

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011**

Chairman Laura LaPlaca called the meeting of the Environment and Public Services Committee to order at 6:34 P.M., Tuesday December 12, 2011, in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, IL.

PRESENT: Chairman Laura LaPlaca, Trustee Doug Geoga, Trustee Bob Saigh

ABSENT: Trustee William Haarlow

ALSO PRESENT: Dave Cook, Village Manager; George Franco, Director of Public Services; Dan Deeter, Village Engineer; Tom Bueser, Deputy Director of Public Services; John Finnell, Village Forester.

Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2011

The EPS Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2011 meeting. Chairman LaPlaca added comments to the minutes. Trustee Saigh motioned for approval of the November 15, 2011 minutes as amended. Trustee Geoga seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Services Monthly Report

Mr. Franco updated the committee on the status of the Public Service Department preparations for snow and ice removal this winter. During the season's first (minor) snow event earlier in December, the Village used 30-tons of salt. Noting that a recent water main repair occurred on his block, Trustee Geoga asked if residents should take any action to restore the parkway after a water main repair. Mr. Franco responded that the Village will grade and seed the area in the spring. Residents do not have to restore the parkway grass after a water main break is repaired.

Village Tree Pruning Update

Mr. Franco and Mr. Finnell addressed the committee concerning the Village's annual tree pruning program and the emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation. Since the State has recognized that areas in Hinsdale have an EAB infestation, staff is recommending to not prune any species of ash tree susceptible to EAB unless the tree has significant safety concerns that can be mitigated through pruning. Many, if not most, of these ash trees will be lost to EAB infestation before the pruning cycle returns to this area. Avoiding these ash trees will allow the contractor to prune additional parkway trees that were severely impacted from this past summer's storms.

Chairman LaPlaca discussed an EAB seminar that she, Mr. Franco, and Mr. Finnell had recently attended. The seminar included speakers from areas/municipalities that had

already experienced significant damage to their tree population due to the EAB infestation. The speakers recommended developing an ash tree management program to address the impact of EAB as early as possible. Left untreated, EAB infestation will develop into what was described as the “exponential death stage”. In this stage a large number of ash trees die each year. In addition to the aesthetic impacts of this problem, the exponential death stage places a significant financial burden on the Village to remove the large number of dead ash trees. Treatment is effective in prolonging the life of many ash trees. Thus, treating ash trees can reduce or avoid an “exponential death stage”-like die-off and reduce the yearly financial burden of removing dead or dying ash trees.

The committee approved the staff’s recommendation to do selective pruning of ash trees and develop an ash tree management program.

Electronic Recycling Program for 2012

As mentioned in the November EPS meeting, Mr. Franco informed the committee that starting January 1, 2012, landfills in Illinois will not take electronic items due to the potential for contamination from the components/chemicals in these items. Thus, residents can no longer dispose of their electronic items in their garbage or recycling bins. These electronic items must be recycled by a registered collector, recycler, and/or manufacturer. There are free drop-off locations for electronic items in the area. Mr. Franco will post this information including the types of electronic items involved and drop-off locations on the Village web site and through the local newspapers.

Proposed Parkway Tree Removal at 5607 S. Park Street

Mr. Ankit Patel addressed the committee concerning his request to remove and replace a parkway tree as part of his on-going efforts to construct a new single family residence at 5607 S. Park Street. Mr. Finnell explained that during plan review, staff had approved the relocation of the 30-foot blue spruce tree. Staff knew that a gas main was located in the vicinity of the tree. But, staff concluded that the gas main would not interfere with the tree relocation. When it came time to relocate the tree, it was discovered that a gas service ran directly under the tree through the roots. The close proximity of the gas service prevents the removal of the tree. The committee agreed that they would not have approved the removal of the tree if this gas service conflict had been identified during the design review. However, since this was an unforeseen conflict that has occurred late in construction, the committee unanimously approved the removal of the tree.

Engineering Monthly Report

Mr. Deeter updated committee on the status of Veeck Park restoration, Oak Street Bridge replacement, 2011 Resurfacing Project, the Chestnut Street Project, 2012 Resurfacing and Reconstruction Projects, and the BNSF crossing improvements. Chairman LaPlaca discussed the December 6th Oak Street Bridge Technical Committee meeting between IDOT District 1, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Village, and the Village’s consultants. During the Technical Committee meeting, the

Village summarized the results from the public input during the second public meeting held on October 26th. After reviewing the past environmental reports, alternative analysis, and public input, the Technical Committee unanimously agreed that the Oak Street crossing is the preferred alternative. The Phase 1 investigation should proceed to analyze the Oak Street crossing only.

The Technical Committee discussed the Village's concerns about managing the volume of traffic crossing the new bridge. Trustee LaPlaca asked whether a new one-lane bridge could be built. The state and federal representatives responded that a new one-lane bridge would be "functionally obsolete". It would not be funded with state or federal dollars. The analogy is: if you have an existing non-conforming house, you can continue to live in that house. But, once you tear it down and build a new home, that new home must conform to all modern standards. The members of the technical committee recommended that the Village investigate traffic-calming alternatives around the bridge and in the surrounding areas (north and south of the bridge) to manage the traffic through the area.

The next activities in the Oak Street Bridge Phase 1 process will include soil borings in the vicinity of the crossing and additional traffic counts, modeling, and design. The next meeting of the Citizen's Working Group will be in February 2012.

Chairman LaPlaca noted that in November the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference approved the allocation of State Transportation Project (STP) funds for four Hinsdale projects in 2017. This will reduce the estimated cost to the Village from approximately \$1,600,000 to approximately \$500,000. Trustee Saigh suggested that the "Grant Funds Awarded" report should be posted on the Village web site.

To Approve the purchase of a Ford F-150 Pickup Truck, Through the State of Illinois purchasing Cooperative in the amount of \$19,650.00 from Landmark Ford. Chairman LaPlaca introduced this agenda item. Mr. Franco explained that is new truck will replace an existing truck that has outlived its useful life with the Village. This truck purchase is in the current Village budget. Trustee Geoga motioned to approve. Trustee Saigh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further issues to be brought before the Committee, Trustee Saigh moved to adjourn. Trustee Geoga seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Deeter
Village Engineer