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## VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE BOARD REPORT

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**TO:** VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
**FROM:** BRENT EICHELBERGER, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR  
ALISON MURPHY, ASSISTANT TO THE VILLAGE  
ADMINISTRATOR/VILLAGE CLERK  
**SUBJECT:** DISCUSSION: OPEN BURNING ORDINANCE  
**AGENDA:** FEBRUARY 15, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 9, 2022

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### ISSUE

Should the Village Board discuss amending the Open Burning Ordinance.

### DISCUSSION

At the December 21, 2021, the Village Board discussed the current Open Burning ordinance after receiving a complaint from a resident. The Board discussed the health concerns of leaf burning, the option to provide a curbside leaf sweeping operation, the effects of burning on neighbors and the impact of enforcement on the Police Department and Fire Protection District. The Board directed staff to gather additional information and bring the issue back for discussion at a future board meeting.

When the Board last reviewed the ordinance in August 2019, the Board discussed residents' concerns over the health risks associated with the leaf burning. Per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "leaf burning leads to air pollution, health problems, and fire hazards. The open burning of leaves produces particulate matter and hydrocarbons, which contain a number of toxic, irritant, and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) compounds. Leaf smoke also contains carbon monoxide. Breathing particulate matter can increase the chances of respiratory infection, reduce the volume of air inhaled and impair the lungs." Lake County recently approved an ordinance to permanently ban the burning of grass and leaves citing health concerns as a contributing factor. In exchange, the Board approved waste haul agreements for landscape removal. The current refuse contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) has unlimited weekly curbside bagged leaf collection from April through the end of November.

To address a curbside leaf sweeping operation, staff reached out to LRS to determine if they provide this service. LRS does not and was unable to provide us with a company that did. Communities that offer curbside sweeping operations typically use in house employees. Staff reached out to the Village of Montgomery to get an estimate of the costs of such a program. Montgomery provided rough estimates for the costs of the

program as noted below. The costs provided do not include fuel, maintenance, or costs associated with dumping the leaves (including IEPA permits).

Regular employee hours - 436

Overtime employee hours - 148

Estimated total cost of employee hours - \$40,796.00 (includes employee benefits)

Equipment costs for two machines - \$500,000.00

The Board asked about the impact of open burning calls on the Police Department and Fire Protection District. Over the past three years, the Police Department received the following calls for open burning of any type, including garbage, construction materials, bonfires, leaf burning, etc.

| <b>2019</b>     | <b>2020</b>     | <b>2021</b>      |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Seven Incidents | Seven Incidents | Eleven Incidents |
| 1 Citation      | 1 Citation      | 1 Citation       |
| 6 in Compliance | 1 Warning       | 2 Warnings       |
|                 | 5 in Compliance | 8 in Compliance  |

Staff reached out to the Sugar Grove Fire Protection District for their comments. Assistant Chief Wayne Parsons is unable to attend the Board meeting, however, he did provide feedback regarding the open burning ordinance (see attached). He made two comments regarding distances in the ordinance and the corresponding distances in the fire code. Parsons stated that the SGFPD was involved in the writing of the Village's ordinance and does not have any concerns as it currently stands.

Staff does not recommend any further consideration of a curbside leaf sweeping operation as the costs are significant and the Village's current refuse contract includes unlimited seasonal bagged leaf collection.

The information from the Police and Fire Departments indicates that residents who burn leaves are generally in compliance with Village regulations and enforcement is not a major issue.

The remaining issues regarding leaf burning are identified by the EPA as air pollution and health problems. The Village has received resident reports of health related concerns over leaf burning. Staff does not believe additional tightening of the current regulations will address the health concerns and at the same time allow a practical option to burn leaves.

While there are an unidentified number of residents who have existing health issues that leaf burning exacerbates, there are also an unidentified number of residents that have a large amount of leaves where banning burning would create an additional burden in time and/or expense.

Given that the current refuse contract includes unlimited bagged leaf pickup, leaves may be used on-site as mulch, or collected and hauled off-site by private contractors, staff

recommends the Board ban leaf burning.

**COST**

There are no costs associated with this discussion.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board direct staff to draft an amendment to the Open Burning Ordinance to ban leaf burning.