

I. CALL TO ORDER:

President Keller called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL:

Present were President Keller, Trustees Gillam, Price, Hanley and Yuscka. Trustees Voss and Osth were absent. Also present were Village Manager Cavallaro, Village Attorney Brechin, Community Development Director Tymoszenko, Public Works Director Babica and one (1) person in the audience.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Keller led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Yuscka and seconded by Trustee Price to approve the agenda as presented. Upon roll call, motion was approved.

V. VILLAGE PRESIDENTS REPORT: There was none.

VI. REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM TRUSTEES: There were none.

VII. VILLAGE STAFF REPORTS:

Manager Cavallaro and Director Babica each urged those in attendance to traveling carefully and allow extra time for travel over the next few days in light of the severe snow storm expected to begin this evening.

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Discussion - Emerald Ash Borer (Trustee Yuscka)

Trustee Yuscka reintroduced this topic, referencing the August 31, 2009 Committee of the Whole discussion whereby the Board was advised of positive identification of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) within Ash trees along Market Loop.

Based on the available results of the ongoing parkway tree survey, Director Babica advised that approximately 43% of public trees are susceptible to infestation by EAB. A solid number as to the total Ash population should be available by mid July, as the regrowth of leaves will allow for easier species identification. The prevalence of Ash trees is due in part to their fast-growing nature and tolerance to draught, pollution and salt, as well as their increased popularity in the late 80s after the devastation of Dutch Elm Disease.

Director Babica advised that all efforts will be made to inspect known parkway Ash trees between April 1 and June 15 each year and any trees showing positive signs of infection will be removed and properly disposed of, in accordance with the guidelines put forth by the Illinois

Department of Agriculture. Removal of infected trees will be discouraged during the EAB adult flight season, typically mid July through mid August. Tree removals will be done in-house whenever possible, or with the assistance of other local agencies as needed and available. If necessary, an outside contractor will be utilized. Assuming in-house removal, a rough estimate of \$433 per tree was provided, with the understanding that the age and location of trees to be removed will impact expenses.

All sites from which trees are removed will be placed on the Parkway Tree Replacement List for future replanting. However, the potential for a large number of replacement sites coupled with the cost of trees and labor for installation, as well as the administrative demands of a large tree planting program, will prove challenging. Tree replacement during the same season as removal will be unlikely in most cases.

As EAB has similarly affected many of our neighboring communities, the concept of a tree nursery co-op in conjunction with the Kane County Forest Preserve was discussed. Still in the brainstorming stage, this concept will be investigated further.

It was noted that many property owners have a sense of ownership of parkway tree(s) in front of their property and may desire to put personal effort and finances into an effort to save an existing tree identified as infected with EAB or into immediate replacement of a removed tree. Staff is looking into whether a donation of this sort to the Village would be tax deductible for the owner.

The existing Municipal Code outlines the responsibility of private property owners to properly remove infected trees and allows for the Village to remove said trees at the owner's expense if the owner fails to do so within the specified timeframe. The potential to gain a volume discount to extend to residents for removal and replacement was discussed. It was noted that Village policy previously provided for a 50% cost share with property owners for parkway trees and sidewalks.

Director Babica recommended that code revisions be made to allow the list of prohibited and allowed species for parkway tree planting to be updated as needed by the Director of Public Works and reviewed by the Village Board on an annual basis, in order to remain current.

B. Shop and Dine Program (Trustee Osth)

Director Tymoszenko presented a recap of the Shop and Dine Local program that was rolled out with the 2009 Autumn Village Newsletter and concluded at the end of December. 10 restaurants and 27 merchants participated in the program, and each was contacted personally by Director Tymoszenko for feedback. A variety of comments and suggestions were offered by participants, with many noting that they would like to participate again should the program be continued.

Based on the success of the program and the comments received, it was recommended that the program continue to be offered in line with the quarterly Newsletters, in order to allow merchants to tailor their offerings at different times of the year, and to opt in or out on a quarterly basis.

There was discussion as to expense of printing and adhering pre-cut discount cards into the Autumn 2009 Newsletter and how costs could be minimized in the future, including an on-line only version to be printed by interested parties and coupon-style cards printed directly in the Newsletter to be cut out. The concept of providing a cling window sticker to participating businesses, for easy identification by the public, was briefly discussed.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was none.

X. MISCELLANEOUS:

Manager Cavallaro advised that, due to the simplicity of the 2010-2011 Budget, there would likely be no Special Committee of the Whole meeting this year for purposes of this discussion. Budget discussions will be had at the March Committee of the Whole meeting, and if necessary, continue at the subsequent Regular Board Meeting.

President Keller noted that he received a call from a resident this afternoon regarding the procedure of minimum billing for water and sewer services, and inquiring about the availability of local senior tax credits and exemptions.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Moved by Trustee Hanley and seconded by Trustee Price to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Upon roll call, motion was unanimous.

The Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

ATTEST:

Kim Tibbetts
Village Clerk

Larry Keller
Village President