

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2013
7:00 P.M.

A Meeting of the Village of Lemont Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, November 18, 2013 in the Lemont Village Hall Board Room at 418 Main Street, Lemont, Illinois.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Reaves called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL – Trustees Debby Blatzer, Paul Chialdikas, Cliff Miklos, Rick Sniegowski, Ron Stapleton and Jeanette Virgilio were present.

Also present were Village staff members George Schafer, Charity Jones, Mark LaChappell, Ralph Pukula, Val **Hennebesy**, Chris Smith, Kevin Shaughnessy, and Village Attorney represented by Jeff Alperin. Eileen Donahue arrived at 7:30 p.m.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 706 Hickory Street Variation

Planning & Economic Development Director Charity Jones presented the Case History regarding the request for a fence variation to allow an existing 4ft. fence to remain on their property. As indicated in the COW memorandum, the Planning & Zoning Commission conducted a public hearing on October 16. After discussion, the P&Z Commission recommended approval of the variation request stating that the addition to the property was 9.5 feet of the total façade and that the variation request resulted in essentially a 1 foot increase to the fence height allowable in a front yard. Staff recommended denial of the variation request based on the UDO requirements.

Trustee Sniegowski, referred to the UDO fence requirement drawings and stated that, when initially done, there is an error in these drawings and they do not make sense when there is a jet out. The subject's property also includes an elevation change. That is what we have a variance for. He stated that staff did a good job at following the code, but the code needs to be redone to what makes sense.

The Village Board agreed to allow the variation.

B. Delinquencies in Parking Tickets, Ordinance Violations and Utilities

Finance Director Chris Smith gave the background history of the agenda item. Currently, there is \$1.3 MM delinquency balance on these items. Utility delinquencies have been increasing with a current delinquency total of \$70,000. Finance would like to create a Comprehensive Delinquency Policy to keep delinquencies to a minimal amount. Although they are being included in the Comprehensive Delinquency Policy, parking tickets and ordinance violation collections are being handled separately.

We do not have a collection agency for utilities. For utility delinquencies, aggressive collection approaches could include; partial payments not guaranteeing service; written payment plans; routine service termination for failure to pay.

An Amnesty Program was also suggested for consideration.

Discussion of options took place. The Board agreed to implement an Amnesty Program, payment plan, and adjudication per ordinance to non-payers. The program will become effective January 1, 2014.

C. Immobilization of Vehicles

Finance Director Chris Smith provided information regarding the agenda item. The proposed ordinance will reduce the number of needed violations before a vehicle can be towed or immobilized to three outstanding, unpaid violations. Discussion took place and it was decided that an amnesty program for outstanding violations from 1990-March 2013 would be done first. The effective date of the immobilization of Vehicles will become effective January 1, 2014.

D. FY 1014-25 Capital Improvement and Operating Budget Calendar

Finance Director Chris Smith reviewed the calendar in reference to the agenda item. It was recommended to hold two budget COW meetings in February which would occur after the scheduled Village Board Meetings. The trend analysis would be discussed on February 10 and the Capital discussion on February 24. It was also recommended to move the March full budget COW meeting to after the VB meeting of March 10th. This will allow more time to make final changes prior to approval.

E. Updates to the Employee Personnel Manual

Village Administrator noted that this is not a complete re-write of the manual, but includes some policy changes. After attorney review, the manual will be up for approval at the December 9 Village Board Meeting and become effective on January 1, 2014.

HR Generalist Eileen Donahue gave an overview of the changes. Discussion took place regarding the 25 days of vacation earned at 25 years of service. This is a significant amount of time to take off during the year and also a significant amount of time for those that carrying over the allotted days into the next year. It was suggested that after 25 years of service, the fifth week be based on a paid bonus structure. The language will be revised that at 25 years of service, a maximum of 20 days vacation will be earned and one week of bonus pay. It was also noted that reference to the "Fire and Police Commissioners" will be corrected since this does not include Fire Commissioners. Training will be held for employees and they will be required to sign off.

F. Waste/Recycling Hauler Contract Negotiations Process

Village Administrator George Schafer noted that our current contract with Waste Management expires May 1, 2014. Review/discussion of the current contract took place and the Board provided input on the items they felt could change or should remain.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amendments to Lemont Building Code

Building Commissioner Mark LaChappell presented four different changes to the Building Code. This included changes to permit expirations and renewal regulations; swimming pool gates; square footage to threshold structures requiring frost protected footing; a change in the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The items will be up for Board approval at the December 9 Village Board Meeting.

B. Well and Septic

A resident that recently connected to Village water line inquired about not capping off his existing well. The current code requires that the well be capped. The Board is requiring that the well be capped off per the code.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.