

## MINUTES

### VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, January 20, 2015— 6:30 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 Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 6:40 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Davies and Gabrek

ALSO PRESENT: Village Clerk John Burns, Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Fire Chief Don Gay, and Speakers Paul Nowicki and Patrick Brady, BNSF Railroad.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Battistoni, seconded by Commissioner Christianson to approve the minutes from November 12, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### 3. BUSINESS AT HAND

Chairman Wentink introduced Paul Nowicki and Patrick Brady from the BNSF Railroad. Mr. Nowicki and Mr. Brady were invited to speak to the EQCC about the safe transportation of crude oil by rail as a result of a recent federal rulemaking process on the topic and the frequency of freight traffic through La Grange.

Mr. Nowicki indicated that the BNSF is the largest freight railroad in the country and safety is deeply imbedded in their operations. BNSF is now the largest transporter of hazardous materials in the US. Of the 2.5 million crude oil shipments on BNSF routes over a several year period, 99.98% were shipped successfully without a release caused by a train incident. The BNSF line through La Grange is one of the busiest lines in the world with 106 Metra trains, 8 Amtrak trains and 40-50 freight trains per day. The BNSF noted that there are proactive action plans in place to help reduce the top four causes of derailments. The action

plan includes mechanical, operational, engineering and miscellaneous procedures such as infrastructure improvements, training, detection systems, remote monitoring and weather evaluations. Positive train control deployment is a new technology that provides digital wireless communication and helps to prevent train-to-train collisions.

Mr. Brady provided detailed information regarding the final rulemaking process which is expected to be finalized in May, 2015. Most of the tank cars in use are owned by railroad customers. The BNSF is working with federal regulators to implement new tank car design and construction standards used to transport crude oil.

BNSF provides training to first responders as well as new ways for first responders to access information about the types of materials that are included in a shipment. Railroads have developed a nationwide inventory of resources for “key route” emergency responders which include locations for staging emergency response equipment. Railroads must also report large shipments (over 1 million) gallons of Bakken crude oil to impacted states. BNSF also pre-positions hundreds of haz-mat first responders and equipment at sixty locations across their service area.

Commissioners asked several questions regarding the implementation and cost of the new tank car design; preparedness for other hazardous materials besides oil and gas; train speeds, and coordination of railroad efforts with local municipalities.

Fire Chief Don Gay presented information regarding Fire Department preparedness in responding to emergency situations. Chief Gay indicated that the Department generally approaches readiness from several different ways: training, apparatus, personnel, equipment and safety (TAPES). La Grange participates in automatic aid with several adjacent communities and is also a member of a regional response organization (MABAS) where other communities can be called upon to assist in the event of a larger scale emergency.

Firefighters are regularly trained in disaster preparedness including railroad safety. The Fire Department has various equipment and firefighting tools, such as foam, that can be used to combat certain types of hazardous material spills. Various resources such as the railroad, Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management would also be available to the Village in the event of a hazardous material spill.

The EQCC discussed the information presented and determined that the railroad and Village have sufficient back up plans and a commitment to ongoing training. The EQCC asked the Village to continue to support disaster / emergency education and training for first responders.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Wentink reported that the EQCC was successful in receiving a \$1,000 Keep West Cook Beautiful Grant from Cook County. The grant had been earmarked for initiatives which would serve the business community. The group discussed various uses for the grant funding including possibly using it in conjunction with the Farmers Market which will now be managed by the La Grange Business Association. Rose, Linda and Andri were asked to meet with the Executive Director of the LGBA to discuss options and report back to the EQCC.

Chairman Wentink provided a brief update regarding quarry blasting activities. Northwestern University continues to collect data and evaluate various hypotheses related to the severe tremor that residents experienced last year. A follow up report is expected by Northwestern in June.

Chairman Wentink noted that the EQCC has been tasked by President Livingston to investigate and recommend stormwater management initiatives that could be considered. At the next meeting of the EQCC, Chairman Wentink would like to discuss a framework to determine objectives and a potential deliverable to the Village Board.

He reminded EQCC members that copies of the Village's promotional materials and site development plans were provided at a previous meeting for the EQCC's review. He asked that each member review the materials, review the Village's website, and provide feedback and comments.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. SCHEDULE NEXT EQCC MEETING

The Commission determined that the next meeting of the EQCC would be held on February 17 at 6:30 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson  
Assistant Village Manager