

Tuesday  
December 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. Building and Zoning Report
7. Public Works Report
8. Police Department Report
9. Committee Reports
  - A. Safety
    - i. Consideration of the December 7, 2022 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
  - B. Community Engagement
  - C. Public Works
    - i. Consideration of the December 19, 2022 Special Public Works Meeting Minutes
10. Public Comment (*Public comment shall be limited to three minutes per speaker*)
11. 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*)
  - A. Approval of the December 6, 2022 Village Board Regular Meeting Minutes
  - B. Approval of an Ordinance authorizing the execution of the Preventative Maintenance Agreement with Braniff Communications, Inc.
  - C. Approval authorizing the disbursement of the December 2022 Bills Payable after their approval by the Village President
12. Unfinished Business
13. New Business
  - A. Approval for the purchase of Police Department radios
  - B. Discuss Backyard Chicken Regulations
14. Other Business
15. Adjournment

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

Council Chambers, Spring Grove, Illinois, December 6, 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 Niedzwiecki, Police Chief; Scott Puma, Village Attorney; Kelly Popelka, Deputy Clerk; and Sandi Rusher, Village Clerk.

**President's Report.** President Eisenberg wished everyone a Happy Holidays and informed everyone that the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be cancelled.

**Clerk's Report.** No report.

**Engineering Report.** The village engineer was excused from the meeting.

**Building and Zoning Report.** Building and Zoning Officer Walczak sought direction from the board on three properties that will not be hooked up to water by the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Board agreed it was not fair to those who did get hooked up on time to allow others to do so without repercussion. BZO Walczak was instructed to send out a final letter to those properties this week stating fines will begin February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Public Works Report.** The public works supervisor was excused from the meeting.

**Police Department Report.** Chief Niedzwiecki reported the department received the final approval for a \$4,000 body-cam grant and gave an update on village stickers.

**Committee Reports.**

**Safety.** Trustee Gajewski reported the committee discussed police department staffing, recruitment, salaries, retention, and subdivision signage.

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

**Community Engagement.** Trustee Lee reported the committee discussed their goals for 2023 and decided to add a Craft Beer Festival in August. He informed the public of the committee's purpose and emphasized the need for volunteers.

**Public Works.** Trustee Mazzanti reported the IEPA is not looking for a quick fix to the ammonia problem at the wastewater treatment plant, the committee and engineers are developing an overall plan for the future of the plant to be presented to the IEPA. This study was approved in the 2022 budget and will be completed as soon as possible. Immediate maintenance issues were also addressed.

**Consideration of the December 19, 2022 Special Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes.** Trustee Gajewski moved, seconded by Trustee Mazzanti to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Gajewski, Lee and Mazzanti – 3. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Rich Kurowski voiced his opposition to allowing chickens and questioned enforcement and compliance regulations.

Elizabeth Johnson supported chickens and spoke of the benefits of raising them. Approximately 20 people stood up in support as she outlined that she has been working with trustee Fitzgerald to create guidelines so that chickens are safe, easy and housed in a controllable manner.

Kristina Swanson sought information regarding rumors about a proposed gravel pit on Main Street. President Eisenberg replied he has had conversations with the Mayor of Fox Lake and neither of them have been approached by any landowners wanting to mine the land in that area.

Karen Grant, resident of Spring Grove Estates, is opposed to allowing chickens as coyotes are prominent in her subdivision and fears the chickens will only make the problem worse. She stated eggs can be purchased from local farmers.

**Consent Agenda.** Trustee Mazzanti moved, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald to accept the consent agenda items as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Fitzgerald, Gajewski, Lee, Letzter, Mazzanti, and McMahon - 6. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- A. Approval of the December 6, 2022 Village Board Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of an Ordinance authorizing the execution of the Preventative Maintenance Agreement with Braniff Communications, Inc.
- C. Approval authorizing the disbursement of the December 2022 Bills Payable after their approval by the Village President

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

**Unfinished Business.** None.

**New Business.**

**Approval for the purchase of Police Department Radios.** Chief Niedzwiecki sought approval to purchase 12 Kenwood VP6340 Starcom mobile radios with speaker microphones and charges for a cost of not to exceed \$34,486.20 as the existing mobile radios from 2008 are discontinued, no longer supported and have reached their life expectancy. Estimates to replace the existing radios with the current version through Motorola totaled almost \$71,000. However, staff was able to secure quote through a different vendor for comparable radios from a competing manufacture. Chief Niedzwiecki answered questions of the Board and stated the Kenwood radios are part of the Starcom system which is the best for coverage and encryption. Trustee Mazzanti moved, seconded by Trustee Gajewski to approve the purchase of 12 Kenwood

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VP6340 Starcom mobile radios for a cost not to exceed \$34,486.20. Roll call vote: Ayes: Fitzgerald, Gajewski, Lee, Letzter, Mazzanti, and McMahon - 6. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Discuss Backyard Chicken Regulations.** Trustee Fitzgerald led the discussion on the proposed regulations that related to number, predator proofing, size, aesthetics, location, setbacks, permitting fees, HOA covenants and prohibitions.

Trustee Letzter would like to see the setback requirements for coops, runs and manure increased to match the required rear and side building setback. He felt that the \$200 initial fee may not be enough to cover staff's time reviewing the applications and would like to see some language outlining how many violations a permit holder is allowed to have before a permit is revoked or not renewed.

Trustee McMahon expressed his concerns with chicken abandonment, barking dogs, chicken waste attracting wildlife, and the recent salmonella outbreaks involving residential chickens. He opined allowing chickens in our community will diminish the enjoyment of people's properties. He would like to see steps added to the ordinance that include notifying adjacent homeowners when a chicken permit is applied for.

Discussion ensued regarding recorded Homeowners Associations covenants which prohibit chickens and the Villages responsibility to enforce subdivision covenants. Ultimately the Village of Spring Grove is not responsible for enforcing HOA rules, applicants need to understand that even if an HOA is not active, legal action could still be taken against them for violating covenants.


In response to questions of the Board, Attorney Puma stated the Village should not limit itself by listing exactly what violations will lead to revocation or non-renewal. If a resident wanted to file suit against a homeowner for violation of subdivision covenants, the Village would not be held liable for not enforcing the covenants. He further answered questions regarding a homeowner's constitutional right to refuse the Building and Zoning Officer's request to enter onto their property.

The board agreed that variances should not be allowed, and they all need to stand behind the building official when a permit is denied for non-compliance to the ordinance.

**Other Business.**

There being no further business, Trustee Letzter moved, seconded by Trustee Gajewski to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. On voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Kelly Popelka, Deputy Clerk