

MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

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

Monday, March 21, 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 Monday, March 21, 2011, in the first floor conference room at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 7:08 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson and Richard Van der Molen, Municipal Affairs Manager for Allied Waste.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Christianson, seconded by Commissioner Battistoni to approve the minutes from February 15, 2011 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Recycling / Refuse Disposal Presentation

Chairman Wentink introduced Rich Van der Molen, Municipal Affairs Manager for Allied Waste. Mr. Van der Molen provided an overview of Allied's services and opinions regarding various waste disposal and collection program options.

Allied Waste has served La Grange since 1986 and the current program has been in place since 1992. Currently, Allied Waste has twenty-three municipal collection contracts in the Chicagoland area. While there are many different ways to design a waste disposal and collection program, the types of programs fall into three general categories – flat rate contracts, volume based / toter programs, and modified volume based programs. Of the

twenty-two contracts that Allied has in the Chicagoland area, twelve are flat rate contracts; five are a combination of volume based / toter programs; and five are modified volume based programs.

Under a flat rate program, an unlimited volume of waste is collected for a monthly fee. Communities such as Franklin Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, North Riverside, Oak Brook, Riverside and Stone Park have unlimited, flat rate refuse programs. Usually, but not always, yard waste is collected without stickers in these programs.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

The La Grange program is a volume-based program with a toter option. A sticker is required for every can or bag of waste set out at the curb unless the toter option is selected. Other communities including LaGrange Park, Downers Grove, Lisle, and Aurora have similar programs. Western Springs also has a volume based system with several flat rate options. La Grange and Downers Grove are the only programs of these that are still considered a "pure volume based" system in that there are no other fees to residents to supplement the cost of the service (additional fee on the water bill for example).

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

A modified volume-based program is a hybrid of a flat rate and volume-based program. Under a modified volume-based program, a base level of service is paid for by a standard monthly charge with extra containers, a refuse cart or a larger refuse cart as well as bulk waste paid for through pre-paid stickers. With modified volume based programs, yard waste usually but not always requires a pre-paid sticker. (expand on the definitions of each of these and provide some representative communities) Communities including Clarendon Hills, Elmhurst, Hinsdale, Northlake and Willowbrook have different types of modified volume-based programs. In the Chicago area, there are more community-specific variations with modified volume based programs than typically found in either flat rate or volume-based programs. -

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Mr. Van der Molen explained that approximately 60% of a hauler's costs are fixed (labor, trucks, fuel, disposal fees, recycling) and as a result there has been a gradual shift over the past twenty years from pure volume based programs to ~~flat rate or~~ modified volume based programs ~~or flat rate programs in~~ order to manage escalating costs of service. He went on to say that in communities like La Grange with a high rate of recycling, it was not uncommon to schedule the same number of recycling trucks as refuse trucks. As a result, the cost to the hauler of providing recycling service can be higher than average, since most of the cost of providing recycling cannot be recovered from the sale of commodities after paying to sort and prepare recyclable materials for sale to buyers of these materials.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Mr. Van der Molen discussed what he believes to be the positives and negatives of each of the various types of programs. While volume based programs can be cost effective for

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

households that do not generate much waste, the result is that the rest of the community must subsidize the fixed cost component of the service, driving up the overall cost of the program. In communities with established volume-based programs such as LaGrange, sticker sales have declined significantly over time as residents find other outlets for disposal and maximize the weight of their disposal units. This creates a dilemma since the contractor must then raise sticker prices to recover costs, which reinforces the downward trend in sticker sales as they become less affordable.~~(Elaborate more on key points)~~ In some communities, including LaGrange Park and Aurora, a monthly base fee is included on the municipal utility bill to help keep stickers reasonably priced. Mr. Van der Molen also said that one advantage of a modified volume-based program is that it maintains an economic incentive to recycle.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Mr. Van der Molen mentioned that the important part for any municipality looking at program options is to design a program that will meet most of the needs of the community, as there will always be a segment of the population that generates very little waste and some that generate more than average.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

As a result, it is suggested that the Village offer one base program with one other option (as as done now) to avoid confusion and streamline the program offerings. While a hauler can effectively administer a program with more than two service options, it is usually not feasible for a municipality to offer more than two options because of administrative complications (which can drive up costs).  
~~(are there other reasons — cost for example?)~~

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Mr. Van der Molen noted that Village –wide totter programs can provide for a cleaner appearance at the curb, more capacity for recycling and less windblown litter. When a recycling cart is provided, recycling volumes have increased significantly in many communities, and have been found (in all cases??) to increase recycling rates. A popular ~~type of~~ The most common type of totter program offering is to provide two – 64 gallon toters (one for waste and one for recycling) as the base program with a 96 gallon refuse cart and/or a 35 gallon refuse cart as option(s). Costs that are factored into a Village –wide totter program include the purchase of the carts (capital costs typically appropriated over a five year period), the cost of replacing damaged carts and administrative fees (Village or hauler handling the billing).

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Mr. Van der Molen reported that in 2009 and 2010, there was a decrease in recycling rates and also refuse disposal in La Grange. There were three reasons cited for this: 1) downturn in the economy; 2) people buying less newspapers (typically recycling consists of 70-80% paper) and 3) a shift in container packaging from glass to plastic (resulting in decreased overall weight).

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Even though there was a decrease in the recycling rate, Mr. Van der Molen mentioned that La Grange continues to have one of the highest recycling diversion rates in the area. Without including yard waste, the diversion rate in La Grange averages about 38%, while the average diversion rate is typically around 22%. Overall, La Grange's diversion rate has remained steady because even though recycling was down last year by approximately 2%, refuse disposal tonnage was also down by about 1.2%.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Significant discussion ensued among EQCC members and numerous questions were asked by Commissioners regarding how the various municipal programs operate and their benefits and drawbacks.

After the presentation was concluded, Chairman Wentink provided a draft citizen survey regarding service delivery options to Commissioners based on comments received from Commissioners at the last meeting.

Commissioner Battistoni asked the Commission whether or not the survey should continue to include the current pure volume based program as an option given the information that had been provided to the Commission by the last two sets of speakers. After discussion, there was consensus that the survey should clearly state that the current pure volume based program is not sustainable and that the survey focus should include options to the current program so that meaningful community feedback for future planning / alternative options is provided.

Chairman Wentink encouraged Commissioners to continue to evaluate this suggestion as the EQCC completes its speaker series with Greg Maxwell from Resource Management Recycling. Mr. Maxwell will be invited to attend the next meeting. The information received during the discussions will be used to help provide recommendations to the Village regarding meaningful and realistic options for refuse collection and disposal in the future and to finalize the proposed resident survey.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Peterson reported that work will soon begin on the HVAC improvements planned for municipal buildings that are funded mostly by energy efficiency grants.

Ms. Peterson reported that the Village is a recipient of a Keep West Cook Beautiful grant in the amount of \$1,800 in order to purchase larger, lidded recycling bins as a part of a pilot program. Residents participating in the program will be asked to complete a form with their e-mail address and to provide feedback to the Village regarding the bin usage. Updates will be provided to the EQCC on a go forward basis.

Ms. Peterson reported on the status of the recommendations of the EQCC regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. Additional enhancements regarding pesticide use have been included on the website for the public's information. In addition, the Village received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for urban forest restoration required as a result of the EAB. Copies of both items were provided to the EQCC for their review and comment.

Ms. Peterson reported that the Village Board had recently approved the purchase of two Smart cars to replace the Village's current parking enforcement vehicles. The Smart cars feature low fuel consumption and low emissions.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hirt discussed the status of the Deep Tunnel project and related projects in La Grange. As a result of the discussion, Ms. Peterson indicated that she would send a link to the section of the Village's website of a video where representatives of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District attended a storm water management meeting in La Grange and discussed the status of the Deep Tunnel project.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT EQCC MEETING

After discussion, it was agreed that the next EQCC Meeting would be held on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7 p.m. as long as Greg Maxwell from Resource Management Recycling was also available at that date and time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson  
Assistant Village Manager