



**Village of Algonquin  
Committee of the Whole  
Meeting Minutes  
Held in the Village Board Room  
January 10, 2017**

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

Present: Trustees Brian Dianis, Jerry Glogowski, Bob Smith, Debby Sosine, Jim Steigert, and President Schmitt. A quorum was established.

Absent: John Spella

Staff Present: Tim Schloneger, Village Manager; Robert Mitchard, Public Works Director; Andrew Warmus, Utilities Superintendent; Michael Kumbera, Assistant Village Manager; Margaret Tinberg, Intern; Deputy Village Clerk Michelle; Attorney, Kelly Cahill was also in attendance.

Chairman Dianis called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 2:** Audience Participation

Mr. Don Purn from the Historic Commission explained he has 300 gigabyte of photos on his personal computer and would like to work with the Village to have them available to the community.

Presidents Schmitt indicated after their earlier discussion of this topic, he has talked to Mr. Crook, Chief Innovations Officer, regarding the transferring of these artifacts to the Villages network. Mr. Crook will be contacting Don soon regarding the transfer.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** Community Development

None

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** General Administration

**A. Consider Certain Items as Surplus**

A list of many surplus and obsolete items was submitted by the Village Recreation Department (List available at Village Hall). The list requires approval from the Village Board to proceed with disposing all items.

Consensus of the Committee of the Whole is to move this on to the Board for approval

**B. Presentation: 2016 Community Survey**

Mr. Kumbera and Ms. Tinberg presented the results of the 2016 Community Survey. This is the fifth year we have done the survey and we now have a good baseline and trend of results. This is the first year the Village received special recognition in performance measures by GFOA. The survey is sent out to 1,500 random residents. The overall response rate was 20.6% with 309 residents responding anonymously. He indicated the survey is a great way to see trends of importance rating as well as satisfaction in services provided by the Village.

Mr. Smith asked in the traffic stops portion of the survey, where were the stops (neighborhoods or main arteries)?

Mr. Kumbera responded; he does not have those specifics but he will contact the Police Department and pass those statistics on.

Mr. Steigert asked, although there is a low % of homeowners that do not feel safe in their neighborhoods, is there a way we can determine which neighborhoods those are?

Mr. Kumbera responded, to keep the survey anonymous, we can only delve down to the three areas specified in the survey (East of the River, West of the River/East Randall Road, West of Randall Road). President Schmitt stated, he noticed the rating for regional transportation is low but there was an up-tick following the completion of the Western By-pass. This shows the Village needs to continue to pursue regional transportation efforts such as the Longmeadow Parkway Corridor.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: Public Works & Safety**

### **A. Presentation and Recommendation: Metron-Farnier Water Meters**

Mr. Mitchard explained the history of water meter improvements. Starting 22 years ago employees would walk house to house, go inside read the meter, bring their findings back to the office for data entry into the billing system. They then moved to a phone read system, where the meter was hooked to a home phone line, the meter would call in monthly to the billing system, then would bill according. The current system is done with radio reads, an employee drives through the various neighborhoods collecting data, which takes about 3 days. This new technology, cellular, eliminates the need for employees to manually gather meter reading data.

Mr. Warmus continued the explanation; To maintain peak accuracy, AWWA recommends replacement of water meters at 11 to 12 years of service; nearly 80% of our current meter inventory falls within the 15 to 20 years of age of service. Upon the realization for the need for replacement, two technologies were evaluated; a fixed based network (Sensus, our current provider) vs. cellular technology (Metron-Farnier). Applying the following criteria, staff evaluated each for timely, accurate, and reliable data, simplifying data collection and labor savings, capital cost, and customer engagement (empowerment).

At the conclusion of our evaluation, which included a 10-year financial analysis and a pilot study of the Metron-Farnier water meters, it is the belief of staff the Metron-Farnier meter utilizing the cellular technology is the better solution for the following:

- Single jet water meter, only one moving part
- One of best meters on the market for low flow measurements
- Lower capital cost, approximately \$500K less than the fixed based system
- No new assets to maintain
- 10-year data package with reliable Verizon 2G service
- Meter readings at 5-minute intervals
- Eliminates need for staff to collect data manually or by drive-by methods, saving days of time per month
- Staff ability to set alert conditions and monitor water usage is far more proactive
- Customer engagement – WaterScope

Mr. Warmus introduced Mr. Tony Deitch, Regional Sales Manager Metron-Farnier. Mr. Deitch went into great detail explaining the software and how residents and employees are able to view water usage daily for each home or business. Each resident is able to set up an account to view their water usage, set warnings, and budgets. This will help homeowners be aware of possible leaks and shows peak usage. The usage data is kept in the cloud for three years.

\* President Schmitt asked, when we roll this out will there be a tutorial on the web-site and what will be put into place to education the residents? Also, what will hamper sediment and buildup on the meters?

Mr. Warmus indicated they have been considering a Town Hall Meeting, literature, and instructions on the web-site. Mr. Deitch indicated, with only one moving part there is less likelihood of buildup.

\* Mr. Glogowski asked, what cost will there be to the homeowner.

Mr. Warmus indicated, the meter, installation, and software costs will not be passed down to the homeowner his department will budget accordingly.

\* Mr. Dianis asked, how long has this technology been in use.

Mr. Deitch indicated, this specific technology has been in use for 5 years. During this time, they have worked out the bugs and they are currently looking at software upgrades. All software upgrades are included with the package and all meter have a 10 year guarantee.

\* Mr. Smith asked; 1– How often to residents have unknown leaks? 2- If the battery has only a 10-year life, will the meter need to be replaced or just the battery? 3- What is the Cost of each meter?

- 1- Mr. Mitchard indicated, more often than you think, most don't notice an issue until they receive a large water bill. With this software the Village and the residents will have the ability to be proactive.
- 2- During the 10 year guarantee, if the battery goes bad, Metron-Farnier will cover the cost of replacing the unit.
- 3- Meter costs vary – Commercial meters: on average are \$500, installation will be handled by Village employees; Residential meters: \$265 + \$95 install.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Executive Session  
None

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Other Business  
None

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Adjournment  
There being no further business, Mr. Dianis adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted: Michelle Weber, Deputy Village Clerk