

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

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

Monday, December 12, 2016— 6:00 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 Monday, December 12, 2016, at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 6:02 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Battistoni and Davies

ALSO PRESENT: President Tom Livingston; Trustee Dave McCarty; Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Executive Assistant Erica Stewart; Neil James, WCCSWA; and Phil Kowalski, WCCSWA.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Nasif, seconded by Commissioner Christianson to approve the minutes from February 17, 2015. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. BUSINESS AT HAND

A. Presentation and Discussion: Refuse Collection and Disposal Services Contract

Chairman Wentink advised that the Commission has historically been involved in recommending options to the Village Board regarding the Village's residential solid waste contract and the current contract expires on April 30, 2017.

He introduced Neil James and Phil Kowalski from the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency (WCCSWA). He noted that the Agency is a good resource to the Village due to its involvement in the industry and knowledge of municipalities in the area.

Chairman Wentink asked Ms. Peterson to provide a presentation of the history of the Village's refuse disposal program including the results of a resident survey; past contract

negotiations; resident satisfaction; and a summary of the current refuse and recycling rates, pricing structure, and contract terms. Ms. Peterson advised that the Village had asked Mr. Kowalski to provide a rate and pricing analysis of the current contract terms in comparison to the region and overall industry trends.

Mr. Kowalski noted that La Grange has a 39% recycling rate which is one of the highest in the region. Including leaf composting and landscape waste, the diversion rate is almost 51%.

He further noted that the current program offers a significant amount of flexibility in a cost effective manner that meets the needs for each household size. He further noted significant growth in total subscriptions over the current contract period. La Grange is one of the few communities in the area with a sticker program that does not include a base fee component and noted a continued reduction in sticker sales over the contract term.

Mr. Kowalski stated that there is emerging technology in the marketplace but it is very new and only one community in the region has just started using it. As a result, there are no metrics to determine the viability of the technology in the long term, particularly in the Midwest climate. While the technology can provide for more specific charges for recycling and waste, it is not necessarily more cost effective for the resident as the hauler is still going to pursue a base revenue amount and costs will simply be reallocated. It is recommended that the Village continues to evaluate how technology is being used in the region and consider future opportunities as more information is made available.

Ms. Peterson summarized staff's analysis which appears to generally reflect that the current program structure is: 1) priced competitively for the average La Grange household as compared to area communities with a variety of program structures; 2) places a value on recycling which equates to La Grange having one of the highest waste diversion rates in the Chicago area; and 3) is working well for residents given its flexibility, freedom of choice, low complaints and consistent program parameters.

She further indicated that as a result, a negotiated extension of the current contract under similar terms and program structure may be beneficial to the Village. If the Village is inclined to negotiate a contract extension, there are some matters that staff recommends discussing with Republic as a result of the analysis such as pricing considerations now that the total program is more established and maintaining strong incentives for residents to recycle. In the event that the parties cannot come to terms, staff recommends that the Village initiate a Request for Proposal process soon after the first of the year. It was further recommended that the EQCC continue to monitor resident preferences and industry trends over the next contract period and evaluate potential future program opportunities particularly as related to the use of emerging technology in the industry.

Commissioners asked questions regarding projected hauler revenue needs; trends in waste collection that involve technology; recycling totes; education to reduce recycling contamination; and appropriate contract length.

After discussion, Chairman Wentink noted that the Commission concurred with the trajectory of the staff recommendation and suggested that staff negotiate a shorter extension than in the past with Republic in order to review emerging technology for future consideration. He further noted that the discussions with Republic should focus on balancing incentives for recycling, sticker pricing and tote costs as well as education to reduce recycling contamination. If staff cannot reach an agreement on acceptable terms of an extension with Republic, then the EQCC recommends that staff pursue a Request for Proposal process.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

President Livingston thanked the members of the EQCC for their time and volunteerism. He noted that the Village is in the process of determining priorities through the budgeting process and expressed his support of the Commission's mission of being mindful of environmental impacts. President Livingston asked Commissioners to consider residents in the community who may be interested in serving on the Commission.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT EQCC MEETING

The Commission determined that the next meeting of the EQCC would be held at a future date and once a staff recommendation was developed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager