



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission  
Tuesday, July 17, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.  
Tinley Park Village Hall – Kallsen Center  
16250 S. Oak Park Avenue  
Tinley Park, IL 60477**

**ROLL CALL**

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

- Members:** Chairman Antonio Halek  
Aireen Arellano  
Jeffery Loftus  
Kelly Mulqueeny, Staff Liaison  
Dave Niemeyer, Village Manager  
**Visitors:** Abram Othman  
Abbi Blake  
Sharon Durling (NIMEC)  
Susan and Nick Yasillo  
Commission Secretary Denise Maly-Politano
- Absent:** Frank Markowicz  
Jeff Mech  
Village Trustee Brian Younker

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by **Antonio Halek** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fulton Conference Room. Motion to open the meeting and approve the agenda made by **Aireen Arellano**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**. Motion to approve the June 19, 2018 minutes made by **Jeffery Loftus**, seconded by **Aireen Arellano**. Minutes approved by voice vote.

**Antonio Halek** made introductions and welcomed new visitors.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

## **Reports**

No reports.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Electrical Aggregation**

**Dave Niemeyer** explained electrical aggregation is essentially a program that the state created in Illinois around 2010. This allows municipalities to buy power on the open market and residents can get in program that is called an “opt out system”. It is a significant savings. ComEd rates were much higher and had more long-term contracts. Residents have saved millions of dollars over several years. Program ended end of October and this year we went to bidding and are not seeing the savings because the market has been changing. It may not be a cost savings but it allows residents to be on a renewable energy program where essentially they would be purchasing renewable energy that would be essentially the same as the ComEd rate. It is kind of a federal REC program and the board had some discussion on it and is going to vote on it tonight. Sharon from NIMEC is the expert on this and will explain.

**Sharon Durling** from NIMEC distributed information on the electrical aggregation program. This would qualify the village to be designated by the EPA as a green power partner community. This is a marketing thing you can add on the village website. This is interesting because it includes even folks who opted out. Still part of the community, that is, the supplier, MC Squared, would purchase renewable energy credits for the consumption of the residents and small businesses in the community. That power source would be wind, renewable energy located in the Midwest. Nice option to offer the residents. Not offered through ComEd. 100% green energy supported by your residents is a nice offering. This would probably reduce carbon emissions by 70,000 tons annualized and this is a conservative number.

**Aireen Arellano** asked why MC Squared is the only company that can offer this. Sharon explained they are the only company that came up with the plan as a proprietary product and no other supplier has developed it and it is a lot of analytics that they have come up with to offer that.

**Jeffery Loftus** asked in term of aggregation, how many need to be a part of the program for it to be viable? Sharon Durling stated that suppliers are willing to bid on small villages.

**Antonio Halek** inquired if there will be some sort of a report if the village exceeded the 70,000. Sharon Durling stated that it depends on your usage. The renewable energy credits are managed by the F.E.R.C. and at the end of that the actual recs retired will be shown. There are numbers and there are certificates. The greenest region compact is an adoption of 1/3 of the communities in the area. It is a long list of things that have been accomplished which Tinley has probably already accomplished.

**Jeffery Loftus** inquired about the renewable energy portfolio and ComEd’s 14.5% fee. Sharon explained that is by law and that fee will not go away. 50% is charged by ComEd and 50% is charged by the supplier that is the regulation. We can’t change that. However, MC Squared is committed to retiring 100%. Some folks will be with ComEd, some will be with MC Squared.

They won't know exactly the usage for someone that goes with ComEd. Each year ComEd does provide the exact usage load for the entire village. So they are going to go back to that year down to the KW hour and purchase renewal energy credits to cover that usage. Might be more, might be less but it is the best they can come up with at this point.

**Jeffrey Loftus** inquired about Exhibit B which was prepared for Clarendon Hills as an example. Was this something prepared for the community or the village board of trustees? Good questions and examples are included which allows a person to be involved but do nothing.

**Sharon Durling** did prepare for the board as not everyone is an expert in electricity. She would prepare the same for Tinley Park.

**Aireen Arellano** stated that what she liked about this program was the fact that the entire aggregation including those that remain on the ComEd supply will received 100% renewable energy.

**Sharon Durling** said they wanted to think of a way to benefit everyone. Talked to a lot of people that are confused but they are thankful for MC Squared doing this. There is a benefit and a lot of people trust the program. Know that we are going to make a good decision for them. Gave some figure examples of a savings of \$5.7 million since the inception of the program and in the last term alone a \$350,000.00 savings.

**Jeffrey Loftus** inquired about non-green energy option.

**Sharon Durling** stated that they serve individuals also. You can go to the website and sign up on your own accord. You won't receive the best benefit but you are free to do that. It is better to be with the community and also a safer benefit with protection. Our contract is more protective but it is all about customer choice.

**Dave Niemeyer** stated that the board has had initial discussion on it. As an opt-out/opt-in programs will continue to be discussed. Opt-in programs do not work as you do not get the numbers with an op-in. Encouraged the EEC to make a motion as the board will be voting on it tonight.

**Sharon Durling** stated that the key thing is customer choice as the whole reason why deregulation began and it has saved the state billions of dollars. Illinois is #1 of the 50 states where electricity has increased slower than the other states. If someone is adamant they do not want to be in the program, they will be put on a permanent opt-out program and will never hear from us again.

**Aireen Arellano** asked **Dave Niemeyer** if comments were at the beginning or end of the village board meeting.

**Dave Niemeyer** stated comments are at the beginning but he can make an exception since he is presenting this issue. Anyone from the EEC and/or Sharon will be able to make comments after.

**Jeffery Loftus** saw that Trustee Berg was concerned about the mailings and asked if mailers were specific per resident, blanketed or a general mailing.

**Sharon Durling** stated we use a specific list from ComEd mailing list and it is a specific mailing to that person's specific mailing. There are a lot of laws over how we manage that mailing list.

**Antonio Halek** mentioned this is very exciting to us because going back 4 years ago he recalled **Jeff Mech**, Michelle and myself talking about electrical aggregation, had flyers trying to educate people. This has been a topic of discussion for a while now. Likes the point that it is measureable and has an opt-out option. Helps people do the right thing. Asked about the 1-800 number and residents contacting her directly.

**Sharon Durling** encourages everyone to call for any questions they might have. The number is not manned but encourages anyone to call that line, leave a message and your call will be returned.

**Jeffery Loftus** asked if the renewable energy credits will remain in our area or will it be distributed throughout the country.

**Sharon Durling** stated that it would be the Midwest. We share a grid and we don't know where the electricity would come from but it would be the Midwest just don't know the list of states.

Motion to vote in support electrical aggregation with NIMEC and MC Squared made by **Aireen Arellano**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus**. **Antonio Halek** declares the motion passed and the Environmental Commission is in support of electrical aggregation with MC Squared.

[Dave and Sharon exit for village board meeting at 7:27 p.m.]

#### **Receive Comments from the Public**

Visitors **Susan and Nick Yasillo** (a retired electronics engineer from the University of Chicago and a medical physicist. Used to design very large medical imaging system) expressed their concern going back a number of years concerning an environmental issue on 183<sup>rd</sup> and Ridgeland Avenue. Spoke with Mayor Seaman in 2016 but it didn't go anywhere. During concerts traffic control uses conventional old style flares and then leaves the flare behind on the street with no effort made at cleaning up. They leave hundreds of flares. The residue left behind is very toxic as a perchlorate residue is released using these flares. It is more toxic than lead. (Pictures and a spreadsheet shown). The flares are only 30 minute flares and they may have 20-30 flares which may be replaced every half hour. They never clean up and these are left on the ground. Ancient technology. These flares were created in the 1800's. These flares lead to water contamination, a mess and residue sitting in the street for weeks where other vehicles driving through the intersection track the residue to another location. Hundreds of flares are used per event at the cost of thousands of dollars. Many states have outlawed these types of flares because of environmental impact and price. The alternative would be LED light flares. The LED type of flares is more expensive initially but is cleaner for the air and water and virtually

pays for them in the long run. On conservative estimates, the village is paying \$17,000-\$18,000.00 per year for flares based on an estimate of 200 flares per concert. 40 flares per location, 4 locations, 160 flares per concert. This is very toxic to animals, it has a long half-life and when it goes into the water table it lasts for years. The drainage from the village drains goes into the main water reclamation system and eventually ends up in Lake Michigan. This has been well known and well documented for decades. Finding water contamination in places where they made the flares. The only other place this material is used is in rocket flares. When they put a flare out that does not ignite the concentration is 20-30 times higher. It is very toxic. It should be something the village is aware of. Not only the water contamination and the mess it makes because they don't clean up, but the cost. The LED ones are virtually indestructible but you need to take care of them and recharge them.

**Susan Yasillo** stated they are not aware of the other entrances where they use it as this is only at the 183<sup>rd</sup> and Ridgeland exit. **Nick Yasillo** stated they have noticed similar residue at 183<sup>rd</sup> and Oak Park Avenue and 183<sup>rd</sup> and Harlem Avenue. This residue lasts for days. It is designed to be weather proof and it does not disintegrate.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** agreed that the flares/residue is sitting there at least a week if not two. EMA should be cleaning up after themselves and using safer flares.

**Susan Yasillo** agreed that they should be cleaning up the mess or using the LED ones. It is going to take somebody to take care of them, recharge them. It is not like these are labor-free like a regular flare. But it will certainly be safer for the environment.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** asked who they have spoken to in the past. **Nick Yasillo** stated it was Mayor Seaman a few years ago who said he would pass the information on to the appropriate committees but they never heard anything back from anyone.

**Jeffery Loftus** asked who is responsible for the flares. Kelly stated it could be the police department, could be EMA.

**Nick Yasillo** stated the short-term solution would be cleaning up. Long-term solution would be to replace the flares.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** will have the sweeper come down the day after the concert and have them clean up.

**Susan Yasillo** stated that there seems to be a lot more concerts this year so they are really noticing the residue left behind.

**Jeffery Loftus** asked in terms of instituting something like that, what we can do. **Kelly Mulqueeny** suggested waiting until the new police chief is in place before bringing it to their attention. Also suggested talking to Pat Carr to see if he could do something about that. First, they should really be picking up after themselves and not waiting for us to sweep up 24 hours later. It is more important for them to clean up after themselves and secondly, if there is

something else they can use then why not. And what is the old flare doing to the police officer handling it.

**Aireen Arellano** thanked the Yasillos for their extensive work and information.

**Antonio Halek** stated that this is really good information because some people really do not know.

**Jeffery Loftus** suggested ones that follow a line and if you remove one or one goes out it still continues in the flashing pattern.

### **OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

#### **Business Cards**

**Antonio Halek** stated that we now have an official email and **Aireen Arellano** will get quotes from our new sources and order business cards.

#### **Tree City USA**

**Aireen Arellano** stated that becoming a Tree City is much easier than we thought.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** stated that is what we needed to do and speak with someone from Orland. If we do not need a committee then it will be very easy.

**Aireen Arellano** agreed that we do not need a committee, just numbers.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** asked for specifics. Will have the arborist start to work on it. Also trying to get involved with the Tree Consortium. A unique program that a lot of other communities get involved with. Have a baseline that gets pricing for tons of different trees. If we get involved with that we do not have to go out a bid for trees every year, they will be the same company. Kind of like a state bid kind of thing. Mayor would have to sign off on it, we would have to pay a small fee and then we are part of it. We are locked in on the price of the actual trees and the planting of the trees. It would save us a lot of time as going out to bid is very time consuming. And getting used to a good contractor doing the work. This way we can keep the work rolling constantly and it gives us more variety for trees.

**Antonio Halek** asked if this can be passed on to the residents too.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** thinks it can be extended but it would be between the resident and the contractor.

**Antonio Halek** asked what the percentage of the savings would be compared to the regular market. **Kelly Mulqueeny** stated that they match and we get a pretty good price. Usually between \$300-\$400 a tree but it depends on the type of tree, they are all different prices.

**Antonio Halek** thinks some residents would just want to go ahead and put in trees in their yard.

### **MWRD Tree Distribution**

**Kelly Mulqueeny** stated the trees were pretty dinky.

**Antonio Halek** stated that it was pretty much the same as two years ago. This year we actually had much better trees compared to two years ago. Overall, it was a pretty good response. Lots of families wanted trees to plant with their children. Would be a good idea to have the Boy Scouts participate. Antonio asked who we can talk to for planting trees somewhere in the village.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** suggested it might be a better idea to purchase some decent trees to give away. Kelly also stated that Antonio would talk to her about tree planting.

**Aireen Arellano** asked if there is a limit as to how many trees someone can take.

**Antonio Halek** suggested one per family for starters.

**Denise Maly-Politano** asked why the new replacement trees for the Emerald Ash are peeling. **Kelly Mulqueeny** suggested Denise send her addresses of area where the peeling trees were noticed and she will find out what is happening with those.

### **Purchase of A-Frame Signage and Earth Flags**

**Aireen Arellano** purchased signs from Liberty and the signs have been used already.

**Antonio Halek** will have to follow-up with **Jeff Mech** about the Earthy Flags but he did not think those have been purchased yet.

### **Rain Garden**

**Aireen Arellano** reported the Rain Garden Open House would be a long-term goal. She attended the meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Money is out there but we need to apply. She already made connections and thinks it is doable by 2020. Grant deadlines are next year so we will have to work towards 2019 and hopefully build by 2020.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** stated that some of those grants we did not qualify for. One was for the Hickory Creek Water Shed as they do not have any property in that area where we could even consider doing anything like that. Kelly is starting a capital project called Apple Pond. Now we are looking at as many things as we can do with it and one of the things is to work on a rain garden but we would pay for it. Already talked with Lindsay Burt and she will be giving us some guidance. We may have the rain garden sooner than you think. Kelly requested Apple Pond be placed on next month's agenda and she can give an update next month. Right now it is in the early engineering phase.

### **Hickory Creek Bio-Blitz Hosting and Dates**

Bio-Blitz is scheduled for September 8, 2018. **Kelley Mulqueeny** stated that Tinley will be hosting the location. She will find out what the water department needs to bring out to the site. A village employee will be out there.

**Antonio Halek** said there have been several people that have contacted him about the Bio-Blitz. This year should be the biggest turnout. We definitely need signage to direct people to the site.

**Aireen Arellano** suggested an A-frame sign at the park. **Jeffrey Loftus** thinks we need more than the A-frames as the location is hard to find.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** suggested the GIS maps. She will talk to Kyle and see if he can do something with the mapping system. Maybe something can be put on the website.

**Aireen Arellano** stated that if Kyle cannot do the GIS map in time we can always use the rudimentary signs that she will work on.

**Antonio Halek** reminded everyone that there is a tour out at the Joliet site if anyone is interested in attending that along with a luncheon.

### **Solar Panels**

**Antonio Halek** understands that we are trying to put together an information packet for residents interested in installing solar panels. **Jeff Mech** will now be working for a solar panel company that supplies solar panels and he will be able to give us information on how that process happens and what all goes into it. This is probably not something we can do until later on as it is a work in progress. Will be interested to get **Jeff Mech's** perspective on it and the different costs.

**Kelly Mulqueeny** is trying to get information from her sister in California as to what supplier she uses, what it costs, where to go, etc. California is the top state that has solar panels going on right now. She will check to see if she has any information for us. Instead of coming from the sales point we can find out what she needed to do as far as getting permits filled out, etc.

### **Will County Green Event**

Unfortunately, no one was able to attend so there is nothing to report.

### **Good of the Order**

**Susan Yasillo** complimented the EEC on what a nice setup they had at the Farmer's Market. Everyone looked professional and neat in their matching shirts. They did not even know the EEC existed.

**Nick Yasillo** commented on the solar panels coming from an engineering perspective. Thinks people really want to move towards clean energy. It is not just the purchase of solar panels. You also have to buy energy storage. The energy storage is the end of the moving target. The existing systems uses massive acid batteries which last 4-5 years and then you have the replacement cost. So the cost is not just the solar panels but also the periodic battery replacement. That is shifting into using lithium ion batteries which are dramatically changing price because of the car business. The same batteries used in cars are a much better solution which store 10x the energy so they take up 1/5 of the space and last 8-10 years if properly managed. So upfront it becomes a very critical thing to really look at the whole system and the



way it is changing. China is building battery companies. Tesla is building a mega battery company in Utah which will be the biggest lithium battery company in the world. If that comes to it will dramatically reduce the cost. The lithium battery lasts longer but it is more expensive though the cost is going down. You really have to look at the amortization of the upfront materials.

**Antonio Halek** asked if there is a place that someone can have access to solar panels during the day when the sun is out and then switch over to something else.

**Nick Yasillo** stated that you can integrate the systems. You can isolate the power in the house and if you take it one stage further you can get an inverter where the power goes back into the grid but it requires a higher upfront cost off of the ComEd system. It depends on how much you want to limit power use. You need an awful lot of storage if you want to run an air conditioner. There is a system that can get built into the walls and you buy as many modules as you want. It is expensive but that is the route they are going. Battery powered cars like a Tesla use very small batteries but it is higher voltage than a normal cell system because the batteries are small. Typically the home systems are 24 or 48 volts. There are so many factors involved. If I were considering it I would wait a couple of years because the systems are always changing. You can buy these systems now that are reliable and foolproof but they are going to have much higher long term replacement costs and once you are locked into it you are really not going to want to change it. There are 3 parts to it: the solar cells generating electricity, there is some kind of storage medium which today is either light acid or in a very few systems lithium ion and then some kind of power inverter that converts the DC voltage on the batteries up to 110 volts or 220 volts you need to run an air conditioner. Converters are pretty much standard but the storage is changing. ComEd allows you get a device to read out the power usage in your house without messing with ComEd website on a minute-by-minute basis. It is an IHD (In Home Device) which allows you to read it down to the individual watts. You need to get it approved by ComEd and then within a day they will send a radio signal to your specific individual meter. ComEd is claiming that people that have them actually use less power. It is a 5-10% power reduction just by making people aware of what appliances use what power. Only 5 companies that ComEd is certified to sell these things. Some are more sophisticated and you need WI-FI in your house and it is dependent on a cloud server. It is one of the benefits of having a smart meter. You can see your usage in dollars.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by **Aireen Arellano**, seconded by **Jeffery Loftus** to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

/dmp