

Village of Lombard

*Village Hall
255 East Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
villageoflombard.org*



Minutes

Monday, March 4, 2013

7:00 PM

Village Hall Community Room

Transportation & Safety Committee

Trustee Zach Wilson - Chairperson

Trustee Peter Breen - Alternate Chairperson

Michael Corso, John Larkin, John Schwarz,

Bob Corbino and Jerry Schaefer

Staff Liaisons: Deputy Chief Pat Rollins - Police and

Frank Kalisik - Public Works

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wilson at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Present 6 - Trustee Zachary Wilson, Michael Corso, John Larkin Jr., John Schwarz, Bob Corbino, and Jerry Shaefer

Staff Present:

Frank Kalisik, Public Works Department
Chief Byrne, Police Department
Tim Sexton, Finance Department

3.0 Public Participation

Two prospective committee members were in attendance to observe the meeting.

Crescent Meyer
Dan Mudd

4.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by John Schwarz, seconded by Bob Corbino, that the Minutes of the February 4, 2013 meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

5.0 Unfinished Business

6.0 New Business

[130072](#)

Parking Ticket Amnesty Program/Proposed Changes to Ordinance

Discussion of the current parking ticket process, proposed Village of Lombard Amnesty Program and proposed Ordinance amendment.

Sexton reviewed the item. Finance staff brought an idea to the Finance Committee to participate in a program from the State Comptrollers office. If there are outstanding amounts owed to a municipality, the State will withhold that money from any monies paid out by the state i.e., tax returns. However, the Board decided not to move forward with that and wanted to look at an amnesty program.

There are approximately \$930,000 in ticket fines that are unpaid. Out of those that have gone to collections (stopped sending to collections middle 2012), collections only collected about \$15,000. It's very ineffective which is why staff is looking at other options. Currently, there are about 3700 tickets at collections level.

Sexton reviewed the current process (last page of handout, schedule at top.) Corso asked how many of the offenders are residents. Sexton answered that it's approximately 70% residents. Sexton went on to explain that there are two things being proposed one being an amnesty program. It's currently proposed to lower the amounts to the Step 2 level. Chairperson Wilson explained that when this was discussed at the Board, he was opposed to increasing fines for missing a hearing. He added that he thinks that once it's gone to adjudication, there should be a 30-day period to pay. If a ticket is issued and court is 30 days out, if you don't show up you're fined \$25. If you do show up and are found not guilty there shouldn't be any fine. He added that he would prefer to start that the fine wouldn't double until after a letter is sent saying you missed a hearing and have been found guilty and you must pay \$25 by a certain date. The fine should increase after that date. It seems like your getting fined for missing a hearing. Meyer asked how they do it in other towns. Chief Byrne answered that other towns do it this way, and the fines Lombard assesses are comparable to other towns.

Chairperson Wilson stated that he does not think collections is the way to go, although he does not have a problem with assessing a higher fine after failure to pay. He further commented that he is not opposed to towing or booting a car in the case of a scofflaw. Corso commented that he thinks the commuter lot fine is too high since it's only \$1.25 in the first place. Sexton replied that is why it's being recommended to bring that down to \$25. Corso replied that even \$25 seems high for a missed \$1.25. What if it's just a matter of someone who doesn't have a quarter or they're running late for a train, etc. Chairperson Wilson asked if there are a lot of tickets for this. Chief Byrne answered that there are not, most people are compliant.

Chairperson Wilson asked where the funds for paid tickets are applied. Chief Byrne responded that with they go into the General Fund with the exception of the commuter parking tickets, which go to the Commuter Lot Fund. Meyer asked if the Police Department just keeps giving these people tickets. Chief Byrne replied that they do, unless they qualify for a boot, then the Police can boot them. However, most of these people are from out of town and the Police never see the vehicle again.

Trustee Wilson asked what the recommendation from the Finance

Committee was. Sexton answered that they recommended to implement amnesty for a 3-month period to Step 2 level. Schaefer asked if the handicap fine is out of the Village's jurisdiction. Sexton replied that it is, so it's \$250 at every step. Schaefer suggested that a letter be sent to offenders. Sexton replied that because they have them broken out in the software that they are tracked in, staff should be able to send personalized letters. The letter could include what the amount was, what we're reducing it to and that they have three months to pay. Mudd commented that he thought three months was too long, it should be a shorter time period like two weeks or thirty days.

Chairperson Wilson asked if a lot of the outstanding fines are for Village stickers. Chief Byrne replied that they are. Schaefer suggested that because the program no longer exists, those should be dropped. Sexton replied that part of that is an equity issue, everybody else had to go buy their sticker. Chairperson Wilson suggested reducing them to the cost of the sticker. Sexton replied that it would be difficult to come up with a set amount, because there were too many different amounts out there. They may have bought their sticker, but just not paid the ticket.

Schaefer asked if there are a lot of repeat offenders. Sexton answered that there is a significant amount. Chairperson Wilson suggested that the first-timers be allowed to pay the original amount within 30 days and address the repeat offenders separately. Schaefer stated that he is a proponent of the Step 2 levels, so they pay for a some of the administrative costs. Everybody had the same opportunity to pay their tickets. Chairperson Wilson pointed out that if the idea is to generate revenue, how much more would it generate if everyone was given the opportunity to pay the original amount, vs if you double it how many people will pay. There was a consensus for 30 days to pay the original fine amount. Chairperson Wilson asked if there is a payment plan available. Sexton answered that there is not a formal payment plan, but if someone needed to make partial payments, the Village would let them. However, although someone could make a partial payment, they would have to come back during that timeframe.

Chairperson Wilson asked if the Village has the authority to shut off utilities if people have outstanding fines. Sexton replied the the Village cannot do that, fines cannot tie to the water bill. The Village can't impact their water except for non payment of water.

The Committee recommended that offenders be allowed to pay the original fine amount for a 30-day period and include in the letter what the consequences could be. People who owe in excess of \$500 will

be given the opportunity to set up a plan as long as they initiate and sign a payment schedule.

A motion was made by John Larkin, Jr., seconded by Bob Corbino, that this matter be recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval. The motion passed by an unanimous vote.

[130001](#)

Succession Plan

Chairperson Wilson reviewed item and suggested that it be discussed after the new committee is set. The committee will discuss this in May or June.

7.0 Other Business

8.0 Information Only

9.0 Adjournment

A motion was made by John Larkin, Jr., seconded by Michael Corso, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.