

IMPROVEMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE

October 3, 2012



Chairperson Tim Semo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance: Trustees Fred Albertz, Greg Schopp and Tim Semo. Also in attendance: Trustee: Rory Holland, Administrator Mark Johnsrud, Utilities Superintendent Peter Hartz, Street Superintendent Lee Trumpf and Clerk-Treasurer Joan Dykstra.

Statement of public notice – This meeting was posted and noticed according to law.

Approve Minutes of August 1, 2012

An Albertz/Schopp motion carried to approve August 1, 2012 minutes.

Personal Appearances (limit two minutes per person)

None

Presentation EAB - Olivia Witthun - DNR Southeast Region Urban Forester

Olivia Witthun provided information on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The larvae kill the tree not the adult beetle. The pest effectively uses the whole tree starting with the upper branches and working down the tree. Therefore, by the time the tree shows signs of EAB the entire tree is infected and most likely the community is infected. The Village has 88 public ash trees and likely five times that many privately owned ash trees. Once EAB is identified within Johnson Creek, it is likely that all ash trees will be dead within three years. USDA is collecting ash tree seeds in every state because it is likely that all ash trees will die out because of EAB. Unlike Dutch Elm Disease where some trees show resistance. No species of ash tree is resistant to EAB. Mountain Ash is not affected because it is not a ash tree. Pictures were presented of infestations within Port Washington and West Bend, showing trees that look healthy but were infected. It is not if the EAB will wipe-out the Village's ash trees it is when. Currently fifteen Wisconsin Counties are under quarantine and many more counties are likely infected but unknown and EAB trapping will not occur in the future.

Witthun stated the proposed policy is good. Pro-active tree removal today will not compete with private land owners seeking removal of trees later from busy tree contractors. Insecticides are over 90% effective at protecting ash trees however treatment needs to be done for the life of the tree. Insecticide injection must be done for all trees larger than 10". Under 10" trees can be treated with soil treatments around the tree.

Discussion & Recommendation – Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Policy

Committee decided to not make a recommendation to the Village Board at this time but referred to the 7th I & S Committee meeting.

Discussion & Recommendation – Tree Removal - 409 Union Street

The Village planted 5 Washington Hawthorne trees within the Village Right of Way (ROW) on Union Street in 2003. The property owner of 409 Union Street requested that the tree in front of his property be removed. Johnsrud said that he had inspected the tree and that the tree is healthy and near maturity. Olivia Witthun was asked if the thorns fell off the Washington Hawthorne tree and became a hazard. Witthun said that they do not.

A Schopp/Albertz motion carried unanimously to deny the property owner's request to remove the tree. (Village Code 245-77 provides I & S Committee authority over public trees.)

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Discussion & Recommendation - Johnson Creek Conservancy Park

Committee discussed relocation of compost site. Lee Trumpf explained that 500 yards of compost was removed from the site this last spring. Pete Hartz mentioned that he had contacted Don Smith of Waste Management on using the composted material as daily cover for the landfill. Johnsrud said that the first step toward implementation of the Johnson Creek Conservancy Park plan is relocation of the compost site. A new permit from the DNR will be needed for any new location. Johnsrud recommended a scope of service from MSA to relocate the compost site to a new location, to include any necessary licensing, public hearings and any other approval process.

Committee requested that Administrator Johnsrud request a scope of service from MSA to relocate the compost site and report back information to the committee next month.

Administrator Memorandum - Tiered Fees for Conditional Use Permits – Signage

Johnsrud explained that James Hammes had reviewed the memo and did not have any legal concern about having a tiered fee structure for conditional use permits for business signage.

A Schopp/Albertz motion carried to have any ordinance changes prepared for presentation to the Village Board on October 22nd.

Discussion & Recommendation - Village Hall - Roofing Bids

Johnsrud presented the committee with Resolution 93-12 Village Hall - Roof Bids. Eight contractors were solicited with the Village receiving six bids. The Village had originally budgeted \$20,000 for roof replacement on Village Hall. Roofing materials have increased in cost by 30% in the last year. The low bid was Riedl & Son at \$27,948. Therefore, the Resolution provides for an amendment to the budget.

An Albertz/Semo motion carried unanimously to recommend Resolution 93-12 Village Hall - Roof Bids to the Village Board for approval.

Adjourn

A Schopp/Semo motion carried unanimously to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.

Tim Semo, Chair
Improvement & Services