

APPROVED MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING – 7:00 PM
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL
April 11, 2012**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the April 11, 2012 Public Hearing regarding the consideration of a plan of operation for an electricity aggregation program for the Village of Antioch to order at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL call

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Sakas, Poulos, Crosby, Dominiak and Jozwiak. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Attorney Long and Deputy Clerk Folbrick. Absent: Trustee Pierce.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION OF A PLAN OF OPERATION FOR AN ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM FOR THE VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH

Deputy Clerk Folbrick administered the oath to those who wished to testify. Director Nilsen reviewed the public hearing regarding the plan and governance to begin the electric aggregation program. He explained that voters approved a referendum on the March 20, 2012 ballot to allow for electric aggregation in the Village of Antioch.

Mr. John Brown asked how the board decided on the opt-out program. Mayor Hanson and Attorney Long explained the difference between the opt-out and opt-in programs, stating that the opt-in program requires an affirmative action to join the program, and the opt-out works better for the public as a whole. Trustees discussed the saving benefits that will be offered to residents, and the education process that was gone through.

Tim Stefaniak asked if there be a penalty or fee to opt-out after a certain period of time. Mr. Joe Boulevant with Integrys said that there is no switching fee from ComEd to move into the program, and no fee as long as you stay with the firm for the specified period. Each resident will receive information about the opt-out process, as well as the term and deadline. There will be a penalty to leave the aggregated company before the end of the term, which will be a \$50 termination fee for residential, and a calculated fee for small businesses. Mr. Stefaniak stated that 14 of 19 communities that voted for aggregation are paying a higher rate. He further stated that residents have the opportunity to save money now, but have to decide to make that choice. He added that the free market choice is gone once the opt-out deadline has passed.

Trustee Pierce arrived at 7:13 pm.

The Mayor and Trustees expressed the importance of the education process for the aggregation program, and communication to residents.

Mr. Cedric Johnson expressed concern with those who have opted out of ComEd already, and if a green option would be offered. Mr. Boulevant said that anyone that has already chosen another provider will not receive an opt-out letter and will not need to take any steps towards opting out of the program. Other exclusions include residents participating in the ComEd use rate or space heating will not be eligible for the aggregation. He further stated that the State of Illinois currently has a program for renewable power.

APPROVED MINUTES

Trustee Crosby asked why he could not cancel at any time with the aggregate, when he can cancel his current contract with no penalty. Mr. Boulevant replied that he encourages residents to be familiar with terms and conditions of their existing and the proposed contract. Some current contracts may charge the same cancellation fees. Trustee Crosby said that he wants to help educate the residents and help them save money.

Trustee Dominiak asked if residents coming to the end of their contract could join the Village program at that time. Mr. Boulevant said that they would be able to join the program for the remainder of the contract term.

Trustee Pierce asked if those under current contract could join the program, and how they will be identified. Mr. Boulevant replied that anyone aware of the program could join in at any time, and take action to join. He said that if they are not identified at this time, they may be identified at the next contract renewal. He provided examples of current residents with other carriers that are not included in the original program, or new residents that move in that may not be aware of the Village program.

Mr. Stefaniak asked if the penalty to opt-out could be waived. Mr. Boulevant explained the cost recovery associated with the opt-out penalty.

Those present further discussed the supply of power and effect of aggregation on ComEd. Trustee Pierce asked if they would drop out if ComEd lowers their rates. Mr. Boulevant replied that they would release all of their customers back at the end of the program.

Trustee Jozwiak moved, seconded by Trustee Dominiak to close the public hearing regarding a plan of operation for an electricity aggregation program for the Village of Antioch. Upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 6: Pierce, Sakas, Poulos, Crosby, Dominiak and Jozwiak.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Public Hearing adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Folbrick, RMC/CMC
Deputy Clerk