

Regular Meeting
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
510 Green Bay Road
Winnetka, Illinois 60093
January 18, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Emails regarding any agenda item are welcomed. Please email RBahan@winnetka.org, and your email will be relayed to the Council members. Emails for the Tuesday Council meeting must be received by Monday at 4 p.m. Any email may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- 3) Quorum
 - a) February 1, 2011, Regular Meeting.
 - b) February 8, 2011, Budget Meeting
- 4) Approval of Agenda
- 5) Consent Agenda
 - a) Village Council Minutes
 - i) December 7, 2010, Regular Meeting..... 2
 - ii) December 14, 2010, Special Meeting..... 9
 - iii) December 14, 2010, Study Session 12
 - b) Warrant Lists Nos. 1685 and 1686..... 14
- 6) Ordinances and Resolutions.
 - a) Ordinance M-1-2011 – Disposal of Police Vehicle to NORTAF – Adoption 15
 - b) Ordinance MC-1-2011 – Amending Sign Regulations 18
- 7) Public Comment and Questions.
- 8) Old Business
- 9) New Business
 - a) Park District Burn Request for Crow Island and Bell Woods..... 24
- 10) Reports
- 11) Appointments
- 12) Executive Session
- 13) Adjournment

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at www.villageofwinnetka.org (click Council and then Current Agenda), the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library, or in the Manager’s Office at Village Hall (2nd floor).

Videos of the Regular Village Council meetings are televised on Channel 10, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:00 p.m. Videos of the meeting may also be viewed on the Internet via a link on the Village’s web site: www.villageofwinnetka.org.

The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator – Liz Rosenthal, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, (Telephone (847) 716-3540; T.D.D. (847) 501-6041).

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2010**

(Approved: xx)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Village Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

- 1) Call to Order. President Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Present: Trustees Gene Greable, Bill Johnson, Linda Pedian, Chris Rintz and Jennifer Spinney. Absent: Trustee King Poor. Also present: Village Manager Rob Bahan, Village Attorney Katherine Janega, Director of Water & Electric Brian Keys, Police Chief Joe DeLopez Deputy Police Chief Pat Kreis, Finance Director Ed McKee, and approximately 10 persons in the audience.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance. President Tucker led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Quorum.
 - a) December 14, 2010 Study Session. All of the Council members present indicated that they expected to attend.
 - b) December 21, 2010, Regular Meeting. President Tucker announced that this meeting has been cancelled.
- 4) Approval of the Agenda. President Tucker welcomed Winnetka's new Village Manager, Rob Bahan, to his first Council meeting, after which Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Pedian, moved to approve the Agenda. By roll call vote. the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Johnson, Spinney, Rintz, Pedian, and Greable. Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Poor.
- 5) Consent Agenda
 - a) Village Council Minutes.
 - i) November 16, 2010 Regular Meeting.
 - b) Warrant Lists Nos. 1679 and 1680. Approving Warrant List No. 1679 in the amount of \$1,942,103.94, and Warrant List No. 1680 in the amount of \$475,929.08.
 - c) Ordinance M-16-2010 – Zoning Variation: 245 Ridge Rd. – Adoption. Grants a variation from the rear yard setback requirement to allow construction of a detached garage which would extend 1.67 feet into the required rear setback.
 - d) Resolution R-39-2010 – SWANCC Board Appointment. Appoints Village Manager Robert M. Bahan as Winnetka's Alternate SWANCC Director, effective immediately.
 - e) Lead Service Replacements; Change Order: Biagi Plumbing Corp. Authorizes a change order in the amount of \$30,000 for the replacement of lead water services through March 31, 2011, at the unit prices contained in Bid #09-005.

Trustee Pedian, seconded by Trustee Johnson, moved to approve the foregoing items on the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote. By roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Trustees Johnson, Spinney, Rintz, Pedian, and Greable. Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Poor.

6) Ordinances and Resolutions.

- a) Ordinance MC-9-2010: Amending the Village Code Pertaining to Special Use Permit Procedures, Including Written Protests to Special Use Applications – Public Hearing & Introduction. After announcing that the subject ordinance would amend the Village Code as it pertains to the special use process, President Tucker opened the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

Attorney Janega reported that the key policy issues for the Council to consider are: i) who may file a protest; ii) what is meant by the phrase “signed and acknowledged;” and iii) what deadline, if any, should be set for filing a protest. She noted that the Village uses the 250-foot distance for notice consistently throughout the Zoning Ordinance, and she recommended staying with that process. She observed that the properties are counted using 20% of the owners of the properties, and that joint ownership is treated a single owner so if, for example, a husband and wife own jointly only one of them needs to sign a protest.

Attorney Janega explained that that the draft definition for the phrase “signed and acknowledged” is based on the Illinois Notary Public Act. She pointed out that the appeal of having a flexible process needs to be weighed against having a meticulous process, especially in the matter of a hotly contested zoning case, and that having a standard definition would satisfy both objectives.

Trustee Greable said he was in agreement with Attorney Janega’s recommendations and he added that he would like a protest form to be offered as part of the Village’s standard for objectors and ease of use.

Trustee Rintz commented that asking a protestor to have a document notarized is not unduly burdensome, especially if it will avoid arguments about procedure.

President Tucker remarked that the out-of-town property owners need to be considered, and Attorney Janega agreed that she would make the necessary amendments to clarify that a notary from another state would be recognized.

After a short discussion, the consensus was reached to clarify the definition of “signed and acknowledged” as proposed; to keep the 250-foot notice provisions; to provide a form for protestors to use; and to continue using 20% of owners of property as the threshold to trigger a super-majority vote by the Council.

Attorney Janega said the next policy for consideration is a timeframe for when the protest needs to be filed. She observed that the desires of the protestors need to be balanced against the right of the applicant to receive a decision in a reasonable time period, and she noted that filing a protest after the lower boards had made their recommendations did not mean the record from below would be reopened.

As the Council discussed the options for setting a deadline for filing protests, Trustee Rintz pointed out that the process needed to be fair for the applicants and developers, as delays can cost a great deal of time and money.

President Tucker called for audience comments.

Marc Hecht, 1096 Spruce, said he thought it was fair to allow protests to be filed up until the moment the matter is up before the Council, as protestors may not make the decision to protest until the day of the Council meeting.

The Council decided to give protestors until the first Council meeting where the application will be discussed to file their formal protests.

Attorney Janega said she would bring back a proposal about how to make the rights to protest known to the neighbors within 250 feet of a zoning case. She finished reviewing the remaining draft amendments to Chapter 17.56, and recommended leaving staff to administer notices to neighbors on cases before the Plan Commission and Design Review Board, rather than codifying it.

Mr. Hecht asked if the provisions pertaining to special use permit protests will also apply to the Planned Development Ordinance, and if the Council has discretion to reopen the evidentiary record.

Attorney Janega said the protest provisions would apply to planned developments, but recommended keeping the evidentiary hearing only at the ZBA, to avoiding creating a two-tiered evidentiary process. She said the law is very clear that the evidence before the ZBA is sworn testimony, and that at the Council level there is opportunity to raise arguments, but not to give evidence. She explained that the Council has the discretion to grant, deny or modify the application, as long as modifications don't add to the size of the zoning relief, and she added that historically, modifications are made to scale down the original application.

There being no further discussion or comment, President Tucker closed the public hearing at 8:55 p.m.

Trustee Pedian, seconded by Trustee Greable, moved to introduce Ordinance MC-9-2010 as amended. By voice vote, the motion carried.

Trustee Pedian, seconded by Trustee Spinney, moved to continue the public hearing and consideration of amended Ordinance MC-9-2010 to January 4, 2011. By voice vote, the motion carried.

- b) Ordinance M-18-2010: 2010 Tax Levy Ordinance – Introduction. Mr. McKee reported that he is proposing an increase of 4.1% for the 2010 tax levy, with existing homeowners seeing an increase of 2.7% and new development contributing 1.4%. He noted that this levy is expected to meet the limits set by the tax cap law that non-home rule communities must observe.

Mr. McKee said the need to increase taxes stems from the fact that the Village's operations are labor-intensive and costs for labor, health insurance and fuel have outpaced increases in inflation. He noted that staff has been reduced over the years to keep the tax increases to a minimum, and the Village's budget remains balanced year after year. He pointed out that the total property tax bill is a reflection of the total taxes levied by all of Winnetka's taxing districts, and that the schools are largely responsible for big tax increases. He also observed that the overall total equalized assessed value in the Village has increased.

Trustee Greable commented that the Village could adjust taxes downward by changing the assumptions for the pension boards from 6% to 6.5%, thus decreasing the amount needed from the levy to fund them. He added that the Village's reserves are very healthy and asked how they would be allocated in the future.

Mr. McKee observed that the 6% assumption on returns for the pension boards is a more realistic number at this point in time.

Trustee Johnson said he would not favor cutting the pension funding and is comfortable with the 6% assumption on investment returns.

Trustee Rintz agreed with Trustee Johnson on the pension funding and commented on the difficulty of determining the tax levy when the budget hasn't been discussed yet.

Trustee Pedian said she would favor having regular meetings throughout the year to talk about the budget and capital projects, so the groundwork for change could be laid long before the actual change was made. She noted that Winnetka's share of the total property tax bill is small and even though the Council is frugal, it does not make a significant difference in the overall property tax bill. She agreed with Trustees Johnson and Rintz that the pension payments should not be cut.

Richard Kates, 1326 Tower, observed that the public is deeply concerned about underfunded pensions and pointed out that cutting the pension contributions will add to the problem in the long term. He said maximizing the funds from new construction deserves attention from the Village as a way to keep levy increases lower.

Mr. McKee indicated that the new construction assessment is not separate from the overall levy, and he added that he would bring some materials to the next meeting to clarify the issue of revenue from new construction. In the absence of guidance from the Council, he said he would put some more options together for the next meeting, using a 1.4% increase for existing homeowners in his calculations.

Trustee Spinney, seconded by Trustee Pedian, moved to introduce Ordinance M-18-2010 as drafted. By voice vote, the motion carried.

- c) Ordinance M-19-2010: 2010 Tax Abatement Ordinance – Introduction. Mr. McKee reported that an ordinance is passed each year abating taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on General Obligation Bond Series 2003.

Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Spinney, moved to introduce M-19-2010. By voice vote, the motion carried.

- 7) Public Comment and Questions. Richard Kates questioned the process that was followed in hiring retired Fire Chief Scott Smith to assist the Village in hiring a new fire chief, participate in union negotiations, help prepare the 2011-12 budget and consult on health insurance matters. He wondered why it was necessary to hire Chief Smith and why the process was not carried out in open meetings, and he also asked why the Glenview Deputy Fire Chief has been hired in the interim to be acting Fire Chief in Winnetka.

President Tucker responded that Chief Smith's years of experience and assistance are invaluable to the Village at this time, as the Council has to keep the public's safety in mind while a new management team is put together at the Fire Department.

Attorney Janega explained that Interim Village Manager Rosenthal made the decision to hire the former chief at the rate of \$75 per hour, that the employment is part-time, with a maximum number of hours set per year so as not to game the pension system. She observed that the Fire Department lost its entire top-level senior command staff in the last several months, and all the officers promoted to those positions are new and gaining experience, which is why the Glenview Deputy Chief was brought in temporarily. She noted that the new Village Manager will now continue the process and hire a Fire Chief. She pointed out that firefighters union negotiations are coming up, and that the former fire chief's assistance is necessary, as both Manager Bahan and the Acting Deputy Fire Chief are new to the process. She explained that Chief Smith had chaired an employee committee that studied and recommended restructuring the Village's health insurance plan, which reduced costs substantially. She added that the part-time employment agreement with Chief Smith and the agreement with Glenview for an interim Fire Chief were properly discussed with the Council in executive sessions and that Chief Smith's temporary employment contract did not require a public vote because it was within the scope of the Manager's authority.

Manager Bahan said it is crucial to be able to transfer the institutional knowledge of Chief Smith to the new senior administration staff at the Fire Department, and that his part time position is a stop-gap measure to ensure the operations of the Fire Department are running up to standard, and leaving time to recruit a new Fire Chief.

8) Old Business. None.

9) New Business.

a) Water Main Repairs at Lloyd Park. Mr. Keys reported that on November 16th, the Park District noticed an exposed 20-inch water main on the shoreline of Lloyd Park. He said investigation revealed that beach erosion caused exposure of the main, which was installed in 1967, and that it is susceptible to damage from winter ice floes and further sand erosion.

Mr. Keys said staff had researched two options to address this emergency situation: i) installation of a stone breakwater off the shoreline; or ii) rerouting the exposed section of water main. He noted that either project can be completed if adjustments are made to the capital plan.

Mr. Keys described contingency plans in case the sand erosion significantly worsens or large ice floes threaten the main before repairs can be made. He indicated that an RFP was obtained from Shabica & Associates for professional services, since any changes to the main will require permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, IDNR, IEPA and the Park District. He stated that Interim Village Manager Rosenthal had approved obtaining proposals for design and engineering in order to move forward with construction bid documents and permit submittals.

Mr. Keys then described in greater detail the two potential solutions, and reviewed the bid results he had obtained so the Council would have an idea of the cost of each option. He estimated the cost of building a breakwater at \$109,138.00, based on a bid received from Lenny Hoffman Excavating, and he estimated the cost of rerouting the main through Lloyd Park at \$365,000 - \$395,000, based on information from prior construction bids.

A brief discussion of the repair alternatives ensued, and the Council (i) ascertained that rerouting the pipe under the road and a grassy area, as proposed, would cause minimal disruption to the bluff and the park and (ii) agreed that rerouting the water main is the preferred solution.

- b) Acquisition of Police 2011 Ford Expedition SSV 4x4. Chief DeLopez reported that the Police Department is in need of a vehicle to replace a 2005 Ford Expedition SSV 4x4 with 71,000 miles, currently being used as an Evidence Technician vehicle. He reviewed the different uses the vehicle has, and he added that there is a new vehicle available through the Illinois State Bid Procurement Program for a cost of \$27,299. He requested authorization to purchase the replacement vehicle, and he also asked the Council for authorization to donate its retiring 2005 Ford Expedition to the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force (NORTAF).

Deputy Police Chief Pat Kreis explained the functions of NORTAF, noting that each task force member community has donated a vehicle to the task force, and he added that Winnetka would like to do its part also. He indicated that the evidence technician equipment would be taken from the old vehicle and transferred into the new one.

After a short discussion, the Council agreed to donate the 2005 Ford Expedition SSV 4x4 to NORTAF. Attorney Janega said she would prepare an ordinance for disposal of Village equipment and bring it back to the Council.

Trustee Greable, seconded by Trustee Johnson, moved to award the contract for a new Ford Expedition SSV 4x4 for the Police Department, in an amount not to exceed \$27,299, through the Illinois State Bid Procurement Program. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Greable, Johnson, Pedian, Rintz and Spinney. Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Poor.

- c) Set Council Meeting Agenda for 2011. Manager Bahan reported that the Village Council sets its meeting schedule so the public has advance notice and so staff and Council can plan their schedules. He noted that there are two conflicts with scheduled meeting dates on April 5th with the Consolidated Election and on April 19th with the first day of Passover. The Council agreed to set the Council meetings for the following Thursday for the two conflicting dates.

Trustee Pedian, seconded by Trustee Johnson, moved to approve the 2011 Meeting Schedule, as amended to accommodate the two conflicting dates on April 5 and April 19 by moving those meetings to the following Thursday. By voice vote, the motion carried.

- d) Public Act 95-950: Public Safety Pension Reform Bill. Mr. McKee reported that the Police and Fire Pension Board reports for 2010 had been included in the Council's agenda packets, in order to comply with pension reforms that were enacted by the Illinois legislature in 2008.

10) Reports

- a) Village President. President Tucker reported that since the Council's pension reform resolution was sent to legislators in Springfield, pension reform legislation was subsequently passed and she thanked all who participated in the process. She recommended visiting the website pensionfairness.org for more information and updates.
- b) Trustees.
 - i) Trustee Rintz reported that the Plan Commission will meet on December 15th for a last review of its affordable housing report before sending to the Council.
- c) Attorney. None.
- d) Manager. None.

11) Appointments. None.

12) Executive Session. None.

13) Adjournment. Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Pedian, moved to adjourn the meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Greable, Johnson, Pedian, Rintz and Spinney. Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Poor. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Recording Secretary

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
December 14, 2010**

(Approved: xx)

A record of a legally convened special meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Village Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

- 1) Call to Order. President Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present: Trustees Gene Greable, Bill Johnson, Linda Pedian, King Poor, Chris Rintz and Jennifer Spinney. Absent: None. Also present: Interim Village Manager Liz Rosenthal, Village Attorney Katherine Janega, Finance Director Ed McKee, and approximately 5 persons in the audience.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance. President Tucker led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Approval of the Agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.
- 4) Ordinances and Resolutions.

- a) Resolution R-41-2010: Verizon License Agreement Amendment -- Adoption. Attorney Janega reported that Resolution R-41-2010 would approve an amendment to the Village's license agreement with Verizon Wireless to allow an upgrade in Verizon's wireless communication antennas at the Water & Electric plant. She noted that Village staff has reviewed the proposed construction plan and confirmed that there will be no impact on the power plant's structure or operations, and that the new equipment does not require an amendment to Verizon's special use permit.

Attorney Janega reviewed the proposed terms, as negotiated between Village staff and Verizon. She explained the increased compensation, noting that the increase for the first year under the amendment based on when the equipment is installed, after which the additional compensation would be subject to the same escalator as in the initial agreement. She pointed out other related amendments resulting from the additional equipment, but noted that the core requirements of the initial license agreement would remain unchanged.

There being no further discussion, Trustee Spinney, seconded by Trustee Johnson, moved to adopt Resolution R-41-2010 approving an amendment to the cellular antenna license agreement with SMSA Limited Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, substantially in the form presented. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Greable, Johnson, Pedian, Poor, Rintz and Spinney. Nays: None. Absent: None.

- b) Ordinance M-18-2010: 2010 Tax Levy Ordinance – Adoption. Mr. McKee reported that the tax levy was reviewed at the October 5th Council Meeting, where an increase of 4.1% to 4.3% was agreed upon by the Council based on the projected budget. He observed that when the levy was discussed at the December 7th Council Meeting, Council expressed an interest in having other options explored. He noted that while the Village could use existing reserves to fund operations, it is not good public policy to do so, as reserves are more appropriately used for capital investments.

Mr. McKee said one of the few options available to reduce costs and balance the budget is to reduce staff, and to that end, six positions were eliminated in the last budget cycle. He noted that another option, raising fees, has not been done in many years, which gives a little cost relief to residents. Mr. McKee reviewed four additional options with the Council.

Mr. McKee gave a history of the pension earnings assumptions, which were reduced in 2006 from 7.0% to 6.5%, which increases the unfunded liability and raises the portion of the tax levy that is dedicated to the pension funds to 13%. He noted that each 0.25% decrease in the interest rate assumption increases the amount of property taxes dedicated to pensions by approximately \$133,000 and raises the pension liability by about \$1.5 million. He explained the inverse relationship of the interest rate assumption and the pension liability amount, noting that the Village's lower interest rate assumption means that the Village's pension contributions are higher than towns with higher interest rate assumptions. He pointed out that there is no definitive right answer for funding the pensions and the Village tries to do what is reasonable, and has always put in the full amount recommended by an actuary into the funds.

The Council asked questions and discussed the option of reducing the assumption on rates of return less than the .50% decline from 6.50% to 6.0% discussed earlier. Reducing the rate for the public safety pensions would reduce the increase in the tax levy.

Mr. Richard Kates, 1326 Tower, commented that it is only nice to lower taxes if it can be done safely, and that raising the assumption on investment returns does not seem like the proper thing to do in the current market. He pointed out that, unlike other towns, Winnetka has always contributed what the pension boards recommended. He said it is possible to fund a tax break by taking it out of the Village's reserves, and he urged the Council to listen to what the pension boards' actuary is recommending.

Next, the Trustees voiced their preferences regarding the options presented by Mr. McKee, giving their reasoning behind their opinions. After a thorough discussion, the Council reached consensus to choose Option 1, which would lower the assumption on rate of return for public safety pensions to 6.25% from the previous years 6.50%, and would set the tax levy at \$13,444,419, reflecting an estimated 1.4% increase for both existing homeowners and for new development, for a total increase of 2.8%.

Trustee Spinney, seconded by Trustee Pedian, moved to amend the tax levy ordinance to reflect the Council's direction to set the assumed rate of return on pension investments at 6.25%, and to set the total tax levy at \$13,444,419, which would increase the tax levy by 1.4% for existing homeowners, and 1.4% for new development, for a total tax levy increase of 2.8%. By voice vote, the motion carried.

Trustee Pedian, seconded by Trustee Spinney, moved to adopt Ordinance M-18-2010 approving the 2010 Tax Levy, as amended. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Greable, Johnson, Pedian, Poor, Rintz and Spinney. Nays: None. Absent: None.

- c) Ordinance M-19-2010: 2010 Tax Abatement Ordinance – Adoption. There being no further questions or comments, Trustee Pedian, seconded by Trustee Johnson, moved to adopt ordinance M-19-2010, abating the taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on

the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2003. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Greable, Spinney, Johnson, Pedian, Poor, and Rintz. Nays: None. Absent: None.

5) New Business.

- a) Warrant Lists Nos. 1681 and 1682. There being no questions or comments, Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Spinney, moved to approve Warrant List 1681 in the amount of \$130,529.14 and 1682 in the amount of \$892,472.88. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Greable, Johnson, Pedian, Poor, Rintz and Spinney. Nays: None. Absent: None.

6) Adjournment of Special Meeting.

Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Spinney, moved adjourn the Special Meeting and convene the Study Session. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Greable, Johnson, Pedian, Poor, Rintz and Spinney. Nays: None. Absent: None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
December 14, 2010**

1) Convene Study Session: President Tucker convened the Study Session at 9:15 p.m. Present: Trustees Gene Greable, Bill Johnson, Linda Pedian, King Poor, Chris Rintz and Jennifer Spinney. Absent: None. Also present: Interim Village Manager Liz Rosenthal, Village Attorney Katherine Janega, Finance Director Ed McKee, and approximately 5 persons in the audience.

a) Discussion: Long-Term Budget/Cost Containment Measures. President Tucker announced that the Council wanted to take this time to plan the next steps for the intergovernmental forum and to brainstorm ideas to contain costs.

Mr. McKee gave a historical review of how the Village operates financially, noting that revenues from property taxes have been increasing at slightly less than the rate of inflation, while many of the Village's other revenue sources remain at or below prior year levels. He observed that each year the Village balances its operating budgets, generates cash for capital improvement projects using a pay-as-you-go approach, stays within property tax caps and sets utility rates based on the cost of service. He explained the description in his agenda report of the principles used in creating each year's budget and he pointed out that there are trade-offs to reducing staff to reduce taxes significantly, as there could be impacts on Village services. He said the intergovernmental forum in November revealed how much the Village cooperates with other taxing districts in Winnetka and neighboring communities to control costs.

Mr. McKee cautioned that combining with others for contracts could result in contracts so large that smaller contractors would get squeezed out of competing for projects, which could reduce competition or lead to a loss of flexibility for the Village. He reviewed the steps the Village is taking to keep operating and employee costs down.

Manager Bahan elaborated on the Village's 2011-12 budget strategy, which includes partnering with other communities in bidding and purchasing ventures, pursuing shared service agreements, no proposed staffing increases, examination of pay and benefit plans for compliance with market-based compensation approaches, and continuing to take a leadership role at the State level to seek pension reform.

Trustee Greable asked if a survey could be done to get a reading on what the community is thinking with regard to core services and policy matters, and Manager Bahan replied in the affirmative. Trustee Greable also said he favored accomplishing some of the major infrastructure improvements that need to be made, and suggested developing a plan to finance them.

Trustee Rintz observed that the Caucus surveys of late have had a small response and that a few hundred opinions get ratified by the residents who show up at the Town Meeting, where policy is recommended for the entire Village. He noted that people need to be informed before they weigh in with opinions, citing the example of the 5-page list of

efficiencies that the Village has achieved over time that came to light at the Intergovernmental Forum meeting, which was convened in response to a request by the Caucus.

Manager Bahan observed that research on intergovernmental collaboration shows that about 80% of benefits can be achieved with intergovernmental agreements as opposed to statutory consolidation, which is time-consuming and costly and can't be tested until it is irrevocably accomplished. He cautioned against becoming a customer of another unit of government, as it limits flexibility and control, and recommended partnering with other agencies as the best option for realizing efficiencies.

Trustee Poor commented that not are the Village's tax increases kept below tax caps, but its fees are also below market rates in many cases, especially business licenses.

Trustee Pedian recommended creating a better line of communication with the public, and called for discussion and brainstorming on economic development; particularly for creative ways to support businesses and keep them in Winnetka. She added that she favors creating a strategic plan to help define the Village's capital plans.

President Tucker asked for funds to be budgeted for website upgrades.

Trustee Spinney said she was impressed with the RED Center in the area of intergovernmental cooperation, and she added that although she did not like debt, she would favor borrowing money at good rates to alleviate the Village's flooding problems.

Mr. Kates suggested surveying businesses that leave Winnetka to find out why they left, and recommended using interns and volunteers as low-cost sources of labor for the Village.

Arthur Braun, 850 Bell, said as he travels through the Village collecting signatures on his petitions for Village Trustee, he is struck by how concerned residents are about finances, and he advised the Council to move forward with intergovernmental partnerships to set an example for Winnetka's other taxing bodies.

President Tucker noted that the Council takes the message from the community very seriously and will strive to make adjustments without compromising the level of service to the residents.

- 2) Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Recording Secretary

AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: **Warrant Lists Nos. 1685 and 1686**

PREPARED BY: Rob Bahan, Village Manager

DATE: January 14, 2011

Warrants Lists Nos. 1685 and 1686 are enclosed in each Council member's packet.

Recommendation: Consider approving Warrants Lists Nos. 1685 and 1686.

AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: Ordinance M-1-2011 – Donation of Police Vehicle to NORTAF

PREPARED BY: Katherine S. Janega, Village Attorney

REF: December 7, 2010 Council Meeting, pp. 88 - 89

DATE: January 14, 2011

At its regular meeting on December 7, 2010, the Council considered a presentation by the Police Department seeking authorization to purchase a new Ford Expedition SSV 4x4 and to dispose of the Department's 2005 model of the same vehicle to the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force (NORTAF). The retiring vehicle, which is equipped for and used by the Police Department's evidence technician, has a current value of approximately \$6,700.00.

As reported by Police Chief DeLopez, NORTAF has a current critical need for a vehicle of the type and capabilities of the Department's 2005 Ford Expedition SSV. From time to time, municipalities donate surplus resources to NORTAF, to avoid the cost of a new purchase, which would be allocated among NORTAF's 13 members. Accordingly, Chief DeLopez requested that the Village donate the vehicle to NORTAF to enhance the task force's forensic capabilities, rather than trading the vehicle in or selling it off at the annual vehicle auction.

After considering Chief's request, the Council agreed to donate the vehicle and directed the Village Attorney to prepare the appropriate documents. Ordinance M-1-2011 formalizes the approval of the donation to NORTAF.

Under ordinary circumstances, the disposal of all surplus property is authorized by ordinance, which requires introduction at one meeting and adoption at a subsequent meeting. However, Section 2.04.040(D) of the Village Code provides that the Council can waive introduction when the members of the Council then present unanimously determine, by motion, that cause has been presented to establish that requiring introduction does not, in a given instance, serve the best interests of the Village.

Since the vehicle has been retired from Village service, delaying the approval until a second meeting keeps the vehicle from being used by NORTAF, which serves the Village and neighboring communities alike. Under the circumstances, it is my opinion that grounds exist for the waiver of introduction and Ordinance M-1-2011 has been drafted accordingly.

Recommendation:

- 1) Consider waiving introduction of Ordinance M-1-2011, pursuant to Section 2.04.040(D) of the Winnetka Village Code.
- 2) Consider adopting Ordinance M-1-2011, authorizing the donation of the retiring 2005 Ford Expedition SSV to NORTAF Major Crimes Task Force.

**AN ORDINANCE
AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN SURPLUS PROPERTY
OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF WINNETKA**

WHEREAS, the Winnetka Police Department has retired Village Vehicle PD-449 from service, said vehicle being a 2005 Ford Expedition SSV 4x4, Serial Number 1FMPU16586LA32810, which is equipped and assigned as an Evidence Technician vehicle, has logged 71,00 miles and has an estimated value of \$6,700.00 (“Retired Vehicle”); and

WHEREAS, the Village of Winnetka (“Village”) is a founding member of the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force (NORTAF), an intergovernmental cooperative made up of 13 communities; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has reported that NORTAF has need for a forensic vehicle and has requested that the Council of the Village of Winnetka (“Village Council”) authorize the donation of the Retired Vehicle to NORTAF, rather than selling the vehicle at auction; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council find that the Retired Vehicle is no longer useful to the Village of Winnetka and will provide more value to the Village if it is donated to NORTAF to serve NORTAF’s forensic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council find that the disposal of the Retired Vehicle as provided herein is a permitted exercise of the Village’s home rule powers under Article VII, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970, in that it is a matter pertaining to the affairs of the Village and to the public health, safety and general welfare of the Village.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Winnetka, in the exercise of its home rule powers pursuant to Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, have determined that it is in the best interests of the Village and its citizens to dispose of the said Personal Property in a manner consistent with the provisions of Section 11-76-4 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-76-4), as more fully set forth in this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Winnetka do ordain:

SECTION 1: The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated as the findings of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2: The Village Council hereby authorizes and directs that Village Vehicle PD-449, a 2005 Ford Expedition SSV 4x4, Serial Number 1FMPU16586LA32810 (“Retired Vehicle”) be donated to the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force (NORTAF).

SECTION 3: The Village Manager is hereby authorized and directed to convey and transfer the title and ownership of the Retired Vehicle to NORTAF.

SECTION 4: This Ordinance is passed by the Council of the Village of Winnetka in the exercise of its home rule powers pursuant to Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970.

SECTION 5: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage, approval and posting as provided by law.

PASSED this ___ day of _____, 2011, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2011.

Signed:

Village President

Countersigned:

Village Clerk

Introduced:

Posted:

Passed and Approved:

Posted:

AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: Ordinance MC-1-2011 – Amending Sign Regulations in Chapter 15.60 of the Winnetka Village Code

PREPARED BY: Katherine S. Janega, Village Attorney

REFERENCE: September 21, 2010 Council Meeting, pp. 73 - 76

DATE: January 14, 2011

Chapter 15.60 of the Village Code establishes comprehensive regulations for various types of signs, including permit procedures for some types of signs and allowing certain other signs to be displayed without a permit. Section 15.60.090(A) lists the types of temporary signs that are permitted without a permit and establishes conditions for their display.

Among the temporary signs that are allowed are signs related to elections and signs displayed by civic, philanthropic, religious or educational organizations regarding an event sponsored by the organization. While the maximum size of most temporary signs is 8 square feet, this provision allows signs up to 32 square feet in area. The larger size was intended to allow the actual organization to post a larger sign, with smaller signs being allowed at other locations, usually on members' residential properties.

During the spring election cycle last year, the Village encountered over-sized election signs on residential property. In addition, the Village encountered issues over the length of time the signs were displayed. Consequently, at the September 21, 2010, Council meeting and in anticipation of the fall elections, staff presented proposed amendments to Section 15.60.090(A) to clarify the temporary sign requirements. At that time, staff also informed the Council of a change in State law that would affect the Village's authority as of January 1, 2011, and the Council decided to defer action.

The new law, Public Act 96-904, is now in effect and limits the authority of municipalities to regulate political signs. Specifically, P.A. 96-904 amends paragraph 12 of the general statement of municipal zoning and land use regulatory authority in Section 11-13-1 of the Illinois Municipal Code. (65 ILCS 5/11-13-1) As amended, paragraph 12 grants the following powers to regulate signs:

“to establish local standards solely for the review of the exterior design of buildings and structures, excluding utility facilities and outdoor off-premises advertising signs, and designate a board or commission to implement the review process; except that, other than reasonable restrictions as to size, no home rule or non-home rule municipality may prohibit the display of outdoor political campaign signs on residential property during any period of time, the regulation of these signs being a power and function of the State and, therefor [sic], this item (12) is a denial and limitation of concurrent home rule powers and functions under subsection (i) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution.”

Although prior to the enactment of P.A. 96-904, nothing in Section 11-13-1 applied to home rule municipalities, the addition to paragraph 12 of the text shown above in italics makes that one paragraph applicable to home rule and non-home rule municipalities, alike. As a result, it is necessary to amend Chapter 15.60 to remove the time limitations that currently apply.

Section 2 of Ordinance MC-1-2011 amends subsection K of Section 15.60.080, adding political signs on residential properties to the list of signs permitted without a permit, with no time limitation imposed. It also adds a size limit of 6 square feet. This change brings Chapter 15.60 into compliance with P.A. 96-904. Section 2 also contains two technical amendments to Section 15.60.080: (i) a technical amendment in subsection A, which cross-references to Section 15.60.090, to assure that the size limitations of Section 15.60.090 clearly apply, and (ii) redesignating the current subsection K as subsection L. It should also be noted that the new subsection K reflects a reduction in the size limit from 8 square feet to 6 square feet. The reduction reflects Community Development's determination that the slightly smaller size is the norm, based on observations of what is normally displayed in Winnetka and on standards in other communities.

Section 3 of Ordinance MC-1-2011 amends paragraph 4 of Section 15.60.090(A) to address (i) the previously existing ambiguity regarding the size of signs and (ii) political signs on non-residential properties. This amendment establishes different size standards for event signs, depending on whether they are located on the sponsoring organization's premises or on some other property, with on-site event signs allowed to have an area of up to 32 square feet, and off-site signs being limited to an area of 6 square feet. The amendment also makes all political signs and off-premises event signs subject to the same size limitations. All signs covered by paragraph 4 are subject to the same time limitations, *i.e.*, they must be removed no later than 7 days after the event or election.

Recommendation:

- 1) Consider introduction of Ordinance MC-1-2011, amending Chapter 15.60 of the Winnetka Village Code as it pertains to certain temporary signs.

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 15.60 OF THE WINNETKA VILLAGE CODE
AS IT PERTAINS TO POLITICAL SIGNS**

WHEREAS, the Village of Winnetka is a home rule municipality in accordance with Article VII, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970, pursuant to which it has the authority, except as limited by said Section 6 of Article VII, to adopt ordinances, to promulgate rules and regulations and to exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to the government and affairs of the Village and that protect the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the exercise of its home rule powers, the Village has enacted Chapter 15.60 of the Winnetka Village Code, titled “Signs,” which contains comprehensive regulations of signs within the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has enacted Public Act 96-904, which limits the exercise of home rule authority in the regulation of certain political signs; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Winnetka (the “Village Council”) desire to amend Chapter 15.60 to bring it into compliance with Public act 96-904 and to otherwise clarify the requirements for such signs and for certain other signs allowed without a permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Winnetka do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated as the findings of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2: Subsection A of Section 15.60.090, “Permitted temporary signs,” of Chapter 15.60, “Signs,” of Title 15 of the Winnetka Village Code, “Buildings and Construction,” is hereby amended to provide as follows:

Section 15.60.080 Signs allowed without a permit.

The following signs shall be allowed without a permit; provided that, the sign is not prohibited by Section 15.60.060 of this chapter; and provided that, the sign complies with Section 15.60.130 of this chapter.

A. Permitted, nonilluminated temporary signs described in Section 15.60.090; provided, the area of any such sign does not exceed ~~eight square feet~~ the size limitations established therein;

B. Permitted, nonilluminated signs on single and two-family dwellings, as described in Section 15.60.100(A);

C. Permitted, nonilluminated signs of organizations described in Section 15.60.110; provided, the area of any such sign does not exceed eight square feet;

D. (Repealed.)

E. Memorial plaques, building markers, cornerstones, historical plaques and similar designations displayed for noncommercial purposes; provided that, the area of any such signs does not exceed six square feet;

F. Signs and pavement markings required by the police, fire or other governmental departments for the safety and convenience of the public;

G. Street or house number signs not exceeding one and one-half square feet in area;

H. Nonilluminated directional signs which do not contain a commercial message, logo or illustration, and which do not exceed three square feet in area;

I. Incidental signs; provided that, they shall not exceed one square foot in area.

(Ord. MC-209-98 § 2 (part), 1998: prior code § 27.08)

J. Self-supporting portable menu board signs displayed at restaurants or other food service establishments that offer food service for consumption on the premises, subject to the following limitations:

1. The signs shall be no more than 24 inches wide and 36 inches high, including support elements.

2. No restaurant or food service establishment shall be allowed more than one such sign.

3. The signs may be displayed only during the hours that the business is open to the public.

4. The signs may be placed on a public sidewalk, provided they do not extend more than two feet from the face of the building.

5. The signs may only be displayed between May 1 and November 30 of each year.

6. The proposed location of a sign for a restaurant with outdoor seating shall be depicted on the site plan submitted with the application for the outdoor seating permit and the sign shall be placed only in the location specified on the approved outdoor seating plan.

7. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Village reserves the right to order the relocation or removal of any menu board sign if the Director determines that the sign poses a safety hazard for pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

K. Any outdoor sign that pertains to elections or political campaigns and that is located on residential property; provided, such sign shall be no more than six (6) feet in area.

L. Subject to the approval of the Village Council, banners displayed on any utility pole, street light or lamp post in the Hubbard Woods or Elm Street business districts, provided the Village Council determines that the banner is not a commercial or political advertisement.

(Amended MC-7-2002 § 4, 08/06/02; Amended MC-3-2003, 03/04/03)

SECTION 3: Subsection A of Section 15.60.090, "Permitted temporary signs," of Chapter 15.60, "Signs," of Title 15 of the Winnetka Village Code, "Buildings and Construction," is hereby amended to provide as follows:

A. Signs Permitted. The following temporary signs shall be allowed without a permit; provided, they meet the requirements of this section; and provided further, that, unless specifically provided otherwise, the area of the sign ~~does shall~~ not exceed eight (8) square feet.

1. Nonilluminated real estate signs, advertising the sale or lease of the lot or premises on which they are located; provided that, any such sign shall be less than six feet in height. No more than one such sign shall be allowed on the lot or premises, except that on corner lots, there may be one such sign facing each street. All such signs shall be removed within seven days after the sale or lease of the premises.

2. Nonilluminated construction-site signs identifying the parties engaged in the design and construction on the lot or premises on which they are displayed, subject to the following conditions:

a. Any sign in a residential zoning district shall have an area of no more than eight square feet in area nor shall the top of the sign be more than six feet above grade.

b. Any such sign in a nonresidential zoning district shall be no more than sixteen (16) square feet in area nor shall the top of the sign be more than twelve (12) feet above grade.

c. No more than one such sign shall be allowed on the lot or premises.

d. All such signs shall be removed within seven days after completion of the work to which the sign pertains, as determined by the Director.

3. Decorations displayed in connection with civic, patriotic or religious holidays, except that they shall be removed within seven days after the specific holiday.

4. ~~Signs-Certain signs~~ pertaining to elections or political campaigns, and signs displayed by civic, philanthropic, religious or educational organizations regarding an event sponsored by the organization, subject to the following conditions:

a. No outdoor sign that pertains to elections or political campaigns and that is located on non-residential property shall be more than six (6) feet in area;

b. No such sign that is for an event sponsored by a civic, philanthropic, religious or educational organization and that is located on the exterior of the premises of the organization sponsoring the event shall be more than thirty-two (32) square feet in area; and

c. No sign that is for an event sponsored by a civic, philanthropic, religious or educational organization and that is located in an exterior location other than on the premises of the organization sponsoring the event shall be more than six (6) feet in area; and

d. b.—Any such sign subject to this paragraph 4 shall be removed no more later than seven days after the election or event for which it was displayed.

5. Window signs displayed on nonresidential premises located in a commercial zoning district to advertise special sales of merchandise or special commercial events, subject to the following conditions:

a. No such sign may be illuminated,

b. No such sign shall be more than eight square feet in area and the total area of all window signs, both temporary and permanent, shall not exceed the ten (10) percent limitation for window signs as provided in Section 15.60.120(B)(1)(d),

c. No such sign shall be displayed for more than thirty (30) days;

6. Nonilluminated garage sale signs displayed on the residential property on which the sale is conducted, subject to the following conditions:

a. No such sign shall be more than eight square feet in area,

b. No more than one such sign shall be permitted on the lot or premises, except that on corner lots one such sign may face each street,

c. No such signs shall be displayed for more than seventy-two (72) hours;

7. Signs such as banners, balloons, and similar devices that are displayed on residential property in a single-family residential zoning district to announce a birth, birthday, anniversary or similar special occasion; provided, no such sign shall be displayed more than twelve (12) hours before the occasion, and no such sign shall be displayed for more than forty-eight (48) hours.

SECTION 4: This Ordinance is passed by the Council of the Village of Winnetka in the exercise of its home rule powers pursuant to Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970.

SECTION 5: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage, approval and posting as provided by law.

PASSED this ___ day of _____, 2011, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2011.

Signed:

Village President

Countersigned:

Village Clerk

Introduced:

Posted:

Passed and Approved:

Posted:

AGENDA REPORT

Subject: Park District Proposed Open Field Burn for Crow Island and Bell Woods

Prepared by: Scott T. Smith

Date: January 11, 2011

The Winnetka Park District has expressed interest in performing a controlled “prairie burn” in the areas of the Village known as Crow Island and Bell Woods. The proposed burn for early spring 2011 is similar to the burn that was completed in March 2010.

In order to allow such a burn, permits must be secured by the Cook County EPA as well as the Village of Winnetka. The Winnetka Park District burn was successfully completed in the spring of March 2010 (no complaints received by the fire department).

The Winnetka Park District in the past has contracted with Pizzo and Associates to conduct the prairie burns at Bell and Crow Island. It is believed that Pizzo is the contracted company to conduct the upcoming burn this spring. Pizzo personnel did comply with all Village requirements including information and conformance to NIMS standards. (National Incident Management System).

To provide some history: in 2006, permit applications were submitted by the Park District for Crow Island and Bell Woods. The Winnetka Fire Department did a thorough review in 2006 of all the issues dealing with the requested burn areas and were not comfortable with granting the burn permits without Village Council review and permission.

Presentations were made by the Winnetka Park District and Pizzo to the Winnetka Village Council and permission was granted by the Council. Conditions by the Council for the burns to be held were compliance to required permits, compliance with fire department NIMS and other required information and notification to the surrounding neighborhoods for comment and any strong objections.

The Fire Department reviewed previous requests by the Winnetka Park District for prairie burns noting the following considerations.

- Fire safety- fires out of control due to high winds or improper burning by the company.
- Environmental- large amounts of smoke created by the burning activities causing harm to citizens, disruptions to private residential events, and increased calls to the fire department for suspected house fires in the area of the burn.
- Medical- smoke hazards effecting the community and residents.

In 2006 the **Crow Island Woods permit was not granted** due to nearby medical and family activity issues. **The Bell Woods permit was granted** since there were no letters or feedback from residents opposing such activity. For reasons unknown to the fire department the burn in 2006 was not performed.

In 2010 the Winnetka Park District again applied to the Village to conduct prairie burns at Crow Island and Bell Woods. This burn was approved by the Village Council with the conditions that the adjacent neighbors were contacted and all village requirements met. After reviewing the information provided by Pizzo & Associates in 2006 as well as 2010, the Fire Department felt that the company had the necessary background in order to provide a relatively safe prairie burn in Crow Island and Bell Woods.

The Winnetka Park District has received an award for Crow Island Woods by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago wilderness for a 2010 conservation and native landscaping award. (attached)

Winnetka Park Board President Richard Pierce sent a letter to Village President Tucker dated December 3, 2010, requesting that “the Village Council wave the public hearing and other Village requirements to conduct a follow-up controlled burn at both Bell Woods and Crow Island Park this spring.” (attached)

It is still the opinion and advice of the Winnetka Fire Department that the permit process be followed for State, County and Village permits. The process should follow previous fire department requirements for NIMS and provide the opportunity for the nearby residents to be advised of the burn dates and have the ability to provide feedback to determine if there are any strong objections or issues not previously found.

It must be noted that the previous burns were conducted successfully with no strong objections to the process with Pizzo and the Park District complying with all of the required permits and processes as outlined by the fire department staff.

Recommendation: Provide policy direction.



Jessica Tucker
Board President
Village of Winnetka
510 Green Bay Road
Winnetka, IL. 60093

December 3, 2010

Dear President Tucker:

During the past two years, the Winnetka Park District has conducted two successful controlled burns at both Bell Woods and Crow Island Park through the contracted services of environmental specialists, Pizzo & Associates, LTD. The controlled burns were completed within the required parameters of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Cook County and the Winnetka Fire Department. Prior to these burns the Park District conducted public hearings to meet all Village of Winnetka requirements.

The District is planning to do another controlled burn in early-spring, 2011. As you may recall, these controlled burns are used discourage the growth of invasive species and stimulate wildflower growth and other natural species in each park. As the wildflowers are rejuvenated, the beauty of the woods will increase, along with purifying the air by removing Carbon Dioxide (CO₂).

In hopes of continuing the restoration of these natural areas, I respectfully ask that the Village Board wave the public hearing and other Village requirements to conduct a follow-up controlled burn at both Bells Woods and Crow Island Park this spring given the evidence of success during the past burns. Please be assured that as part of the controlled burn process we will communicate openly with park neighbors and work cooperatively with the Winnetka Fire Department.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Richard Pierce
Board President
Winnetka Park District



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

Mr. Robert J. Smith
Superintendent of Parks
Winnetka Park District
540 Hibbard Road
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am pleased to inform you that the Crow Island Woods restoration project has been selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness for a 2010 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award. Your restoration of the 13-acre woodland enhances biodiversity and provides a wonderful place for the community to experience nature.

The Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards recognize exemplary native landscaping, ecosystem restoration and protection, and/or conservation design. EPA and Chicago Wilderness support the use of native landscaping and conservation-style development because these practices create habitat for a variety of species and produce important environmental benefits. Through the awards program, we recognize exceptional sites, raise awareness about native landscaping, ecosystem restoration, and conservation development, and encourage others to adopt sustainable practices.

I would like to invite you to the 2010 Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards ceremony to receive the award. The awards ceremony will be held on Friday, January 28, 2011, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the 12th floor Conference Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois. If you have any questions regarding arrangements for the awards ceremony please contact Danielle Green (312-886-7594, green.danielle@epa.gov) or Bob Newport (312-886-1513, newport.bob@epa.gov).

On behalf of EPA and Chicago Wilderness, I would like to thank you for your commitment to restoration of native plants, protection of water quality, and enhancement of biodiversity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Hedman".

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator