
**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Irv Oschenschlager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

The Village Board meeting was held in person on January 7, 2024, in the Village Board room at the Police Department.

Present: President Jennifer Konen, Trustee Sean Herron, Trustee Matthew Bonnie, Trustee Michael Schomas, Trustee Sean Michels, Trustee Jamie White, Trustee Heidi Lendi

Absent: None

Additional Attendees: Village Administrator Scott Koepfel, Public Works Director Brad Merkel, Community Development Director Danielle Marion, Economic Development Director Michael Cassa, Police Chief Pat Rollins, Village Attorney Laura Julien, and Village Clerk Tracey Conti.

4. Public Hearing

5. Appointments and Presentations

a. Presentation of a Proclamation honoring Irv Oschenschlager.

A proclamation was presented to Irv Oschenschlager in recognition of his 44 years of service on the Plan Commission. Additionally, President Konen read a proclamation honoring Volunteer Week 2024 and acknowledging Mary Oschenschlager.

Motion by Trustee White, second by Trustee Herron, to accept the Proclamation Honoring Irv Oschenschlager.

Ayes: White, Herron, Michels, Lendi, Bonnie, Schomas, Konen; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. Presentation from Cordogan & Clark of the Proposed Police Department renovations.

Chief Rollins provided a brief overview of the Police Department Building, which was constructed in 1992 to accommodate the Administration and Finance Department, one member of Community Development, the Police Department, and Village Board meetings. While the building has served the Village well, its previous renovations are no longer sufficient to meet the department's growing needs.

As the Village has expanded, these departments have also grown, necessitating further renovations to provide modern amenities, reduce liabilities, improve operational efficiencies, and ensure the safety of the Police Department. The department is aiming for accreditation, but the current deficiencies in the building must be addressed to achieve this goal. Support from the Village Board for the renovation would facilitate this process.

Two years ago, the Administration and Finance Departments relocated, freeing up space for the Police Department. However, transferring operations between buildings has not resulted in sufficient efficiency.

Williams Architects conducted a study to evaluate the space requirements, which presented initial results and a conceptual plan. Unfortunately, this plan did not adequately address the department's needs, leading the Village to engage Cordogan Clark for further assistance.

The Village collaborated with Cordogan Clark for several months to develop new concept plans for the building. Brian Kronewitter from Cordogan Clark presented these plans to the Village Board, highlighting the current building's limitations due to its layout and the need for improvement.

The proposed renovations will refresh the building's exterior while ensuring that public spaces remain unobstructed. More space for evidence storage and a sally port will also be added. The plan will accommodate the department's growth for the next ten years. Mr. Kronewitter walked the Village Board through the new conceptual plans for the building.

The Board discussed the conceptual renovation plans. It was clarified that security features, such as key card access and cameras, are included in the budget. Additionally, the existing fencing will remain. During the renovations, members of the Police Department will relocate to find the most cost-effective solution. Arrangements will be made with nearby municipalities to process and book prisoners, while felony offenses will be handled at the Kane County Sheriff facility. It was also mentioned that windows will be added where appropriate to bring in natural light, but terrazzo tile will be excluded from the budget. The possibility of resurfacing the parking lot will be considered as part of the road program. Finally, the facility will be made ADA-compliant. Brian noted that the plans are conceptual and will be revisited as the project progresses.

Administrator Koepfel outlined the general working timeline. A request for an engagement letter will be presented for approval at the Village Board meeting on January 21 under General Business. The design phase will begin once the engagement letter is approved and signed. After the design is completed, bids will be solicited. The project is expected to start by the end of September potentially. Any additional items included will be brought to the Village Board for approval.

President Konen asked if the Board is comfortable moving forward with the concept plan. The consensus was to move ahead.

6. Airport Report

Tony Speciale informed the Board of a new sign that the City of Aurora has approved for the airport. The digital roadside sign will display advertisements and messages from the City of Aurora. The Aurora City Council approved a 20-year agreement with the company. The property is unincorporated.

7. Public Comment on Scheduled Action Items

1. Lou Lendi spoke about agenda item 9c.
2. Jaden Chada spoke about agenda item 9a.
3. Dale Essling spoke about agenda item 9a.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval: December 17, 2024, Village Board Meeting Minutes.
- b. Approval: Vouchers January 7, 2025
- c. Approval: 2024 Police Pension Municipal Compliance Report.

Motion by Trustee Bonnie, second by Trustee Heron, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Bonnie, Herron, Michels, Lendi, Bonnie, Schomas; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. General Business

- a. **Resolution: Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement in TIF #2 with the Sugar Grove Fire Protection District, Capital Costs (Ambulance).**

In September, this item was presented to the Village Board to secure funding for an ambulance for the Sugar Grove Fire Protection District using funds from TIF #2. An intergovernmental agreement (IGA) was drafted and sent to the Fire Protection District for their review and approval, which the Fire Protection District Board voted unanimously in favor.

A senior living facility within TIF #2 occasionally requires ambulance services. The TIF Act permits the use of incremental tax revenues to cover eligible costs related to redevelopment projects, which can include all or part of the capital expenses incurred by the taxing district due to these projects. In this instance, the costs pertain to ambulance calls made to the senior living facility, with the capital expenses referring to the purchase and outfitting of the ambulance itself.

The Fire District provided data on the number of calls made within the TIF area and detailed the expenses associated with purchasing the ambulance, which has already been ordered. Staff recommended approval of the proposal.

During the discussion of the IGA, clarifications were provided regarding the inclusion of TIF #3 in the agreement. Administrator Koepfel explained that this type of language is standard in IGAs related to Tax Increment Financing and TIF funds. The Village needed to ensure that there would be no legal challenges. Attorney Julien further clarified that the TIF Act mandates that if any such expenditure is made, it must be documented in an agreement that includes some form of consideration.

Administrator Koeppel indicated that the Village's TIF consultant advised that such language is commonly included in agreements of this nature. However, some trustees felt including this consideration in the IGA was unnecessary. Additionally, it was suggested that the agreement should be broadened to prevent legal action regarding any of the TIFs. There was also a recommendation to increase the agreement amount to \$242,989.95.

The Village Board agreed to the increased amount of \$242,989.95 and requested a revision of the agreement. Fire Chief Moran asked that the language of the agreement remain unchanged, aside from the updated dollar amount.

Motion by Trustee White, second by Trustee Herron, to approve the IGA with Sugar Grove Fire Protection District with a change to Section 2 increasing the amount to \$242,989.95. Subject to attorney review.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

a. Resolution: Approving an Agreement with Tri-Merit & Sikich LLC for Tax Accounting Services.

Village Administrator Koeppel informed the Village Board that a tax return would need to be filed regarding the Solar Field. Administrator Koeppel and Finance Director Anastasia agree that engaging Sikich LLC and Tri-Merit would be best for the village. These firms would assist with the filing process and provide protection for the funds received in case of a challenge or audit.

Motion by Trustee Michels, second by Trustee White to approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Tri-Merit & Sikich LLC for Tax Accounting Services.

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

b. Resolution: Approving an Agreement with Flock Safety for Four Additional License Plate Recognition (LPR) Cameras.

Police Chief Rollins reminded the Board that during the six-month budget review, the possibility of using surplus funds to purchase additional license plate recognition (LPR) cameras was discussed. Chief Rollins outlined the advantages and disadvantages of this technology. He explained that when a vehicle passes in front of the camera, it captures the license plate number and the vehicle's image, but it does not photograph the people inside the vehicle. The Police Department receives alerts indicating the location, date, time, and license plate number.

The system searches national and Illinois databases for criminal offenses and alerts for missing people (Amber Alerts) and senior citizens (Silver Alerts). In the past 30 days, there have been 1,215 potential hits involving cars with revoked or suspended licenses, sex offenders, and similar cases. The Sugar Grove Police Department has further investigated 12 of these cases. It was noted that the data collected by Sugar Grove is owned by the department and would only be shared if a reciprocal agreement is established.

State Statutes prohibit the use of it for traffic enforcement, intimidation, etc. It's based only on protective class. When a search is conducted, a reason for the search must be entered.

Sergeant Steve Kurzawa reviewed some of the successes resulting from the use of LPR Cameras. Chief Rollins explained that there is a cost involved, which would come from surplus funds. Time is of the essence so that the process doesn't have to be restarted.

The Village Board discussed this. It was noted that not only does law enforcement own these types of cameras, but some businesses also invest in this technology for protection. The LPR on the south side, near the Village sign, was raised, noting that it looks unsightly and detracts from the sign. It was also brought up that LPR cameras could be placed on the mobile trailer. It was noted that any information received has to be verified before any action is taken. It was explained that misuse of this system is subject to State and local investigation, discipline, and, in some cases, termination.

Trustee Lendi expressed her respect for the Police Department and its contributions to the community. However, she opposed the additional LPR cameras in the Village. She believes this could create legal liability and infringe on residents' Fourth Amendment rights. Trustee Lendi also raised concerns about tracking residents' movements, which she was very concerned about. The majority of the Village Board felt that the benefits of this technology outweighed the negatives, particularly when missing children are involved.

Motion by Trustee Michels, Second by Trustee Schomas, to approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Flock Safety for Four Additional License Plate Recognition (LPR) Cameras.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

c. **Approval: On-Premises Liquor License for Maris Primos Restaurant Inc., located at 495 N Sugar Grove Parkway, Sugar Grove.**

President Koenen confirmed that this license is for the new business that took over Primo's Tacos. The village is not adding additional liquor licenses.

Motion by Trustee White, second by Trustee Schomas to approve the On-Premises Liquor License for Maris Primos Restaurant Inc., Located at 495 N. Sugar Grove Parkway, Sugar Grove.

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

Absent: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

10. Public Comment - None

11. Discussion Items

a. **Dark Sky Ordinance.**

Community Development Director Danielle Marion reviewed the proposal to amend the Village Zoning Ordinance, Outdoor Illumination, to adopt regulations that align with the Dark Sky Ordinance. These regulations were recently adopted for the Grove development. The Plan

Commission held the required public hearing, discussed the proposed text amendment, and made a positive recommendation.

The Village Engineer made some revisions to Exhibit A. First, the street lighting language was changed to include LED lights, as the Village is currently working towards converting all streetlights to LED. Second, the time frame for seasonal decorations was increased.

The Village Board discussed amending the Ordinance. President Konen asked that staff bring this item back to the Village Board Meeting on January 21, 2025, for approval.

12. Reports

a. Staff

Administration: Administrator Koepfel noted that the Village received a petition for a referendum from a member of the public. There were no challenges, and it's been sent to the County to be placed on the ballot in April.

Community Development: The open space requirement is still being reviewed. President Konen explained that the Developer brought up an item to amend the PUD. Other development issues need to be addressed, so the discussion of open space requirements has been delayed. Trustee Michels asked for the staff report to be updated.

Public Works: The ice-skating area has been set up. Director Merkle attended the IL Commerce Commission Notice of Status Hearing, State of IL vs. BNSF, regarding the railroad crossing on Rt. 47. The hearing was continued until February. BNSF is delaying the process.

Economic Development: Bright Path and Cilantro are close to opening, and Starbucks' groundbreaking will be scheduled soon.

b. Trustees

Trustee White stated he was happy to see Irv honored. He did a great job on the Plan Commission.

Trustee Lendi seconded the comments about Irv. She attended the Library Board Meeting. They are looking to become a fine free library.

Trustee Herron stated that seeing Mary and having the proclamation read to her was nice.

Trustee Schomas plans to follow up with the Park District and hopes to have an update soon.

c. President

President Konen shared that there was a meeting with the Enhancement Committee, and they want to be involved with the discussion about rebranding.

The State of the Village is coming up, and preparations are being made for that event.

Motion by Trustee Schomas, second by Trustee Herron, to enter an executive session to discuss all department heads and personnel per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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 was adjourned after the executive session ended at approximately 10:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/ Tracey R. Conti

Tracey R. Conti

Village Clerk