

Committee of the Whole
September 12, 2011
7:45 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Village of Lemont Committee of the Whole was held on Monday September 12, 2011 in the Board Room of the Village Hall at 418 Main Street in Lemont, Illinois.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Reaves called the special meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and acknowledged that the following were present:

Trustees Paul Chialdikas, Ron Stapleton, Rick Sniegowski, Debbie Blatzer Trustee Miklos and Jeanette Virgilio.

Also present were Village staff members Ben Wehmeier, James Brown, Ed Buettner, Dan Tully, George Schafer and Village Attorneys Dan Blondin and Jeffery Stein.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion of Electrical Utility Aggregation

Mr. Wehmeier gave a brief presentation on the ability for municipalities to get involved in the electrical utility aggregation process. Under state law, the village can help drive down electric costs for residents through this process. Through economies of scale and buying power, the Village can bundle all resident accounts and go out to market for third party provider for reduced costs. Residents have the ability to stay with ComEd if they choose, and all customer service functions would still go through ComEd. The 16 communities that already implemented this process saw approximately 20% savings on electric supply costs. Actual savings worked out to be approximately 13% of the residents' bills, since transmission costs do not change. A third party supplier would likely be chosen, since ComEd prefers to provide transmission only, not supply the electricity.

To implement the process, the Village would have to pass a referendum first. The discussion leads to two questions. One, does the Village want to proceed with putting the referendum on the ballot? The other question is whether or not the Village wants to join with the Will County Governmental League for the bidding. With regard to the referendum, the board was receptive to putting the item on the ballot. There are few, if any negatives associated with the program. There was also interest in joining the Will County group with the project. This would be discussed further at a later date. There was one question from the audience. One resident had concerns over the opt-out provision, and whether a resident could opt out, then opt back in, or would have to wait until the contract was up. The Village would be looking into these issues in the future and present findings at a future meeting. Discussion closed.

Complete Streets Policy Resolution

Mr. Brown led a discussion on the Complete Streets policy that is being developed by staff. The intention of the policy is to establish the complete street goals and to outline basic implementation measures to achieve these goals. This policy fits in with the Model Communities Program that village is involved with. There was a distinction of the Village's policy versus IDOT's. The Village's policy would be more flexible to the needs of the Village. There was a resident in attendance from Covington Knolls that spoke in favor of the policy. There would be further discussion on the policy at later meetings.

UDO Amendments

Mr. Brown gave a brief presentation on amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance. One of the more major amendments includes provisions for sidewalk café ordinances. The Planning and Zoning Commission will be reviewing these changes but staff wanted to bring item to Village Board for initial input. Dan Blondin spoke on distinctions between types of requests and which code should address each issue. Requests for outdoor dining on private property should be addressed in the zoning code. Requests for use of public property should be addressed in the municipal code, with provisions for appropriate insurance to be presented to Board. In addition, use of public property should be accompanied by a license agreement outlining the use of the public property. The third provision is if the request is for an establishment that sells alcohol. In this case, the liquor code should address the issue, with additional liquor liability insurance to be presented to Village. Another issue brought up was the need for a fence separating tables that serve alcohol. Mr. Brown said he doesn't see the need for the separation by a fence. After much discussion, a few of the board members would still like to see a fence as a separation. This item would be brought up at a future meeting, and at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Discussion of GASB 54 Finance Policy

Mr. Wehmeier presented the next finance policy the Village is looking to adopt. GASB 54 deals with fund balance issues. The purpose of the policy is to establish fund balance classifications that establish a hierarchy based on the extent to which the Village must observe constraints upon use of the resources that are reported by the governmental funds. The policy will consist of non-spendable funds balance, restricted fund balance, and unrestricted fund balance. The policy was presented to the Board; there was little discussion on the topic. The item would be up for approval at a future Board Meeting.

Village Financial Policies

Mr. Wehmeier went over the next financial policy the Village is reviewing, the debt management policy. The debt management policy sets forth comprehensive guidelines for the financing of capital projects and infrastructure. It is the objective of the policy that the Village obtain financing only when necessary; the process for identifying the timing and amount of debt or other financing be as efficient as possible, and the most favorable interest rate and other costs be obtained. The Board did not have an issue with the policy; it would be up for approval at a future Board meeting.

First Quarter FY 2012 Budget Review

Mr. Wehmeier went through a brief discussion on the first quarter numbers from the Fiscal year budget. Being so early in the fiscal year, how the revenues are tracking may be off due to the timing of when the Village gets its revenues. There was minor discussion on the topic. The Committee of the Whole will continue to have quarterly budget meetings going forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No Audience Participation

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reaves adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM