

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2015
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) in the Village Hall Board Room (40 East Center Avenue) on Monday, December 14, 2015. Village President O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and Village Clerk Aaron Towle called the roll and announced the following were present:

Village President: Kathleen O'Hara

Trustees: Barbara Ankenman
Mark Dewart
Eric Grenier
John Josephitis
William Meyer

Absent: Steve Christensen, Village Trustee
Peter Friedman, Village Attorney

Also Present: Aaron Towle, Village Clerk
Drew Irvin, Village Administrator
David Belmonte, Chief of Police
Jeff Hansen, Village Engineer
Michael Croak, Building Codes Supervisor
Brandon Stanick, Assistant to the Village Administrator

Non-Agenda Items and Visitors

President O'Hara stated the COW allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the COW on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the COW.

Consideration of the Minutes from the November 23, 2015 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

Trustee Dewart moved to approve the November 23, 2015 COW Meeting Minutes as presented. Trustee Grenier seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Continued Discussion Regarding Outdoor Construction and Property Maintenance Regulations

Village Administrator Drew Irvin reported on August 24, 2015 the COW discussed complaints received by the Village from time to time regarding outdoor work (lawn mowing and other landscaping activities) that produces offensive noises in the early morning and evening hours. Historically, the Village has managed these complaints by working with the contractors/property owners and by using the current permitted construction times for regulatory purposes. The COW conversations regarding this topic were continued to the September 14th meeting where a consensus was reached on the following:

- No change should be made to the existing permissible construction hours,
- Further regulations for gas and electric powered landscape equipment during May 15 to the end of September to Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on weekends/holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. should be explored,
- Leaf blowers should be permitted to operate until 6 p.m.,

- Snow blowers/shoveling activities should be exempt from regulations, and
- Village residents completing outdoor maintenance activities should have more flexibility to complete outdoor property maintenance activities (permission to work later in the evening).

Village Administrator Irvin stated an ordinance reflecting these changes in policy was drafted and shared with three local landscape companies. Contractors indicated they can accommodate extending hours for leaf blowers to 6:00 p.m. In regards to limiting the use of powered landscape equipment in the same manner as permitted leaf blowers, contractors felt the change would result in more noise for longer periods of time and be highly inefficient for them to operate and ultimately, increasing costs to customers. The contractors felt it made sense to exempt snow removal equipment and equipment used by property owners on their own property. Village Administrator Irvin reported one local landscape contractor's primary concern was a desire for the Village to license all landscape contractors and require proof of insurance as done by other Northshore communities.

Trustee Dewart stated any increase in enforcement may be perceived as a barrier to entry. He inquired if the same regulations apply to snow plow services. A discussion ensued.

Trustee Ankenman expressed concern with the Village efficiently ensuring insurance is kept current throughout a licensing period.

Trustee Dewart expressed his agreement with Trustee Ankenman about further understanding the administrative responsibilities that will be dedicated to this function.

Trustee Grenier stated he is most concerned with the noise levels on weekends and suggested a 9:00 a.m. start time on weekends and holidays.

Trustee Josephitis expressed his agreement with the other Trustees and inquired of the license requirements for Lake Forest and Green Oaks.

Trustee Meyer expressed his preference to license landscape contractors. He asked how much insurance is required and how do other municipalities administer the program.

Village Administrator Irvin stated Staff will review license and insurance regulations and present the information to the COW at a future meeting.

Adjournment

As no further business came before the COW, Trustee Meyer moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Josephitis seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator