

Committee of the Whole
November 21, 2011
6:30 p.m.

A Meeting of the Village of Lemont Committee of the Whole was held on Monday November 21, 2011 in the Board Room of the Village Hall at 418 Main Street in Lemont, Illinois.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Reaves called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and acknowledged that the following were present:

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

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion of Bella Strada Plan

Recently, New Horizon Homes has looked into taking over the Bella Strada project. The prospective developer would be asking for some slight deviations from the approved plans. The changes include the reduction of stone and some reduction in units. The Board did not have an issue with the request. The item would be discussed again at a future meeting. Discussion closed.

Discussion of Comcast Franchise

Over the course of the past year, the Village has been working with other communities in its discussion with Comcast for a new franchise agreement. The Village has worked with the Metro Mayors Caucus and Will County group in this process. The primary objective was to create a standard for all and reduce costs. As part of the new plan, the Village has to develop a capital plan to justify the Public government fees that are paid to the Village through Comcast. Staff will be working with the Channel 6 Group on this in the near future. The draft agreement was presented to the Board, and there was consensus that it should be taken forward for a final vote. Discussion closed.

Discussion of Annexation/Rezoning of Property Located on Archer and Bell

The owner of the property has requested annexation and rezoning to B-3. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve the plan by a vote of 5-0. There were residents from the area who came out to express concerns over traffic. The Board did not have an issue with the request, as it is a similar use to what is out in the area. There will also be changes to the comprehensive plan for this area since most of it is industrial. A couple of the trustees mentioned that they should be sensitive to the neighbors

and provide ample buffering. This should be covered as part of the UDO. There was general consensus in support of the project; it would be in front of the Village Board at a future meeting. Discussion closed.

Discussion of Electrical Aggregation

Staff presented the upcoming referendum opportunity for municipal aggregation. Under the process, the Village would be allowed to bundle all residential and small commercial accounts and go out to bid for these accounts for purposes of reducing costs to all. Many communities have already implemented the process. In order to begin the process, the Village must first pass a referendum authorizing the Village to have this authority. The Village would conduct required and other public notification meetings to get the word out. There was consensus for the proceeding of the process towards referendum. More information would be coming out in future meetings. Discussion closed

Discussion of Streetlight Contract

Similar to the aggregation process about to begin for village residents, the Village has been bidding out its accounts for competitive bid for years. The street lighting accounts recently became eligible for this process, and the Village has solicited bids for the energy supply for these accounts. Exelon Energy is the low bid, and converting over these accounts would save the Village approximately 20k annually. There was minimal discussion on the topic. The contract with Exelon would be in front of the Village Board for formal approval at the next meeting. Discussion closed.

Discussion of Fire Sprinkler – Downtown

There have been ongoing issues with downtown reconstruction and the requirement of sprinklers to be put in. The building department has come up with a compromise to try and reduce the cost of the sprinkler installation by allowing building owners to tap into an existing water line. This option would still incur costs for the owner, but to a lesser extent. More information will be coming up in future meetings on this topic; this was only an update to the board on the ongoing issues. Discussion closed.

Discussion of IGA for South Suburban GIS Consortium

Staff found a cost effective means to enhance its GIS system through a consortium of Will County Communities. The Board directed staff to come up with more information on the program before it is implemented. Discussion closed.

Discussion of IGA for GMAT

Chief Shaughnessy led the discussion on a task force that the Village could be the lead agency to, GMAT. The Village will provide administrative and fiscal oversight to the group. The Village will benefit by using equipment and services of the agency and all costs will be reimbursed to Village. There were no major issues with request. The agreement would be in front of Village Board at future meeting.

Discussion of 6 month budget review and budget amendment.

As the Village closes out the halfway point of the fiscal year, it is time for a budget review and appropriate amendments to be included. Mr. Wehmeier went through the progress of the budget and recommended amendments to said budget. There will be another opportunity for a review and amendment at the 9 month mark. There was some minor discussion. The item would up for approval at next Board meeting.

Discussion of various policies.

Staff went through the various financial and personnel manual related policies. The policies reviewed include the revenue and cash management policy, the capital asset policy, the budget policy, the strategic policy and the personnel manual updates relating to required pension language. There was minimal discussion on the topic; the items would be up for approval at next Board meeting. Discussion closed.

Discussion of Strategic Planning and Implementation Proposal

Staff has solicited quotes for a full strategic plan process for the Village. It has been about 6 years since the last one, and this one would take the process a step further and provide business action points following the goal setting stage of the process. As the Village wants to get more professional with its operations, performance measurement focus, and budgeting process, strategic planning will become more important. The general consensus from the Board was to go ahead with the contract. Staff would be obtaining more quotes from other firms to ensure the Village is getting the best price. Discussion closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No Audience Participation

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reaves adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM