

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ELBURN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)
OCTOBER 19, 2020

Board Members Present: President Jeff Walter, Trustees: Ken Anderson, Sue Filek, Bill Grabarek (via conference call), Chris Mondri, Patricia Schuberg, Matt Wilson

Board Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Village Administrator John Nevenhoven; Finance Director Doug Elder, Village Attorney Bill Thomas, Police Chief Nick Sikora; Building Commissioner Tom Brennan; Public Works Supt Phil VanBogaert; Village Engineer Julie Morrison

Others Present: Residents LeRoy Herra, Bill Ott, Brandon Jeralds; Shodeen rep Bob Skidmore; Blackberry Station Business Center reps: Lucas Goucher & Danny DeKing

Others Present:

1. Call to Order – Mayor Walter called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.
2. Roll Call – A roll call ensued.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Discussion:
 - a. A Class "G" Liquor License for Blackberry Station Mead Hall – Village Admin Nevenhoven said the Board reviewed this previously but requested more detailed plans. Blackberry Station Business Center reps Lucas Goucher and Danny DeKing were present. Discussion ensued regarding entrance(s) to the subject building. There is no intention to have outside seating at this time. A newly fenced in area will be used for storage. Inside seating will be a boutique-type adult setting vs. more of a family atmosphere at Obscurity. When asked about flushings that might affect the Village's WWTP, Goucher said there is less mead waste passed to the WWTP than that from Obscurity. The waste is mostly caught in a trough and then used by a farmer as feed—not certain how much ends up in the grease trap. Public Works Supt VanBogaert stated the Village has not seen a change at the WWTP as a result of Obscurity brewing thus far. There was consensus on the Board to move forward with the request and place on the next Village Board consent agenda.
 - b. Resolution 2020-12 Truth in Taxation 2020 Tax Levy – Finance Director Elder presented. This is the process where the Village Board determines if a public hearing is necessary for the upcoming Tax Levy. This particular one is for the general fund which is the same amount as the last few years. No action is required tonight and will be on the next Village Board agenda for final approval.
 - c. Resolution 2020-13 Truth in Taxation Special Service Area #1 – Elder explained this is the same process as described above. There is not much of a difference for this SSA from last year and no public hearing is required.
 - d. Resolution 2020-14 Truth in Taxation Special Service Area #2 – Elder stated the increase is slightly higher than last year and a hearing is not required by law.
 - e. Resolution 2020-15 Truth in Taxation Special Service Area #6 – Elder stated this is a significant decrease from last year and a public hearing is not required. Why is there a decrease? Mayor Walter explained it was anticipated the Village would accept Elburn Station last year but it has not happened as of yet. When this occurs, the Village will have to hire staff to manage. Until the project is turned over to the Village, Shodeen is responsible for covering the expense shortage.

For comparison, SSA #2 (Blackberry Creek) has an HOA which charges a separate fee to residents. SSA #6 (Elburn Station) will not have a separate HOA fee therefore, the fee they are assessed will be higher. Shodeen rep Skidmore said Shodeen is in support of cutting the assessment by more than half even though Shodeen will have to cover the cost. Shodeen is happy to work with the Village on the budget for next year and perspective EAVs going out a few years to ensure it is equitable to the homeowner. It was suggested this offer from Shodeen be obtained in writing, otherwise it will not be entertained. Mayor Walter stated this is in the annexation agreement and will be memorialized. Nevenhoven and Skidmore will work together on costs and will bring back to a future meeting for discussion.

- f. Resolution 2020-16 Emergency Operation Plan – Chief Sikora presented. The plan is all encompassing but can be used in sections if need be. When approved, this plan will be shared with all partners and will be reviewed annually. It is a very comprehensive and thorough plan and provides a sense of security should an emergency occur. This will be on the next Village Board agenda for action.
 - g. Village Hall Sign – Village Admin Nevenhoven received proposals from four different sign manufacturers. The proposed signs do not comply with the Downtown Sign Ordinance and the Village would either need to seek relief from the sign ordinance or revise the ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding the sign ordinance. The Village receives 1 to 2 variance requests annually and it was stated that it would be good to have an ordinance that will stand on its own without variances. There was agreement the sign ordinance should go back to the Planning Commission to review variances allowed over the past several years and make it friendlier yet keep the flavor of Elburn—modernize/classic looks. As far as the new sign for Village Hall, Trustees gave their personal preferences of what they would like the sign to look like and directed Nevenhoven to come back to the Board with two or three choices on a smaller scale. The sign ordinance will be presented to the Planning Commission at their November 3 meeting.
 - h. Quarterly Reports:
 - i. Building and Zoning – Building Commissioner Brennan highlighted the report.
 - ii. Police – Chief Sikora highlighted the report.
 - iii. Public Works – Public Works Supt VanBogaert highlighted the report.
5. Other Business – Due to uncertainty with COVID-19 there was consensus to post-pone the annual employee dinner from January to spring 2021. Since the repaving of Route 47, complaints have been received that the parking spots on Route 47 are smaller than normal. Sikora and VanBogaert will review IDOT plans and report back to the Board.
6. Adjourn – Trustee Mondy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Filek and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane McQuilkin
Village Clerk