

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
VILLAGE HALL 6101 CAPULINA, MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the regular meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission was called to order at 6:00 by Chairperson Georgianne Bruner. Secretary Jacqueline Meracle called the role.

Members of the Board Present: Brunner, Corelli, Hoffman, Karp, Laliwala, Lebeau, Maloney, Schmidt, Schultz

Village Staff Present: Teresa Hoffman Liston, Ralph Czerwinski, Joe Dahm

Trustees Present: Janine Witko

This being the commission's inaugural meeting, there were no minutes to approve.

Chairperson Brunner welcomed everyone and noted Morton Grove's long history of being environmentally friendly.

Staff Reports

Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski reported on the electrical aggregation program. The village sought opportunities for general aggregation and found none. There is an opportunity however to buy RECs (renewable energy credits) from areas that produce green energy through a vendor, selected through a bid process, called MC Squared, which is the same cost as electricity from Commonwealth Edison. The Village guarantees that the price for these credits will remain the same and ensure maximum flexibility. Power consumption will come from wind generation sources in the Midwest area. The program will start with the November ComEd readings. Mailings will go out in September.

Commissioner Karp asked what other communities had done this.

Mr. Czerwinski answered there were many including Arlington Heights, Bensonville, Claridon Hills, Crest Hill, Crystal Lake, Deer Park and Elmhurst.

Commissioner Schultz asked if all of these communities were working with MC Squared.

Mr. Czerwinski stated that there was another company that provided a proposal and MC Squared proved to be the best option.

Commissioner Schultz asked if the opt in would be automatic.

Mr. Czerwinski stated it would be an automatic opt in.

Public Works Director Joe Dahm reported that a new contract with Groot was enacted in May for solid waste, recycling, and yard waste. This includes a new sustainability program for recycling food scraps along with yard waste for 9 months throughout the year. He noted that normally the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) would host document shredding and electronic recycling events but these were put on hold in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Mr. Czerwinski stated that a comprehensive RFP process was executed before renewing the contract with Groot, which resulted in no rate increases for 20 months followed by a capped and controlled increase. He also noted that Groot employs all natural gas vehicles which aligns with the Village's sustainability objectives. The new contract includes more services and more stable prices.

Chairperson Brunner stated that SWANCC is a great sustainability partner for all villages.

New Business

Corporation Counsel Teresa Hoffman Liston stated that all commissioners should complete Open Meetings Act training and sign or decline an ethical conduct statement before November 9th.

Mr. Czwerwinski then distributed the draft document of the 2020 Morton Grove Sustainability Plan which was compiled by staff. He asked the commission to review for future meetings.

Commissioner Schultz asked at what point the document would be available to the public.

Mr. Czerwinski stated it would be available to the public prior to going to the village board for adoption, possible following the November commission meeting.

Commissioner LeBeau commended staff for the level of strategic thought and effort that was put into the plan. He asked if a mission statement or executive summary would be included.

Mr. Czerwinski stated a one-page summary supplement would be included similar to the plan set forth by the Chicago Mayors Caucus.

Chairperson Brunner asked for any other business or discussion. Hearing none, Commissioner LeBeau moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Karp. The motion was approved unanimously pursuant to a voice vote at 6:56 pm.

Minutes By: Jacqueline Meracle