

**COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE  
AGENDA #12-18  
NEW LENOX BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
New Lenox Village Hall  
1 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox, Illinois  
Monday, September 17, 2012 7:00 P.M.**

**#12-18**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the New Lenox Village Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:06p.m. by Mayor Timothy Baldermann in the Council Chambers of the New Lenox Village Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon Roll Call by the Village Clerk, the following members of the corporate authorities answered "Here" or "Present":

Trustees Madsen, Smith, Bowden, and Mayor Baldermann

Trustee Tuminello arrived at 7:20PM

Absent: Trustees Dye and Butterfield

**QUORUM**

There being a sufficient number of members of the corporate authorities in attendance to constitute a quorum, the meeting was declared in order.

**OTHER OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance were the Village Clerk Laura Ruhl, Deputy Chief of Police April DiSandro, Deputy Chief of Police Bob Pawlitz, Building & Zoning Administrator Warren Rendleman, Village Engineer Will Nash, Economic Director Nancy Hoehn, Senior Planner Jeff Smith, Public Works Ken Brozovich, Village Administrator Kurt Carroll, Chief of Police Bob Sterba and Attorney Chris Spesia

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mayor Baldermann explained the goal of these meetings is to take the place of the individual Committees. He added it is our intention that no action be taken at these work sessions.

**Discussion of Design for Police Department**

Mr. Carroll reported that Staff has met with FGM Architects who was chosen by the Board to design the new Police Station. He said FGM will talk about the architecture in and around the Commons and will get the Boards thoughts and ideas and go forward with the design.

At that time the representatives of FGM Architects explained that the purpose of this first meeting is to get a clear set of goals from the Board and also identify the Boards preferences for the exterior look of the building. At this time there was a power point presentation outlining goals. There was a brief discussion regarding technology.

Mayor Baldermann stated he and the Board want a building that the community can be proud of. One that is modern, looks good and fits in the Commons area, and finally needs to be practical. This is a central location.

There was a brief discussion by the Board about the Village Hall.

**Trustee Tuminello joined the meeting at 7:20pm.**

The representatives of FGM went on with the power point showing different designs of Police Stations. They said there's not one overall style in the Commons.

At that time the Board discussed one of the designs that they preferred. They discussed how the back of the building will look.

Mayor Baldermann and the Village Board discussed what FGM Architects next steps would be and set up the next meeting.

**Discussion of Proposed Water Rates**

Mr. Carroll stated that a common complaint from residents is the minimum charge of 6,000 gallons for water. The study with Sikich, LLP shows a model that will show a flat rate for all of our internal water needs. He said there would be a flat rate for water and a charge per thousand gallons thereafter. He explained that will be a blended bill between a base rate for water per thousand gallons and it will be per thousand for sewer.

Mayor Baldermann said the problem with the massive infrastructure plan that is coming from Oak Lawn, is how they break out the charges. He said there's a way it can be done and the goal is everyone shares in the cost of the infrastructure; everyone pays per thousand as opposed to the minimum. He explained the City of Chicago is doubling the cost of water over a four year period, so no matter what we do the water rate is going to go up but the residents will be able to see what they are paying for on their bill.

Mayor Baldermann concluded that this will come back to the Board when there is more information to be reported.

**Discussion of Finance Schedule for New Buildings**

Mr. Carroll stated that Staff believes the best way to help pay for the new buildings is to issue bank qualified debt. If we issue a total of \$10 million in bonds annually the Village can save up to 50 basis points with bank qualification. To finance the construction of these buildings, debt will be issued this year, very early the beginning of next year and the remainder of the cost would be borrowed in 2014. He noted the only caveat would be if Nelson Road extension went forward we wouldn't be able to be bank qualified if debt was issued for this project in these years.

There was a brief discussion of bond costs.

Mr. Carroll noted that he would report back to the Board with the breakdown of the issuance costs.

The Board discussed the difference between a conventional loan and bonding.

**Discussion of Zoning Ordinance – Electronic Signage**

Senior Planner, Jeff Smith, reported that over the past few months there have been variance requests for electronic message center signs for commercial uses which the sign code does not allow. He said recently the Board has been open to discussing the idea to allow these signs for commercial uses. As of now, they are only allowed for defined religious and public uses. Staff researched a number of other communities sign codes and a number do allow electronic message signs. Some of the requirements are similar to ours such as the sign being fixed for a number of seconds; it has to be a certain distance from residential areas, the size of the sign and not in certain zoning districts. Mr. Smith asked for Board comments and direction.

Mayor Baldermann stated that he thinks the Board is in agreement of what they want and what they don't want when it comes to these particular signs.

Trustee Smith suggested that the size of bulbs will need to be looked at. He said the newer bulbs are more controllable and look nicer compared to the old big flashing lights.

Mayor Baldermann agreed with Trustee Smith and went on to say the biggest issue is should they expand the use to include anyone who wants this sign and what will the parameters be. He noted that the Board is in control of what signs are installed. He asked the Board if there is anyone who does not want to change the code for these signs. The Board concurred to change the code.

Trustee Smith stated that he thinks the issue of square footage should be discussed. He went on to say maybe it should be limited to the size of the building and one per strip center.

Mayor Baldermann noted it's not the usage but it's the size of the building. He agreed with only having one sign per strip center saying the building tenants can figure out who's going to advertise.

Trustee Smith listed a number of businesses on Route 30 that might possibly want to have an electronic message signs. He named some of the smaller strip centers, the schools and the larger complexes.

Mayor Baldermann said they have to look at the square footage of these businesses and have to determine if it will be based on the whole complex.

Mayor Baldermann stated the Board is in agreement that these signs will not be allowed in residential areas. He said the bottom line is the Board is open to expanding the zoning ordinance and agree on the districts they will be zoned in, no residential arterial roads and size of the bulbs. He said the question is can we legally limit it to certain zoning districts.

Trustee Bowden said this change needs to be as clear as possible in order for her to support it.

Mr. Smith asked about a distance from sign to sign requirement.

Mayor Baldermann said this would eliminate signs being right on top of each other.

The Board discussed businesses on corner lots.

Mr. Smith suggested limiting only one electronic message center sign for a shopping center.

Trustee Smith discussed video signs saying the code might be broken down to electronic message center signs and video signs.

Mr. Carroll said that the Board might look at sign companies buying older signs and modifying them

Trustee Smith noted that they should look at what percentage of burned out bulbs will be allowed.

Mayor Baldermann said nothing else at this time and thanked Mr. Smith for his report.

**Discussion of Term Limits**

Mayor Baldermann discussed possibly enacting term limits for the position of Mayor.

The Mayor and Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the pro's and con's for term limits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Bowden. Upon voice vote, the motion carried. The Regular Meeting of the Village of New Lenox Board of Trustees held on September 17, 2012 Adjourned at 8:50p.m.

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Laura Ruhl, Village Clerk