

Village President

Jennifer Konen

Village Administrator

Scott Koeppel

Village Clerk

Tracey R. Conti



Village Trustees

Matthew Bonnie

Sean Herron

Heidi Lendi

Sean Michels

Michael Schomas

James F. White

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 19, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

President Konen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Herron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

On March 19, 2024, the Village Board meeting was held in person at the Village Board room located at the Police Department.

Present: President Jennifer Konen, Trustee Sean Herron, Trustee Heidi Lendi, Trustee Sean Michels, Trustee Michael Schomas,

Absent: Trustee Matthew Bonni, Trustee James F. White

Additional Attendees: Administrator Koeppel, Attorney Julien, Finance Director Anastasia, Community Development Director Magdziarz, Planning and Zoning Administrator Marion, Economic Development Director Cassa, and Village Clerk Tracey Conti

4. Public Hearing - None

5. Appointments and Presentations

a. Resident Member of Village Joint Review Board (JRB).

President Konen explained that the Joint Review Board has had a vacancy since June 2023. She recommends Susan Smith fill the vacancy.

Trustee Michels asked if the position was advertised. President Konen stated it wasn't advertised and that she had spoken with several individuals, including those who had applied for the Plan Commission.

Trustee Herron stated that he's known Susan Smith for many years. She is heavily involved with his HOA Board and is very thorough and professional. President Koenen further explained that Susan Smith is a retired professional who has proven to be interested in serving the community.

Motion by Trustee Herron seconded by Trustee Bonnie, to approve the appointment of Susan Smith to the Joint Review Board (JRB).

Ayes: Herron, Bonnie Lendi; Nays: Michels; Abstain: None; Absent: White, Schomas

Motion Passed

- b. Recommendation to approve President Konen's nominations for reappointment to the Police Commission and Police Pension Board, which have terms ending on May 1, 2024.**

Recommendation to approve John Gable's reappointment to the Board of Police Commissioners with a term ending May 1, 2026.

Motion by Trustee Herron, second by Trustee Bonnie, to approve the appointment of John Gable to the Board of Police Commissioners with a term ending May 1, 2026.

Ayes: Herron, Bonnie Lendi, Michels; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: White, Schomas

Motion Passed

Recommendation to approve Katie Banik to the Police Pension Board with a term ending May 1, 2026.

Motion by Trustee Herron, second by Trustee Bonnie, to approve the appointment of Katie Banik to the Police Pension Board with a term ending May 1, 2026.

Ayes: Herron, Bonnie Lendi, Michels; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: White, Schomas

Motion Passed

6. Airport Report - None

7. Public Comment on Scheduled Action Items

Ms. Ashley Entile commented on the solar gardens being considered at Aurora Airport.

Mr. Daniel Entile commented on the solar gardens being considered at Aurora Airport.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval: Minutes of the March 5, 2024, Board Meeting
- b. Approval: Vouchers
- c. Approval: Treasurer's Report
- d. **Resolution:** Bid award for 2024 Road Program
- e. **Resolution:** Approving a PSA with HR Green for Phase II of the IL Rt. 47 Utility Relocations

Motion by Trustee Michels, second by Trustee Herron to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Michels, Herron, Bonnie Lendi; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: White, Schomas

Motion Passed

a. General Business

a. Ordinance: Approving a Special Use Permit – Community Solar 1 (Aurora Airport)

Motion by Trustee Herron, second by Trustee Lendi, to approve postponing the Ordinance to approve the special use permit for Community Solar 1 (Aurora Airport) until the next Village Board meeting on April 2, 2024.

Ayes: Herron, Bonnie Lendi, Michels; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: White, Schomas
Motion Passed

b. Ordinance: Approving a Special Use Permit – Community Solar 2 (Aurora Airport)

Motion by Trustee Herron, second by Trustee Lendi, to approve postponing the Ordinance to approve the special use permit for Community Solar 2 (Aurora Airport) until the next Village Board meeting on April 2, 2024.

Ayes: Herron, Bonnie Lendi, Michels; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: White, Schomas
Motion Passed

At the request of the petitioner, Item 9a. **Ordinance:** Approving a Special Use Permit Community Solar 1 (Aurora Airport) and item 9b. **Ordinance:** Approving a Special Use Permit Community Solar 2 (Aurora Airport) was postponed until April 2, 2024. Village Board. Public comment on these items was welcomed.

President Konen reminded everyone that public comment is not an opportunity for a back and forth discussion with the Board, but comments are considered by the Board and will be addressed in the Board discussion when possible.

b. Public Comment

Mr. Perry Elliott commented on the Crown proposal.

Mr. Jaden Chada commented on an incident that took place at a local establishment.

c. Discussion Items

a. Leaf Burning

Chief Rollins presented information regarding the open burning of leaves and tree debris. In 2019, the Board approved some restrictions; however, they have become more troublesome for officers to enforce. For example, an adult over the age of 18 must be present, there must be a fire extinguisher or charged water garden hose within 10 ft. of the fire, the allowed hours are from 10 am – 3 pm, the wind velocity for the day must be under 10 mph, and it must be 20 ft from the property line, setback, public right of way, or any structure.

Some residents experienced a problem when they went away for the day, left their windows open, and returned to a smoke-filled home. Their furniture, home, and clothing all smelled of smoke and had to be professionally cleaned. This is why changes were made in 2019.

Another thing that has transpired is installing high-efficiency furnaces. The intake is at a low level, allowing smoke into the home.

Conversely, there are residents who have many trees and leaves drop at various times throughout the season.

The Village does provide free leaf pickup, but the leaves must be bagged. Some residents are disappointed that open burning continues.

Chief Rollins stated that he is asking the board for direction on whether the ordinance should be changed, put on a moratorium, or left the way it is now.

President Konen mentioned that she has received numerous complaints about the open burning ordinance. It is challenging for the staff to try to police this and be fair to the people with many trees. At the same time, smoke is blowing into residents' homes. For the health and safety of the residents who choose not to burn, they must hide in their homes. The municipalities around us banned burning. Elburn does not have open burning, but Sugar Grove continues to do this. Another example is lights permeating beyond property lines. We ensure the lights don't permeate beyond the property line, but the smoke can blow.

President Konen stated that she understands both sides of this, but all the things that are in the ordinance are not enough.

Trustee Michaels said there was a condition where the smoke didn't leave the property and asked if that helped reduce the number of complaints.

Chief Rollins answered that it was inversion days that caused smoke to linger on the ground. However, people are burning when they get home from work past the time frame; they burn on days when it's sunny and when it's raining. It's tough to enforce. We put information out on social media, and we visit them.

President Konen commented that the ordinance does not state that smoke can't leave the property. Furthermore, we're asking our police to go through a list of ten items to try to enforce this. Many HOAs have banned this in neighborhoods. But this has become very cumbersome for the police.

Trustee Herron stated that he doesn't like to see the financial strain on particular residents having to pay for the bags. But he's received many complaints from residents, and he's noticed that the smoke is excessive. But free pickup is provided, as many bags as needed, and no stickers are allowed. Based upon health issues and smoke and the difficulty of police enforcement, he stated

he's leaning towards a ban on open burning in the village. He asked if any residents had written that they opposed leaf burning. It was noted that nothing had been received.

Trustee Lendi asked if dried-out tree limbs with a small number of leaves that were cut up and burned in a fire pit would be allowed. President Konen stated that would be fine, just not raking leaves and putting them in a firepit to burn, which smolders and causes the smoke.

Trustee Lendi wanted to make sure the discussion on leaf burning was advertised so we could get different viewpoints.

President Koenen said she received a call from a recess monitor at John Shields complaining about the smoke. Chief Rollins stated that it was during the allowed burn time on the day of the call. However, the smoke lingered and wafted into the schoolyard.

Trustee Michels said he doesn't want to see a burden put on the people of Dugan Woods and Black Walnut Trails and isn't in favor of the ban.

President Konen again mentioned residents with health issues who can't go outside when burning is happening. If it's a financial burden, we allow free pickup of bagged leaves. Leaves can also be mulched.

Trustee Bonnie talked about the few residents who have come in as opposed to banning open burning because of the number of leaves on their lot. However, because of the issues the police department faces and how complicated our rules are, he's leaning towards banning.

President Konen asked staff to put something out to the residents.

b. Budget Workshop #3

Finance Director Anastasia presented Budget Workshop #3, explaining that it will cover any changes that have occurred since the first two workshops. The only projection that changed for this current year is the boiler replacement at public works because it came in lower than what was projected.

The General Fund was changed regarding the Liv Golf Event. Since it will not be happening at Rich Harvest Farms this year, the reimbursement, public safety, and overtime have been removed.

If the grocery tax is eliminated, the estimated loss will be approximately \$200,000. The State is looking at this now; their fiscal year does not start until July 1, 2024, and it will be approved the week prior. This is two months into our budget, and we've prorated the amount of \$167,000 for 24/25 if this is approved.

Staff recommendation is to remove the following items from the FY2024-2025 proposed budget and bring them back at 6-month update after the State budget has been approved:

- iPads for Board - \$2,550
- CPEP Expense - \$30,000
- – Public Relations - \$20,000
- Additional Sugar Grove Banners & American Flags - \$15,000
- Community Enhancement Committee - \$5,000
- Marketing – Krantz Strategies - \$5,000
- Reduce Interfund Transfer- \$100,000
- Remainder will be utilized from the projected surplus - \$10,000

The new FY2024-2025 General Fund budget surplus would decrease from \$56,313 to \$21,863, resulting in a 26.01% Reserve Balance.

Trustee Michels asked about the revenue from building permits and noted that, based on the projections, the revenue line is high. Director Anastasia explained that this includes all miscellaneous permits being issued, not just building permits but home improvements.

The only other change is in the 2024 Road Program decreased by \$90,992, as the bid was opened on March 7, 2024, and came in under the engineer estimate.

Director Anastasia noted the public hearing notice published on March 14, 2024.

12. Reports

a. Staff

Administration – nothing to add.

Finance – nothing to add.

Community Development – General contractor issues continue regarding Lot 17. Permits have been issued for two of the units.

Police Department - nothing to add.

Public Works – Trustee Michels asked Village Administrator Koeppel about the 50/50 program advertising. Administrator Koeppel said we would get that out as soon as possible and include it in the water bill.

Economic Development – Nothing to add.

b. Trustees

Trustee Michels – none

Trustee Lendi – none

Trustee Herron – none

Trustee Bonnie stated that he's been speaking with the State Legislatures about the grocery tax and that it affects us as a community.

c. President

President Konen stated that IML and Metro West are working hard on the issues.

President Konen asked for a motion to enter an executive session with no action being taken and adjourn the meeting from there.

Atty Julien clarified that there is nothing on the agenda that requires formal action.

Motion by Trustee Herron, second by Trustee Lendi, to enter an executive session without taking action and adjourning the meeting.

Ayes: Herron, Bonnie Lendi, Michels; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: White, Schomas
Motion Passed

13. Executive Session

- Personnel – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)
- Property/Land Acquisition – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- Sale of Property – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)
- Review of Executive Session Minutes – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.