receiving daily reports from a new monitoring site near the Village water plant; the development of a complaint log tied to the daily report system in order to evaluate trends; and site visits to residents and the school. Chairman Wentink reported that he personally accompanied representatives from Hanson Quarry at a resident's home on 10th Street to witness a blast first hand and its perception on the public. The Village has assumed Chairmanship of the Lyons Township Quarry Council and will continue to be actively involved in monitoring quarry activities.

E. Recycling / Refuse Disposal

Chairman Wentink reported that at the last meeting, the EQCC had discussed and agreed to help the Village identify options available for refuse and recycling disposal and assist the Village in communicating those options to residents via survey in order to receive feedback to aid in negotiations related to the Refuse Disposal contract that expires in April, 2012.

To that end, Chairman Wentink suggested that we ask targeted speakers to meet with the EQCC to bring the Commission up to speed on the various options and the status of the refuse industry and its operations.

After discussion, it was suggested that the EQCC would hold three meetings over the next three months, the first on Tuesday, February 15. The topics at each meeting would be as follows: 1) February – speaker from the WCCSWA regarding best practices from other communities; 2) March – speaker from Allied Waste regarding trends in the industry from their perspective and how refuse collected in La Grange is processed currently; 3) April – speaker from Resource Recycling regarding how recyclables are currently processed.

Assistant Village Manager Peterson reported that at the suggestion of the EQCC and residents, the Village has identified a grant which would provide a pilot program to increase the size of recycling bins and provide lids for the bins. Through the grant, the bin size would be increased from the current 14 gallon size to 18 gallons. Approximately 130 bins and lids would be able to be purchased and would be phased into circulation as replacement bins are needed. The Village is waiting to hear if the grant has been awarded.

After discussion, it was suggested that staff consider a form that would be included with each pilot bin so that the Village can collect feedback regarding the utilization of the bins / lids which may aid in future decision making. The form should include a name and phone

number.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

Information regarding assistance to homeowner programs related to the payment of utility bills and energy conservation opportunities was provided for the EQCC's information.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson, Assistant Village Manager