

**VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
MINUTES OF ECO COMMISSION**

**Community Room
100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, Illinois
OSWEGO, IL 60543**

**July 8, 2008
6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stenitzer called the Oswego ECO Commission Meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Joyce Frankino, Kelly Joslin, Robyn Meek, Michael Satlak, Phil Siedlecki, George Stenitzer, John Aman, Park District Representative Chuck Legg.

Absent: none

3. MINUTES – June 10, 2008 ECO Commission Minutes

***Motion: Approve June Minutes - Commissioner Satlak; 2nd Commissioner Siedlecki.
Approved 6-0.***

4. OLD BUSINESS

WATER & WASTE

Waste Management

Chairman Stenitzer opened the meeting by welcoming the members and guests including Aric Henschen from Allied Waste. Mr. Henschen attended ECO to talk about a refuse plan for the future as well as the current refuse situation. Mr. Henschen started the conversation by asking the Commissioner's their thoughts and ideas thus far.

Commissioner concerns and questions are as followed: (1) The importance of setting specific parameters if a new refuse program is put into place. For example, if a senior citizen chooses to purchase a 12 gallon garbage can while a family might choose to purchase a 95 gallon garbage can, once that choice has been made, anything over that chosen gallon amount should be charged. (2) Oswego's goal to model off another city and if any other cities had unlimited trash program. (3) When the sticker system was initially talked about and how many people were not aware of the issue. (4) The tension that has been created with the residents and now, instead of being able to move forward, the Village has to do damage control. (5) The clarification between the terms, "unit-based pricing", "volume-based pricing", and "pay-as-you-throw"; (6) The expense of our garbage contract being four to five times higher to residents than a pre-paid sticker program could be. (7) Residents not having enough time to buy compliant garbage cans. (8) The price and size of toters. (9) The Village's brush pick-up program, that brush should be stickered as well; many residents live in townhomes, therefore have considerably less brush compared to a detached single family homeowner. Some homeowner's

associates collect all brush for their residents. Commissioner Siedlecki added that it is important to note that the brush pick-up benefits the Village because all brush is made into mulch and used by the Oswegoland Park District. (10) The need of garbage statistics.

Mr. Henschen followed up stating that with his experience programs are more successful when one standard and price is set; adding that a 33 gallon can is a good baseline. In addition Naperville and Oswego are the only "take-all" programs. Mr. Henschen reminded everyone that at the time the garbage contract was negotiated, he made sure a clause was added stating that the contract could be amended at any time. Mr. Henschen explained where all this money goes; it is necessary to pay the drivers, the truck and its machinery, fuel for the truck, and the containers; even recycling costs money. He stated that before the over-sized stickering program began, Village Administrator Gary Adam's first question was if there was going to be enough inventory to respond to this effort. Mr. Henschen replied yes and stated how he has gone above and beyond to ensure that all residents who have ordered garbage cans from Allied Waste have gotten their cans in time to make the collection deadline. Mr. Henschen went on to say that he ran out of recycle carts for three days, and he was never out of trash carts; if an order was made it was delivered, and delivered on time. Furthermore, Henschen added that all local retailers were aware of the stickering program and none of the them agreed to discount the toters to residents.

Village Board Trustee Terry Michels was in attendance and inquired as to when this issue was presented; Chairman Stenitzer explained how it was presented to Village Board in December of 2007. Stenitzer explained how for right now, ECO has not finalized a written proposal outlining ECO's recommendations for the refuse program. In addition the Chairman clarified the two separate issues of over-sized cans and the implementation of a Unit-Based Pricing System. Trustee Michels stated how the July 1, 2008, Village Board meeting focused on the issues with over-sized cans and residents. Mr. Henschen stated that was not the impression he got; instead, it seemed as if the Board was very interested in the idea of a Unit Based Refuse system. Another one of Trustee Michels' concerns is that the over-sized can stickering program came out of nowhere. Trustee Michels was notified via email, and there seemed to be no more further discussion on the issue. Mr. Henschen stated how the stickers have the "Village of Oswego" logo on them, and that he would not print a document that had the Village's logo on it without proper approval, reporting that the new system did not come "out of nowhere". Trustee Michels then asked if the garbage men have to get out of the trucks to collect the garbage; Mr. Henschen explained that yes, the garbage men have to get out of the truck and that is why the correct size garbage cans are crucial in disposal efficiency and are the safest for the drivers. Mr. Henschen reiterated the fact that the refuse contract between Allied Waste and the Village of Oswego was both written and approved by the Village of Oswego.

Village Trustee Tony Giles was in attendance and argued that the garbage contract was not sent out for bid; instead Allied Waste drafted three proposals. Mr. Henschen responded that Allied was not the one who finalized the language; he is not of the authority to make decisions without Village approval; reiterating that the Village has approved everything Allied Waste has

done. Mr. Henschen stated that, if the Village wanted to, he is definitely in favor of opening the contract for renegotiation.

Mark Meyer, of 407 Deerfield Drive, a resident of Oswego stated his disappointment with the over-sized can stickering program. Mr. Meyers lost garbage cans to the strong winds. The cans that Mr. Meyer purchased were toter cans, and he asked if it is possible that the reason his cans were not picked up is because they did not have an Allied Waste sticker on them. Mr. Meyer asked where he could buy a compliant cart, he explained that he has already spent \$100 in garbage carts, and is of the opinion that he needs to be reimbursed by the Village. Mr. Henschen reminded the group that the Village Board voted on this bid, and that is the reason why the program is the way it is.

Staff will work with ECO in publishing a press release for the Ledger Sentinel, the Beacon, and the ECO website. In addition, ECO recommended that Staff call around to all local vendors to see if they have compliant garbage carts in stock. On a positive note, Mr. Henschen reported the program's first day statistics Monday July 7, 2008: Of the roughly 2,500 homes serviced on Monday's routes, there were only 40 non-compliant households. Henschen will report back to ECO after a full week of statistics has been finalized. Commissioners added that it is very important to let new homeowners know about this; Trustee Michels responded saying that the refuse information is in their New Homeowner Welcome Packet. Commissioner Stenitzer suggested that ECO look into grants so the Village can give residents their compliant cans. Staff Liaison Giangrassie explained how ECO is scheduled to make a presentation to Village Board at the August 5, 2008, meeting. Despite the fact that ECO might not have a proposal finalized by that date, Giangrassie stated that it may be beneficial to give an update on the situation to let the Board know the issues and how ECO is working hard to resolve this issue in the best way possible. Commissioner Joslin offered to be present at the Village Board meeting to update the Trustees. In the mean time, ECO will schedule a Waste Management sub-committee meeting to discuss these issues in further detail.

Mr. Henschen said that from here, he would like to see ECO come up with a proposal for what kind of program would be best for the Village and go from there. Mr. Henschen made it clear to everyone that he is very available to ECO and the Village; he would be happy to supply ECO with information on what other municipalities are currently doing as well as his ideas and suggestions for the Village. He noted how some municipalities have gone from a "take-all" program to a unit-based program, to very limited and then all the way back to "take-all"; it simply depends on what works for the community. In his experience, Mr. Henschen has learned that above all, recycling has increased as a result of adding recycling carts; the carts list information on the lid in regards to what is acceptable recycling material.

Water Quality/Water Shed

River Clean Up Article

The River Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday July 26, 2008. Chairman Stenitzer explained how because the water level has been so high, and then has dropped considerably recently,

there is an excess of garbage in and around the river. Some things have to be done before the River Clean Up. It is necessary to confirm with the Park District to see if they are going to pick up the garbage again this year. Commissioner Satlak suggested that this year there should be two colors of garbage bags, one for recyclables and one for refuse, the Commission concurred. ECO will make sure that both Violet Patch Park and Hudson Crossing are reserved. Stenitzer stated that if it rains on the date, the event shall be canceled all together. Safety has become a number one priority. If the event is canceled, the information shall be posted on the Oswego website and in the newspaper; it will be noted in the newspaper article to remind residents to check the website before they leave their homes. Stenitzer noted that the Ledger's River-Clean Up article did not state that there is a \$25 prize for the person who finds the most unique piece of trash; Staff will contact the Ledger. Commissioner Frankino and Commissioner Siedlecki will be in charge of food.

E-Waste Recycling

Chuck Legg gave a report on battery recycling. Staff will check with Public Works Director Jerry Weaver to see if he has an extra drum for ECO to use for batteries.

74 tons of electronics have been recycled!!

EDUCATION & INVOLVEMENT

Branding

ECO Logo

Commissioner Satlak has given the Commissioners fifteen different logos to pick from. The Commission is in favor of number nine and number eleven. For the next meeting Commissioner Satlak will have different variations of numbers 9 and 11. ECO will vote on the new logo on August 12, 2008.

Education

Prairiefest Results

The Commission agreed that Prairiefest was a success; people were pleased with the light bulbs and excited to learn more about ECO. Next year, it would be most beneficial to have a better location. ECO's booth was near the back of the fest and therefore did not get as much traffic as they had hoped. Vendor recycling signs went over well; next year ECO will make two-sided signs and a sign for employees and signs for the people. Also, ECO should request that the dumpster is located directly behind the vendors, this way they will be more apt to recycle. Park District Liaison Chuck Legg informed ECO that talks of Prairiefest for June begin in February; if ECO wants to suggest things.

FUNDING

The job description that was drafted by Staff Liaison Dicke was brought to Village Board on July 1, 2008. The Village Board suggested revising the job description to limit the position to a college age person. Liaison Dicke will revise the job description and send back to the Board for their review.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Rolling on the River

Commissioner Satlak asked if the organizers of Rolling on the River could use ECO's volunteer list; ECO agreed. Also Satlak requested that Staff add a link from ECO's homepage to the Rolling on the River website.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Plan Commission

Phil Siedlecki July 10th.

Commissioner Siedlecki reported to the Commission that one of the upcoming Plan Commission projects was for a text amendment to the Village Code to allow small wind energy systems as special uses in residential districts. Siedlecki read the staff report and it inspired him to look into possible ways the Village could use some form of turbine for its energy. Siedlecki will research and report back to ECO.

8. **NEXT MEETING** August 12, 2008

9. **ADJOURNMENT – 9:12 pm**

Motion: Adjourn; Commissioner Siedlecki; 2nd: Commissioner Frankino. Approved 6-0.

Minutes recorded by Alison Giangrass