

**MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Daniel Wright Jr. High School
1370 Riverwoods Road
Cafeteria
Lincolnshire, Illinois**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

Present:

Trustee Brandt	Trustee Feldman
Trustee Grujanac	Trustee McDonough
Trustee Saltiel	Trustee Servi
Mayor Blomberg	Village Clerk Mastandrea
Manager Irvin	Director of Community Development McNellis
Director of Financial Systems Roelker	Director of Public Works Hughes
Police Chief Kinsey	Village Attorney Simon
Village Treasurer Curtis	

ROLL CALL

Mayor Blomberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Village Manager Irvin called the Roll.

2.0 ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

2.1 Public Works

**2.11 Consideration and Discussion of Reliability Issues within the Village
(Commonwealth Edison)**

Mayor Blomberg opened by explaining the procedure of the meeting and said that this meeting was a way to improve things and to move forward in a positive way in regards to our relationship with ComEd. Mayor Blomberg said the Village Board gave direction to staff to work with ComEd to resolve outage issues.

Director of Public Works Hughes said the recent outages were due to three major storms this summer. Director of Public Works Hughes said that residents usually call the Village when there are power outages, which is good but that the residents need to inform ComEd as well because ComEd might not be aware of the outages. Director of Public Works Hughes said that she is aware that there might be some reliability issues and a good way to track these, is to go to the Village of Lincolnshire's website and send an e-mail using the electricity outage link. The information in the e-mail will help the Village to map out problem areas on the GIS System and make the Village and ComEd more aware of where the problems are occurring. The information received by the Village from an outage is given to ComEd and this information is then added to a reliability report. Director of Public Works Hughes said that the Village has the capability to notify residents of severe issues if they sign up for Connect-CTY on the website and include cell phone or alternative numbers to call in case the phone lines go down as well.

Jim Dudek, ComEd External Affairs Manager introduced himself; Art Barsema, ComEd Director of External Affairs; Mike Guerra, ComEd Vice President of External Affairs and Ken Cicirale, ComEd Manager of Engineering. Mr. Guerra said that if anyone had reliability issues to give him their address and he would have an Engineer look into these issues and get back to them within the next few weeks. Mr. Barsema went through a presentation that showed statistics of the recent storms compared to other years and stated that the past summer was like no other they have ever had. In regards to the July 11, 2011 storm, Mr. Barsema said that ComEd deployed more crews than any in history, brought crews in from fourteen different states, replaced more than one thousand transformers, received 1.3 million phone calls in five days, put SWAT teams on traffic signals and used social media to communicate. Mr. Barsema gave the four steps that ComEd follows when restoring power and they are as follows: 1. Switch and repair high voltage transmission lines and substations. 2. Restoration to facilities critical to public health (hospitals, police stations, fire stations). 3. Repair crews with entire feeders for larger groups. 4. Restoration of smaller neighborhoods and individuals. Mr. Barsema said that they have proposals in place to be able to detect and track when smaller individuals lose power by replacing some of the grids with more modern equipment and this should give ComEd the

ability to diagnose problems faster and reduce outage times. Mr. Barsema said that ComEd currently has a task force looking at improving communication, accelerating restoration and adding phone lines to be able to better manage the call center. Mr. Barsema also noted the special task force is currently working on improving ComEd response during large storms.

Mr. Cicirale went through a presentation highlighting areas they want to target for improvement including upgraded fuses, additional tree trimming and the installation of Hendrix type cable, that can be more reliable in heavy tree areas. Trustee Saltiel asked what the time frame was in regards to making these improvements in Lincolnshire. Mr. Cicirale said they would like to have their plan for replacement completed by April 2012. Trustee Saltiel asked if they would only be replaced in the pocket areas or areas with many trees. Mr. Cicirale said the areas in which ComEd was going to install the Hendrix cable would be areas with known historical data and where trees have been a factor.

3.0 **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD** (on agenda items only)

Mayor Bloomberg asked if anyone from the audience had any questions or comments.

Trustee Feldman asked about conflicts in the turnaround time for restoration and stated that when residents call ComEd, they receive time frames of restoration and these time frames, in many situations, were not accurate. Mr. Barsema said that the time frames given were estimates, and depending on the reason for the outage these time frames could vary. Members of the audience went on to say that they understood that the July 11, 2011 storm was major and time frames might not have been met, but wanted to know what ComEd is going to do to be more proactive in the future. Members of the audience asked who made the decisions in regards to the priorities for restoration. Mr. Cicirale informed the audience that restoration was done on more of a mechanical and life safety basis and that during the summer, many different crews were working to not only get the power on, but to remove trees that were down and that early on the severity of the situation was not known and that is why time frames were so inaccurate. Mr. Cicirale provided a summary of the areas in Lincolnshire that ComEd is planning to install the Hendrix cable. These areas include Lancaster, Cambridge and Grenadier. Mr. Cicirale also said a section of cable would be replaced on Reliance and additional tree trimming would be performed.

Trustee Grujanac said her electric bill for July was substantially smaller and wanted to know if five days would result in so much of a difference. ComEd said that many bills for July were estimated due to the outages.

Members of the audience brought up the option of burying cable underground. Mr. Cicirale said that this was a very costly option and that the plan going forward was to go with the Hendrix cable. Mr. Guerra indicated that it could be 7 - 10 times more expensive than overhead wires. Village Manager Irvin said the Village looked into the option of burying cable in front of the Village Hall and they found that it was too costly due to tree removal and burying cable for not only ComEd but for phone and cable as well. Village Manager Irvin said there is a ComEd program to bury wires, but the cost would fall on all the residents until it was paid in full. These programs usually don't work because residents that already live in areas with buried cable are not willing to pay to have wires buried in other areas.

Trustee Brandt said that during the July 11, 2011 storm Riverwoods/Route 22 and Riverwoods/Route 60 traffic signals were out of power for six days, and no SWAT team was brought in for this but that the Police Department helped and eventually generators were brought in. Trustee Brandt asked if ComEd had a backup plan in the future for an instance like this due to the unsafe issues of the situation. ComEd said that traffic signals are a priority and agrees that this is an area that needs improvements.

Mayor Blomberg said that communication from ComEd needs to be improved and asked ComEd to keep the Village and the public informed of the upgrades that are planned for the community. ComEd said that better communication is priority going forward and that the more information they have the more proactive they can be. ComEd is working on all the issues and will continue to do so.

4.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Trustee McDonough moved and Trustee Brandt seconded the motion to adjourn. The voice vote was unanimous and the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mastandrea
Village Clerk