

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 24, 2017**

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, April 24, 2017. Village President O’Hara called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Village Clerk Aaron Towle called the roll.

The following were present:

Village President: Kathleen O’Hara

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

Also Present: Aaron Towle, Village Clerk
Drew Irvin, Village Administrator
Peter Friedman, Village Attorney

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.

Mr. David Barkhausen came forward to address the COW. He stated he was unclear with the Board’s practice of allowing comment to non-agenda items. President O’Hara explained that the COW’s procedure is to provide an opportunity to comment on non-agenda items, then to discuss an item, then to provide an opportunity to comment on the agenda item at that time. She offered an invitation for Mr. Barkhausen to speak regarding the agenda item now. Mr. Barkhausen wants the 2010 solid waste ordinance enforced. He believes that solid waste pickup is the most visible service the Village provides, and that the current pickup practices by Groot, the Village’s solid waste contractor, fail to meet the standards of the ordinance.

Consideration of the Minutes from the February 27, 2017 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

Trustee Ankenman moved to approve the April 10, 2017 COW Meeting Minutes as presented. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

A Discussion Regarding the Village’s Residential Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Collection Regulations.

President O’Hara introduced the agenda item and invited Village Administrator Drew Irvin to report on the matter. Village Administrator Irvin reviewed recent enforcement actions taken after a letter to the editor appeared in a local publication regarding this subject. He stated that, generally, enforcement actions are targeted to address clear nuisances. In the future, he stated that the Village could spend more

resources on educational materials such as the solid waste flyer that was recently distributed, which may result in greater education of residents and, hopefully, less need to enforce regulations.

Trustee Grenier believes education could solve the problem. He believes that illustrations and a statement of what the ordinance requires, along with informing them of the potential for enforcement and fines, will change what's occurring. He believes people will pay more attention if they knew the Village's regulations in more detail. He also believes that the Village can do more to address special circumstances, like when houses are cleaned out or when large amounts of trash are at the curb after Christmas. At this time, he is uncomfortable with stricter enforcement.

Trustee Josephitis said that a large television was currently at the curb in his neighborhood and asked what the process was for addressing it. Village Administrator Irvin provided a review of the enforcement process, stating that it was complaint-driven and that residents typically comply after they first receive notice.

Trustee Josephitis sees frequent violations involving landscape waste, as residents often leave their clippings at the curb for the entire week. Trustee Josephitis and Trustee Grenier discussed landscape waste practices. Village Administrator Irvin stated that examples of landscape waste violations could be included in an educational effort.

Trustee Grenier asked what the Board believed the root cause of the non-compliance was. Trustee Ankenman compared solid waste enforcement to the warning efforts used by the Lake Bluff Police to inform homeowners of unsecure situations like open garage doors or unlocked cars. She believes there is no better resident education than Groot tagging a non-compliant item at the curb and refusing to pick it up. After a period of education, the Village should start writing tickets. The burden will be on Groot, but they are supposed to be doing this anyway. Village Administrator Irvin responded that this was the process being used for the television near Trustee Josephitis' house. After an item is tagged by the hauler, however, the Ordinance shifts the burden to the Village to pursue compliance.

Trustee Dewart recently drove through the Terraces area and counted a number of homes with items in the street or gutter, as well as an even larger number of homes with waste material next to or overflowing from the waste receptacles. He believes about one-in-five or one-in-six homes in the area are in violation. He believes that this makes the education process contemplated by the Board a formidable one. By and large, he believes 90% of residents are putting things too large for the bin next to the bin, like collapsed storage and shipping boxes. Trustee Grenier returned to the idea of a root cause of these outcomes; if it's a lack of education, the Board has many options. If not education, he proposes that the answer may be by providing larger containers or more frequent collections. Mr. Barkhausen came forward again to discuss various ideas.

Trustee Christensen stated that he has not observed an issue, although he has heard about it from David. Trustee Dewart has seen photographs distributed by David as well. He stated again that many of the situations are three or four boxes stacked next to a recycling bin, and not people with trash scattered all over the place. He believes the important thing is to prevent waste items from being in the yard or out in front of the house for days. Beyond that, he believes it is a matter of personal responsibility. Trustee Meyer believes that education should come first, with fines for egregious violators. He believes that we should still pick up items that are not in compliance to stop the nuisance, but that we should also ticket the violator at that time.

President O’Hara summarized the sense of the COW on this matter, it being that education is important and that the Village should focus on ticketing egregious violations. She posed a hypothetical to the COW regarding a routine violation where boxes are stacked next to a recycling container the day before a collection, and asked what should happen. Trustee Meyer believes that such a case would be a time to use reasonable discretion, and that ticketing wouldn’t be the right approach in that circumstance. Trustee Grenier believes that the Village may want to change the ordinance if routine things like stacked boxes and 95-gallon containers are a violation, as he doesn’t have a problem with these behaviors. Trustee Ankenman responded that a resident could just take collapsed boxes to the Village’s Public Works Facility for disposal, or they could just keep store them for the extra week until they have space in the bin. She believes that everyone thinks they should be the exception to the rule, or that their personal waste won’t be the waste that blows away in the street. Trustee Josephitis noted that landscape waste can be disposed of at the Public Works Facility as well.

Village Administrator Irvin summarized the guidance provided by the COW. He understands the COW to want a strong education effort first, followed by enforcement focusing on the most egregious cases. Overall, he believes this will be a moderately stronger effort compared to the Village’s current level of enforcement. Staff will work to develop some educational literature for distribution. Trustee Grenier stated that revisions to the ordinance might also be considered.

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 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator