

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE, ILLINOIS,  
HELD ON OCTOBER 5, 2006 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**XII. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Brandt addressed the Board regarding outdoor fire pits. He noted that the Ordinance regarding outdoor burning was written years ago. He stated that some residents are changing the use of these pits from recreational to disposal. He explained that when non-seasoned hardwood is burned the smoke is noxious and this is bothersome to neighbors. He noted that there is little limitation on this kind of burning. He reported that surrounding communities have specific ordinances dealing with this kind of burning. He explained that Woodridge's Ordinance states that refuse, landscape waste and recyclables material are not allowed. Trustee Brandt suggested that this Ordinance should be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He stated that this will give the public an understanding of the permitted use and the Village a better understanding for enforcement purposes.

Trustee Brandt suggested that the Village hold a brush pickup for disposal of this yard waste. He noted that this would alleviate the need to burn that waste. He stated that this is an extension of the leaf pick-up program.

He asked Board members to read the example Ordinances that he forwarded to them on burning restrictions as examples of changes he would like to make to the Woodridge Ordinance.

Mayor Murphy asked if the Village has had complaints on burning.

Administrator Perry noted that the last complaint was approximately three years ago. He noted that the police ceased the burning material. He also indicated that there was no feedback on this issue in the Community Needs Survey. He asked Board members to have concerned residents call the Village when burning occurs.

Trustee Frank asked if the restriction of landscape waste burning in the current Ordinance would already restrict the burning of the materials in questions.

Attorney Good noted that the terms are likely defined in the Village Code.

Trustee Brandt noted that Lisle's Ordinance takes an approach of listing what can be burned rather than what cannot be burned. He explained that this would leave no question.

Attorney Good noted that he was responding to Trustee Frank's question regarding whether or not the materials in question were included in what cannot be burned. He explained that this information will likely be found in the definitions portion of the code. He explained that the changing of the Ordinance is a policy decision for the Board.

Trustee Brandt noted that the burning causes smoke that is bothersome to residents. He noted that this Ordinance can be improved. He explained that Ordinances are in place to educate people about what they can and cannot do. He suggested that the Ordinance should be turned around to say what can be burned rather than what cannot. He noted that exceptions can be made for bonfires for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts or similar organizations.

Trustee Frank asked if there is another Ordinance, similar to the noise ordinance, dealing with noxious smells that could be used to help address this issue.

Mayor Murphy noted that there are two paths that the Board can take. He explained that the first path is to make an amendment to the Code, and the second is to respond to fire complaints as they come in. He asked the members of the Board to give guidance on their preference.

Trustee Wood noted that he has not had a resident come to him with this problem. He noted that he is not supportive of additional staff work for an Ordinance amendment at this time. He encouraged residents to come to the Board or the Village if there is a need for an amendment.

Trustee Kagann stated that, at this time, he is not supportive of a Code Amendment. He noted that, if this proves to be a problem, a Code Amendment is appropriate at that time.

Trustee Curran noted that the traditional approach is to state in the Code what actions are not allowed rather than what is. He noted that he is not supportive of a Code Amendment at this time. He encouraged residents to contact the Police Department if they have a complaint. He stated that staff should enforce Ordinances as they are written until they have knowledge of a problem.

Trustee Frank noted that she agrees with Trustee Wood, Trustee Kagann and Trustee Curran. She asked staff to do some education of the Ordinance as it is written.

Trustee Brandt noted that, as the Code is written, 24 hour burning is allowed. He suggested a time limit on burning. He stated that he feels this Ordinance should be written to tell residents what they can do within a certain time frame. He noted that the Ordinance is ineffective. He stated that burning is a problem for some. He encouraged people to call the Police Department if they have a problem. He noted that the Ordinance needs to be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to benefit all residents.

Mayor Murphy noted that there is Board consensus not to amend the Ordinance. Staff may make additional efforts to educate our residents. He encouraged the Board to have a discussion on the brush pickup at Goal Setting Session