

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

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

Monday, May 23, 2011— 5:30 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, May 23, 2011, at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum): Commissioners Battistoni (arrived at 5:59 p.m.), Christianson, Gabrek, Hirt, and Weber, with Chairman Wentink presiding.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson and Greg Maxwell, Senior Vice President of Resource Management.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Christianson, seconded by Commissioner Weber to approve the minutes from March 21, 2011 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Recycling Presentation

Chairman Wentink introduced Greg Maxwell, Senior Vice President of Resource Management. Mr. Maxwell narrated a video of how recyclables are processed and ultimately recycled once they are brought by the refuse hauler to the processing facility.

Once the material is brought to the processing area, recyclables are separated using mechanical screening & gravity separation, magnetic and eddy current separation equipment, and optical scanning technology. He noted that as early as a decade ago, recycling facilities were still sorting material by hand. After processing, the product is sold to international and national mills for reuse. Resource Management's facility in Chicago Ridge is the largest

recycling facility in the nation.

Mr. Maxwell stated that of the total recyclables brought to Resource Recycling, about 70% of it is paper, consisting of newspaper, mixed paper and cardboard. About 30% are containers, with half being glass and the rest being aluminum cans, steel cans, and plastic containers. Approximately 12% of the product brought to the facility to be processed is non-recyclable materials. Mr. Maxwell indicated that as a for profit recycler, it is their goal to capture everything they can for recycling.

Mr. Maxwell noted that recycling uses fewer resources during reuse than when raw materials are used. As a result of using less energy, it is generally less expensive for companies to use recycled materials to make products. He also stated that while aluminum is the highest valued commodity, it typically constitutes less than 1% of recycled product by weight. Besides the environmental benefits, as the value of recycling increases, landfill costs are also likely to increase as raw material costs increase. Mr. Maxwell believes that recycling will continue to be a very important part of municipal waste programs.

Mr. Maxwell said that studies have shown that the optimal size of a toter program is one 65 gallon cart for recycling. He indicated that studies have shown that this type of program increases recycling by as much as 10 to 33% compared to a bin program. He noted that the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County performed a case study comparing bin programs to toter programs for recycling. A report is available reflecting the data and conclusions which will be provided to the EQCC for their review. He noted that the change from segregated to single stream recycling programs also increased recycling rates, as it is easier for homeowners to participate. Open bins compared to recycling carts with lids can tend to lower the value of recyclables and increase processing costs primarily because bins are exposed to weather conditions.

Finally Mr. Maxwell indicated that the recycling industry is always changing and that he expects shifts in markets as newspaper usage continues to decline and more and more electronic media are introduced.

Significant discussion ensued among EQCC members and numerous questions were asked by Commissioners regarding recycling and recycling programs.

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After the presentation was concluded, Chairman Wentink suggested that the Commission reflect upon the three presentations provided and that another meeting would be set to discuss the draft citizen survey regarding service delivery options and subsequent recommendation to the Village Board.

Assistant Village Manager Peterson reported that it would be appropriate to schedule a

workshop session with the Village Board to discuss the draft survey and recommendation from the EQCC in the near future.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Peterson reported that an electronics recycling event was held over the weekend at Lyons Township High School.

Ms. Peterson reported that to date, 23 residents are participating in the new lidded recycling bin pilot program. Three comments have been received and were shared with the EQCC. Two of the comments noted that the lids were quickly lost. The Village will continue to offer the bins to residents and request feedback.

Ms. Peterson reported that the HVAC / Energy Efficiency improvements to the Village Hall and Public Works buildings has begun and is moving ahead on schedule.

Ms. Peterson reported that the Village is working closely with adjacent towns regarding management of the Emerald Ash Borer pest. The Village continues to evaluate optional treatment programs which include tree removal only as necessary.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hirt discussed the status of the Deep Tunnel project and related projects in La Grange. Chairman Wentink thanked Mr. Hirt for providing information to the EQCC on this topic.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT EQCC MEETING

After discussion, it was agreed that the next EQCC Meeting would be held on Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager