

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
JULY 16, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
125 S MUNICIPAL DRIVE**

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

The Village Board meeting was held in person at the Village of Sugar Grove Public Library on July 16, 2024.

Present: President Jennifer Konen, Trustee Matthew Bonnie, Trustee Michael Schomas, Trustee Sean Michels, Trustee James F. White, and Trustee Heidi Lendi.

Absent: Trustee Sean Herron

Additional Attendees: Village Administrator Koeppel, Finance Director Anastasia, Public Works Director Merkel, Planning and Zoning Administrator Marion, Attorney Bernard Weller, and Village Clerk Tracey Conti.

4. Public Hearing - None

5. Appointments and Presentations - None

6. Airport Report - None

7. Public Comment on Scheduled Action Items - None

8. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval:** Minutes of the June 18, 2024, Board Meeting.
- b. **Approval:** Vouchers.
- c. **Approval:** June 2024 Treasurer's Report.
- d. **Resolution:** Approving Settlers Ridge Unit 1A Plat of Resubdivision.

Motion by Trustee Schomas, second by Trustee White, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

9. General Business

a. Approval: Addition of a Deputy Village Clerk to the Administration Department.

Administrator Koeppel stated that the Administration Department would like to hire a part-time Deputy Village Clerk to assist the department. The position will be approximately 25 hours per week. Unexpected funding from the grocery tax is left in the budget. The position will be split between the General Fund and the Water Fund. A job description and the approved wage and salary table were included in the Board Report. Administrator Koeppel asked the Board for permission to post the position.

Trustee Michels stated that he would like to keep the position under 1000 hours to limit the benefits that we pay. One thousand hours, 19 hours per week, is the threshold to be eligible for IMRF.

Administrator Koeppel answered that any hours added would be beneficial to the department. It was noted that the cost to make the position IMRF-eligible is 2.5 %, and next year it will be 3.8%. If the position were kept at 25 hours, it would be approximately \$1400 for IMRF.

President Konen said that Administrator Koeppel is recommending the hours and knows the needs of the department.

Administrator Koeppel explained that the Deputy Clerk position was eliminated and rolled into the Clerk position, which was made full-time. However, we're now seeing a higher volume of work than previously, which is why the Deputy Clerk position is requested.

Motion by Trustee Schomas, second by Trustee Bonnie, to approve the Addition of a Deputy Village Clerk to the Administration Department.

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

MOTION CARRIED

b. Resolution: Amending the Number of Liquor Licenses per Class – Sugar Grove Firefighters Association Temporary License/Corn Boil.

Village Clerk Tracey Conti explained that this license would increase the number of temporary licenses in the village, including the Sugar Grove Firefighters Association's Temporary Liquor License for the Corn Boil.

President Konen added that the Sugar Grove Firefighter's Association does not hold an annual liquor license, so they apply for and pay the appropriate fee for the temporary license.

Motion by Trustee Schomas, second by Trustee Michels, to approve the Addition of a Deputy Village Clerk to the Administration Department.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Trustee White, second by Trustee Lendi, to approve the Temporary Liquor License for the Sugar Grove Firefighters Association.

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

MOTION CARRIED

10. Public Comment

1. Carol Green spoke about the Crown Project.
2. Perry Elliott spoke about the Crown Project.
3. Jaden Chada spoke about the Crown Project.
4. Monika Hubble spoke about the Crown Project.
5. Lisa Essling spoke about the Crown Project.
6. Dale Essling spoke about the Crown Project.
7. Rick Boyle spoke about the Crown Project.

11. Discussion Items - None

12. Reports

a. Staff

Administration Department - Administrator Koeppel thanked Public Works and Police for all their work on the storm clean-up. All Village roads are open, and ComEd has restored power to all Sugar Grove Residents. Crews completed clean-up on Meadows Drive and Merrill New today and started on Bastian Drive and Queens Gate. They will continue cleaning throughout the week. Two more crews will be out tomorrow. Administrator Koeppel also thanked the Village of Montgomery for their assistance and for volunteering to help. It allowed for quicker clean-up and service for our residents.

Trustee Michels asked if the Emergency Operations Center was open due to the tornado. Chief Rollins stated that it wasn't because it was manageable from their positions on the street.

Finance Department - Nothing additional.

Community Development - Nothing additional.

Police - Chief Rollins stated that the Kane County Emergency Operations Management (EOM) Center was fully activated during the storm, and he was in contact with them during the evening and again in the morning. Several resources from EOM were sent to Sugar

Grove, for which he was very grateful. There are many downed lines and poles. The team was out there for approximately 6 hours. Chief Rollins stated that it was mostly cosmetic damage and that we were fortunate.

Public Works - Nothing Additional

Economic Development -Nothing Additional

b. Trustees

Trustee Michels attended the “Groovin’ in the Grove” event, which was very well attended. He encouraged the Village to post information on social media more quickly to support the library and other events.

Trustee Lendi thanked emergency services for all they did during the storm.

Trustee Lendi attended the library’s event on Friday, July 12, 2024, to celebrate its new hours. Trustee Lendi asked that everyone visit the library and check out its different clubs and activities.

Trustee Lendi adamantly objected to posting the “Benefits of The Grove to the Community” document on Facebook and the website. She believes the Village should remain neutral and not promote one-sided information, which can lead to misinformation. Trustee Lendi expressed her concerns to staff after the post was made. Still, she felt it was also essential to mention it at the meeting to support her strong feeling that the Village must remain neutral when providing information to the public.

Trustee Michels asked if the post was still on Facebook and the Website. Administrator Koppel answered that it was still posted.

Trustee Bonnie - Nothing to add

Trustee Schomas - Indicated that he owes a call to the Park District Director.

c. President Konen - attended the Metro West Legislative BBQ and heard from Democratic and Republican State Representatives. This event also allowed the Village to raise concerns the State can assist with.

President Konen thanked the Public Works Department for all its help to the community during the storm. Lakeshore Recycling Systems will conduct additional pickups and street sweeping is scheduled.

The library re-opening was an excellent celebration of more opportunities within the library.

President Konen mentioned that 2 TIF districts in the Village aren't spurring development as expected. She agreed with the statement made at the JRB meeting about there being too many TIF Districts. There is valuable EAV within TIF 1, and a few projects in TIF 1 need to be finalized. President Konen said she believes it's the right time to terminate the TIF District. Two projects need to be addressed with TIF funds and financing. She stated that her goal is to terminate it within 12 months.

President Konen stated that the Fire Protection District receives a high volume of calls from the Senior Living Center and has identified a need for an additional ambulance. After a meeting with the Village and Fire Protection District, it was determined that it would be appropriate to use TIF assistance to help pay for the ambulance, considering the high number of service calls to a building within a TIF District. More information will be presented to the Village Board soon.

President Konen addressed the Crown Community Development application that the Village recently received. She stressed that this is an opportunity for the community to read through the documents and bring their questions to the Village Board. The Board wants to make themselves available for a civil discussion, but when faced with personal and inaccurate information and attacks, it doesn't create a forum for open discussion. When discussing a project, deal with the policy and not the people.

It was noted that President Konen, as she was speaking, indicated that the board was involved in the discussion with the developer. The Village Board has not been engaged in discussions, nor has any information been presented.

President Koenen agreed and stated that she has had discussions with the developer and staff as part of her job, but the Board was omitted.

President Konen addressed the "Benefits of The Grove to the Community" document, noting that it wasn't intended to be one-sided. The document was intended to be a synopsis of items taken from the application that benefit the community.

President Konen stated she believes the project will benefit the community, but certain hurdles need to be overcome, and some may not. The board will decide as they hear the information.

President Konen stated that the Village has been in discussions with the developer for over two years because the property falls within the Village's jurisdiction. The Village has

allocated over \$650,000 of taxpayer funds for the interchange project, which was part of the Comprehensive Land Plan and remains so. The Village needs to review the application and address any questions and concerns, and if no agreement can be reached, the matter will be settled. As a Village, it is our responsibility to consider the application. We can't say no or yes until the documents are presented. The documents are here. Nothing is set in stone, but it is a great starting point. We haven't had a master plan development in over 20 years. Government costs are going up, and we need more revenue. It's our job to look at development.

Trustee Michels asked to remove the "Benefits of The Grove to the Community" document from the website and social media. He said that if Scott were to put his name on it, it would still represent the Village Board because he represents the Village Board.

Trustee Schomas agreed that releasing it was premature. As the Village Administrator, Scott has the authority to do so, but it should probably be taken down.

President Konen stated it came from a place of what's suitable for the Village.

Trustee Lendi stressed again that the Village should be neutral.

Administrator Koeppel mentioned that the document was created to address questions raised during public comment, questions from residents, and emails he has received about the benefits of the proposed development for the residents of Sugar Grove. The documents available on the website amount to approximately 1000 pages. Administrator Koeppel believed it would be impractical to expect everyone to read through all the pages to form their conclusion. He clarified that he intended to condense and share the information with the community. It was not meant to suggest that it should be accepted or that it reflects the views of the Village Board.

Trustee Bonnie stated that he took the document as factual statements from the Village to keep the residents informed. He didn't feel it was pro or anti-Crown, but he agreed that the document's title could be misconstrued.

Trustee White stated that the document appears to be from the Village Board. However, it's the developer's responsibility to provide this information. He doesn't think the information in the document is false, and he appreciates having the information. Still, the onus is on the developer to make their case before the Plan Commission.

The consensus of the Board was to remove the document from Social Media and the Website.

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

Motion by Trustee White, second by Trustee Michels, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ATTEST:

/s/ Tracey R. Conti

Tracey R. Conti

Village Clerk