



**Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees  
October 4, 2010**

*Amy Little, Observer*

The meeting was called to order with all trustees in attendance.

The village manager's report included the following: A hearing at the Oak Park Dept of Health regarding beekeeping was held October 5, 2010. Roadwork will be completed by year-end in the village.

The board voted unanimously to approve a reduction in debt service rates on a \$10 million bond that was issued for OP library construction from 2001 – 2002. The bond will be paid off in full by April 2015 at a rate of 1.89%. The payments were postponed by six months due to late Cook County property tax bills. Ray Johnson added that due to the late issuance of Cook County property tax bills, District 97 has had to make temporary arrangements to borrow to meet bills until taxes are received.

There was a first reading of an ordinance that would permit two hours free meter parking in the VOP for 100% pure electric vehicles. KC Poulos, the VOP Sustainability coordinator, said the intent is for the VOP to make a statement about electric vehicles and sustainability. Electricity cost is lower at night due to Com Ed's preponderance of nuclear power. Com Ed has selected Oak Park as a demonstration project for a solar-charged power station for electric vehicles, for beginning construction in spring, 2011. This charging station would be a 2-car rack for a 2 to 3 hour "quick charge". The ordinance is a small way for VOP to make a statement and to work to address air quality. VOP Manager Barwin said there are only 100 to 200 electric vehicles in the entire region right now so the effect of this ordinance would be minimal. VOP is also looking into trying to attract an electric vehicle dealership. VOP will be getting a fourth IGO location, and these IGOs will offer charging stations.

Regarding the proposed ordinance, Trustee Hale suggested that free two hour meter parking is too minimal an incentive to offer electric car users. He suggested free garage parking instead as a more substantial incentive. Trustees Lueck and Johnson agreed, that meter parking is over utilized while garage parking is under used, and that the VOP is trying to make parking a breakeven or sustainable department to try to close the budget gap. Trustee Johnson thought that those who could afford an electric vehicle (about \$35,000) had no financial need for free parking. Trustee Pate clarified that the ordinance would apply for only two years. Manager Barwin said that lost revenue would be fairly insignificant. It was agreed by all that the ordinance would be rewritten to offer free garage parking rather than meter, and that 2 hours free parking was not that meaningful. President Pope added that offering special incentives, having a ComEd charging station, and IGO electric vehicles could help garner grant monies in the future. All agreed that they needed to do a cost benefit of revenues lost versus grant opportunities in the future.

For the public comment, Lisa Reid of 802 Wesley, and an Ascension School parent spoke in favor of the VOP continuing to subsidize crossing guards for the entire community, not just public schools, and appreciated the ongoing conversation with Manager Barwin on the subject.

VOP clerk Powell introduced changes in the Taxicab ordinance. Background checks are costly and fees should be raised to \$50 from \$10 for licenses in VOP. Jim Bennett from Blue Cab pointed out that cab drivers could bring their state-run background checks with them to avoid the VOP duplicating the effort.

There was much discussion about whether to include a ban on a cab requiring prepayment before taking a fare. As the current ordinance reads, they may not require prepayment within Oak Park. Trustee Brewer and President Pope, and others were adamant that allowing a cab to require prepayment would result in discrimination. Jim Bennett from Blue Cab stated that a cab's fear of non-payment is very real. There was lengthy discussion about allowing required prepayment if the fare were more than a 20-mile radius. VOP Attorney Heise suggested pulling the ordinance for rewriting.

The VOP approved unanimously the water cross connection ordinance as read at the last meeting. President Pope reminded the board that this ordinance was required now by state stipulation. Trustee Lueck worried that it was complicated paperwork to be asking the residents.

The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Trustee Johnson reminded the board that official email addresses rather than private emails, for VOP trustees should be used at all times, in order to comply with meeting sunshine laws. Certain condo association residents on Marion Street need to be taken out of the TIF boundary for downtown OP.

The "Clean Minds, Clean Spirits" rally against drugs and alcohol at OPRFHS was a success at Scoville Park October 3. Pres. Pope announced that "Race to Nowhere", a documentary on excessive academic stress on kids, had shown at the Lake Theater on Saturday October 2. An ongoing dialogue would begin on Thursday at 7pm at the Buzz Café.

<http://www.oak-park.us/Agendas/index.htm>