

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 6:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020 IN THE MAPLE ROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Towne called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Towne and Members Pink and Sheldon

Absent: None

Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

Also, in attendance: Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson

Residents: Karen Carruthers, Patricia Cork and Tom Heinz

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Meeting minutes from November 13, 2019 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Sheldon and seconded by Member Pink that the meeting minutes be approved and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

D. DISCUSS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TREES AND STUMPS REMOVAL PROPOSALS

Chairman Towne said the tree and stump removal project went out to bid. The Village received 5 bidders ranging from \$ 49,750 to \$23,750. The lowest bidder was received from Canopy Tree Specialists in the amount of \$23,750. Chairman Towne said the original plans were to remove dead or dying trees from the Village's ROW during the winter months. Unfortunately, this project morphed into a larger project which included stumps and buckthorn removal. The trees that should be removed are only the dangerous trees. Chairman Towne stated the approved contract with Dunlap indicates they are responsible to maintain the ROW areas all season long. Member Pink noted ongoing when trees are being removed their stump should also be cleared.

Village Administrator Irvin said the current specifications do indicate when a tree is cut down the stump should be removed. Village Administrator Irvin added in 2017 this same project cost the Village \$38,000.

Member Sheldon asked if this proposal would eliminate all of the dead trees in the ROW. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said no. Member Sheldon added the lowest bidder submitted

a fair price for the amount of work that was listed. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said the proposal includes the trees that have been marked, removal of the stumps larger than 5 inches, cut stumps less than 5 inches to the ground to be mowed over and most buckthorn has been eliminated. The proposal also included restoration of the land in where stumps were cleared. Chairman Towne said he was concerned on which marked trees were the final trees and buckthorn to be cleared. Chairman Towne added he drove around the Village and did not agree with all the trees that were marked to be removed. Member Pink said she was happy that the lowest bidder outcome was only \$23,750. Member Sheldon said the Village should move forward with the lowest bidder and work closely with the company to ensure we agree on the trees being removed. Member Pink said she is surprised at the lowest bidder's price. Member Pink also added she was concern with some of the buckthorn that was being removed. Member Sheldon asked what will the Village's bill amount from James Anderson to monitor this tree company to ensure this work is done accordingly. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said JACO's cost would be driven on the number of days Canopy Tree works on this project.

Chairman Towne said the Village should consider only taking down the dangerous trees. Member Sheldon said she recommends the work be placed on hold. Member Pink asked if we could negotiate with the contractor and remove some trees some the final bid specifications.

Resident, Patricia Cork asked if the Village can concentrate on areas when clearing trees to reduce the expense. Village Engineer Scott Anderson replied completing this work in sections would result in several bids and the outcome would increase the expenses for the Village.

Member Pink asked what has JACO already charged the Village for this tree project. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said he did not know. Chairman Towne asked to delay this project and consider asking the contractors to assess which trees should truly be removed.

A motion was made to table the right-of-way trees and stumps removal project to February Committee meeting. The motion was moved by Member Sheldon and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

E. DISCUSS THE SOLAR PANELS FOR THE VILLAGE

Chairman Towne said during several meetings the notion of installing solar panels in the Village property has been made. Chairman Towne said he spoke to resident, Rene Ruppe who worked on the Oakton College design for their solar panels. The Ruppe's also installed solar panels on their home. In addition, Mrs. Ruppe daughter works for ComEd.

Resident, Tom Heinz mentioned all of the Grayslake schools have installed solar panels on their facility. Mr. Heinz mentioned Grayslake is also exploring the ideas of installing solar panels on all the homes. Village Administrator Irvin added he spoke to the Grayslake Public Works Director regarding these efforts. The Grayslake schools have installed the solar panels but the Village did not participate in these initiatives. No solar power project is being spearheaded in Grayslake. The Village of Grayslake received a proposal from a company to install solar panel for some of their municipal buildings; however, their municipal buildings already receive free electricity. Village Administrator Irvin added St. Charles does have a solar farm because they own their electric system.

Chairman Towne added the Committee should have a representative from ComEd attend our meeting to provide information regarding solar power prior to creating a panel. ComEd is working on a new profile to provide credits to municipalities with solar panels. Member Sheldon said she would be open to hear what ComEd's information.

Trustee Bohm added the Village has no municipal buildings to power. Trustee Bohm continued with the residents are not looking to have solar farms in their neighborhood. The Village bought property around the church to keep it as an open space, not to install solar panels. Trustee Bohm replied he was not against the Village providing solar panel information for the residents for them to decide and install their own panels. Chairman Towne added this matter is worth researching and studying since solar panels do not take much space and it can provide some savings. Village Administrator Irvin added St. Charles solar project utilizes 3-acres for 70 homes to be powered. Chairman Towne added he would like to have a discussion with only ComEd due to their reputable standings as oppose to the smaller utility companies. Member Sheldon added ComEd offers a power saving program for residents. ComEd will visit a resident's homes and providing them power saving advice. Member Pink commented the Village is not ready at this point to have solar panels installed.

Chairman Towne said he will follow-up with ComEd to schedule a representative to attend our next meeting and provide information regarding solar panels and energy audit for residents.

F. RECOMMENDATION IN CREATING A SOLAR PANEL GROUP

G. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION, AND IF APPROVED, BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

H. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Sheldon and seconded by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk