

Tuesday  
September 20, 2022  
6:00 p.m.



Council Chambers  
7401 Meyer Road  
Spring Grove, IL 60081

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Village of Spring Grove – Village Board  
Regular Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. President's Report
4. Clerk's Report
5. Engineering Report
6. Public Works Report
7. Police Department Report
8. Committee Reports
  - A. Public Works
    - i. Approval of the September 7, 2022 Public Works Committee Minutes
  - B. Safety
    - i. Approval of the September 7, 2022 Safety Committee Minutes
  - C. Community Engagement Committee
9. Public Comment (*Public comment shall be limited to three minutes per speaker*)
10. Consent Agenda (*items listed on the Consent Agenda will be approved by a single vote of the Board unless a member of the Board requests that a separate vote be taken on any item*)
11. Unfinished Business
12. New Business
  - A. Consideration of the September 6, 2022 Village Board Regular Meeting Minutes
  - B. Consideration of an Ordinance amending Chapter 14 - Appendix H, Solar Requirements, of the Village Code
13. Other Business
14. Adjournment

**MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE VILLAGE OF SPRING GROVE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

Council Chambers, Spring Grove, Illinois, September 20 2022; a Regular Meeting of the Village Board was held this date at 6:01 p.m., at the Municipal Centre, 7401 Meyer Road; President Eisenberg presiding.

**Roll Call.** Roll call showed the following Board members present: President Mark Eisenberg; Trustees Katie Fitzgerald, Mike Gajewski, Mike Lee, Jeff Letzter, Pat Mazzanti, and Bob McMahon – 7. Absent: None. Also present for the Village were Bob Walczak, Building and Zoning Officer; Mike Frer, Public Works Supervisor; Mike Niedzwiecki, Police Chief; Scott Puma, Village Attorney; and Kelly Popelka, Deputy Clerk.

**President's Report.** Recreation Director Janice Bannon will be retiring after 15 years at the end of the year and a replacement is needed.

**Clerk's Report.** Nominating petitions for the April 4, 2023 consolidated election are available in the clerk's office during normal business hours. There are 3-4 year terms and 1-2 year unexpired term up for election.

**Engineering Report.** Engineer Bicking was excused.

**Public Works Report.** Supervisor Frer gave a seasonal project update.

**Police Department Report.** Chief Niedzwiecki gave a village sticker update and updated the Board on a proposed safety act, encouraging members to write to our local Senator in opposition.

**Committee Reports.**

**Public Works. Approval of the September 7, 2022 Public Works Committee Minutes.** Trustee Mazzanti moved, seconded by Trustee Gajewski to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Gajewski, Lee, and Mazzanti - 3. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Safety Committee. Approval of the September 7, 2022 Safety Committee Minutes.** Trustee Mazzanti moved, seconded by Trustee Gajewski to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Gajewski, Lee, and Mazzanti - 3. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Community Engagement.** Trustee Lee gave a Farmers Market update, thanked Stephanie Essex for starting our Spring Grove Farmers Market which will now be run by the Community Engagement Committee. They are talking to current vendors and reaching out to new vendors for next year. The first Oktoberfest event is this Saturday.

**Public Discussion.** *President Eisenberg then opened the meeting up for discussion by the public.*

Elizabeth Johnson, resident of the Springdale Trails subdivision, gave the board an update on correspondence with Trustee Fitzgerald on creating a chicken ordinance.

Rich Kurowski, resident of Oak Valley Estates, offered to help set-up for Oktoberfest.

Richard and Debra Dicristina, residents at 1818 Route 12, requested the zoning for their property, which is currently commercial, be changed to residential because they are trying to apply for senior tax discounts and are unable to with the current zoning. The Board was not in favor of changing the zoning as Route 12 is our commercial corridor. They were advised to appeal their denial because they are not using the property for commercial use at this time.

Karen Megaw, resident in the Breezy Lawn subdivision, thanked the Board members for continuing to research and adapt the solar ordinances for our residents.

**Consent Agenda.** None

**Unfinished Business.**

**New Business.**

**Consideration of the September 6, 2022 Village Board Regular Meeting Minutes.** Trustee Mazzanti moved, seconded by Trustee Gajewski to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Fitzgerald, Gajewski, Lee, Letzter, Mazzanti, and McMahon - 6. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Appendix H, Solar Requirements.** Trustee McMahon summarized the changes presented as being for safety reasons and clarification, he noted that we are being told by solar companies that ComEd is increasing their allowable output to 200% but he has been unable to verify that through Com Ed. It was noted the 10Kw limit in our current ordinance is in line with other municipalities and is still reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Discussion ensued regarding the current language that solar systems should be owned not leased, which was created to discourage solar companies from making solar farms out of subdivisions. Trustee Letzter opined the village should not regulate how people do business and believes people should be able to own or lease based on their own needs. Appendix H, Item M will have to be amended to reflect owning or leasing is an option.

Trustee McMahon opined the variance procedure is too easy to go through and requested the variance form be removed from the website so it can be supplied to residents who truly have a hardship and need a variance.

On a separate matter, Trustee McMahon stated the current permit fees do not accurately reflect the time spent on permits and inspections and will be reviewing them. President Eisenberg noted that permit fees have not been increased for many years.


Trustee Letzter moved, seconded by Trustee Gajewski to approve the amendments as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Fitzgerald, Gajewski, Lee, Letzter, Mazzanti, and McMahon - 6. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Other Business.** Trustee Fitzgerald updated the Board on the research for chicken regulations. She and Trustee Gajewski have been working with staff researching information from other municipalities and McHenry County. They hope to have something to present at the next Board meeting. She asked the Board how they felt about a survey of residents. Trustee Lee would rather people attend the public meeting to express their opinion on the matter.

Trustee Fitzgerald also stated that she contacted Comcast recently to ask if she could pay for service to her home and a Comcast representative stated that Mediacom and Frontier have a franchise agreement with Spring Grove and Comcast is unable to come into Spring Grove. Attorney Puma stated that is not true as franchise agreements are no longer allowed to be exclusive nor are they required in Illinois.

There being no further business, Trustee Lee moved, seconded by Trustee Mazzanti to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. On voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Kelly Popelka, Deputy Clerk