

**November 06, 2012
Village of Sugar Grove
Regular Board Meeting
6:00 PM**

President Michels opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked that Trustee Geary lead the Pledge. The roll was then called.

Present: President Michels, Trustee Paluch, Trustee Bohler, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Renk, Trustee Montalto, and Trustee Geary.

Absent: Trustee Renk.

Quorum Established.

Also Present:

Administrator Eichelberger, Finance Director VanVooren, Chief Moser , Clerk Galbreath, Director of Public Works Speciale, and Community Development Director Young.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

President Michels called for any public comments on items scheduled for action (all items were read and announced). Hearing none this portion of the agenda was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval: Minutes of the October 16 and 30, 2012 Meetings
- b. Approval: Vouchers
- c. Ordinance: Adopting an Investment Policy

Trustee Johnson **moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** Trustee Bohler seconded the motion. President Michels then called for a roll call vote.

AYE:	Johnson	NAY:	None	ABSENT:	None
	Paluch				
	Geary				
	Montalto				
	Bohler				
	Renk				

Motion Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Announcement & Approval of the 2012 Proposed Property Tax Levy

Trustee Johnson moved to **Announce and Approve of the Proposed 2012 Property Tax Levy**. Trustee Renk seconded the motion. Finance Director Justin VanVooren explained the process of determining how much to levy, the county levy process and the historical levies. The Board asked that an explanation of the process be placed on the website as it is very confusing as to why the levy appears to be so much higher than what it is currently. The process of abating taxes as well as capturing any new growth was also explained. President Michels called for any further discussion and hearing none, called for a roll call vote.

AYE:	Johnson	NAY:	None	ABSENT:	None
	Paluch				
	Geary				
	Montalto				
	Bohler				
	Renk				

Motion Carried.

Discussion Status of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Streets Supervisor Geoff Payton stated that in 2008, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Sugar Grove along a landscape buffer adjacent to the Jewel / Osco site. Since that time, EAB has spread to all corners of the Village. The Village is currently in year 4 of an anticipated 10 to 12 year infestation and that to date 407 infested Ash trees have been removed. Supervisor Payton then explained that with the discovery of the EAB, the Public Works Department created a plan to address both public and private needs during this infestation. The response plan includes:

- o Inspection: to document the spread and impact of the borer as well as identify Ash trees for removal
- o Communication / Education: Updates are distributed via the Village web-site and newsletter. Illinois Department of Agriculture handouts and door hangars are also used in areas where EAB has been discovered.
- o Removal: is done as necessary, Ash trees on public property that are dead, in severe decline or pose a significant risk of hosting the EAB will be removed. This process is referred to as selective reduction in order to slow the spread of EAB. Any private property tree confirmed to fit the above profile is the responsibility of the homeowner for removal.
- o Replacement: the Village will make every attempt to replace trees that are removed from parkways and Village property as a result of EAB with other species utilizing current diversity standards, based on budget availability.

Tree Inventory / Inspections:

In 2008, Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants and Village Staff completed an inventory and found 1,058 Ash trees out of 4,171 total trees. This equates to a 25% Ash Population. An updated inventory was completed in the fall of 2012. At present, there are a total of 3,764 trees with 651 of those being Ash species This equates to approximately 17% Ash population. So far, EAB has been confirmed in 9 subdivisions including: Black Walnut Trails, Bliss Woods, East Sugar Grove, Mallard Point, Walnut

Woods, West Sugar Grove, Windsor Pointe, Windsor West and Windstone. At the time of this report, Staff has inspected over 500 Ash trees.

Removal:

Removal of an Ash is only completed if it is confirmed to have EAB and meets the following requirements: has 1/3 crown die-back, has bark splits from the feeding larva and has trunk sprouts. If removal is required on parkways and Village owned property, Public Works staff will remove the Ash tree, strip the bark, inspect the trunk, chip the tree and dispose of the waste wood. Should the Ash tree be of larger diameter (14" and above), a contractor would be required for removal. A qualified and registered tree removal company is selected. On average, the Village is spending approximately \$15.52 per inch of tree for removals. In other words, a 12" diameter tree costs \$186.36 to remove. A total of 407 Ash trees have been removed since 2008. This is an average of 101 trees per year removed.

Replacement of Ash Trees on Public Property:

At this time, the Village is spending approximately \$385.00 per tree for replacements. The Village and residents are splitting the costs for a total \$192.50 each on average. We are planting an average of 22 trees per year for replacements, while removing 101 per year on average.

Treatment:

The treatment of infested Ash trees on Village property was not included at the onset of the infestation due largely to the fact that we could not estimate the extent of the problem and it was not a widely accepted practice. Simply stated, the impacts associated with treatment at the beginning would have been overwhelming to the Village's budget based on the number Ash trees, the length of time treatment would be needed and the costs per treatment.

Since that time, advancements in treatments, reductions in cost and success rates have increased, bringing treatment back into the discussion as a possible component of the EAB Response Plan. The average cost of one type treatment with an insecticide called Imidicloprid is \$3/inch of tree. In other words, a 12" diameter tree would cost \$36.00 annually to treat. Several factors would need to be met prior to deciding on treatment, including: canopy health, insect pressure, size of tree and current overall condition. At present, the Village has approximately 234 Ash trees that are in fair or better condition that could meet the criteria for treatment. The estimated costs to treat all of the trees would be approximately \$8,000.00 annually. Please keep in mind that this is an average cost, and as with all contracts, cost may be different if the Village moves forward with treatment.

There are some drawbacks to treatment however. For instance, we have no strong visual indicators to determine the extent of interior EAB damage. Once the damage becomes visible, it is usually too late to treat and removal is the only option left. In addition, the insecticide relies on the feeding process of the tree to carry it through the trunk and to the canopy. Drought conditions such as we witnessed this year can hamper the effectiveness of the insecticide. Watering treated trees is also necessary, adding to the costs.

Residents who are interested in treating Ash trees on private property are not discouraged from doing so. Staff advises that they consult a private certified arborist prior to beginning any such program. Before making a decision, residents are encouraged to consider the long-term cost of annual treatments versus the cost of having the tree removed and replaced with an alternate species.

The Board discussed the information presented and asked to staff to present information including budget information to begin treating Ash trees to slow the devastation of the Village's urban forest and to hopefully save some Ash trees.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

President Michels stated that he was honored to attend the tree light last Saturday for Holiday in the Grove. He further stated that he did attend the township meeting and is noted that Supervisor Nagel had resigned.

UPDATES

Trustee Johnson gave a Chamber of Commerce and Kaneland Booster update. It was noted that KHS will be presenting at play Nov 16th and 18th and that will be a EDC Event on December 6, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business meeting was moved to be adjourned by Trustee Geary and seconded by Trustee Renk. All members in attendance voted Aye in a voice vote.