VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	2016-0218	**Version:** 1	**Name:**	Peak Democracy - Town Hall Meeting
Type:	MOTION		**Status:**	PLACED ON FILE
File created:	12/16/2015		**In control:**	Economic Development Strategy and Community Engagement
On agenda:	12/21/2015		**Final action:**	12/21/2015
Title:	Peak Democracy - Town Hall Meeting			

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/18/2016	1	Board of Trustees		
1/11/2016	1	Village Clerk	INTRODUCED TO BOARD	
1/4/2016	0	Economic Development Strategy and Community Engagement	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	Pass
12/16/2015	0	Communications and Marketing Department	INTRODUCED TO COMMITTEE	

Title
Peak Democracy - Town Hall Meeting

History

Founded in 2007, Peak Democracy, Inc. is the most widely used online public engagement platform for government entities, with 2,500 open town hall forums, reaching over 300,000 constituents. The California-based company has worked with over 100 government agencies in the United States, Canada and Australia, accommodating municipalities ranging in sizes of under 2,000 to 8 million residents.

On August 26, 2015, staff previewed the Peak Democracy virtual town hall website. The village is seeking this online format to further strengthen civic engagement on pertinent topics affecting all residents. This format allows the village to maintain control of public engagement, by focusing on feedback from constituents while ensuring the dialogue is civil and legal. Potential topics include IDOT's LaGrange Road widening, the mayor's Open Lands Commission, water rates and upcoming village developments - including the 2016 ribbon cutting of U of C Center for Advanced Care. Topics will be chosen with the input from the Board of Trustees and the Community Engagement Committee.

Peak Democracy will provide the village with one Town Hall Portal and grant administrative access to an unlimited amount of designated employees. This cloud-based government online forum can be implemented through the village's website or through a dedicated website domain established by the village. Peak Democracy provides network bandwidth and will host the village's service on our server.

The Public Information Office will receive training via web conferencing, and Peak Democracy will provide the village with best practices for government online forums. In addition, the PIO will receive

support in crafting topic content, as well as help marketing topics via press release, social media, email blasts and mailers.

Once the community forum is launched and topics posted, Peak Democracy monitors user registrations and posted content. All users on the village's site will be authenticated through a registration that confirms an individual's email address, geocoding each user's street address and monitoring each user's name, IP address and browser cookies. Should a registrant's activity or content violate the village's guidelines, Peak Democracy staff will work with the village to reconcile the issue. Users are limited to one comment per topic, to avoid arguments or attacks.

Once a topic has closed, records are retained with Peak Democracy and the village will have access to downloadable PDFs. Topics will stay open to resident feedback for one month, with three to four topics staying open at one time.

On January 4, 2016, this item was reviewed and approved by the Economic Development Strategy and Comunity Engagement Committee, recommended for approval and referred to the Village Board of Trustees for consideration.

Financial Impact
The cost of a one-year subscription is $7,000.

Sufficient funds have been allocated in the FY 2016 Budget.

Recommended Action/Motion
I move to approve the proposal from Peak Democracy, Inc. to set-up a virtual town hall site on the Village's website;

And

Approve the Village Manager to execute an agreement with Peak Democracy, Inc. to set-up the virtual town hall site in an amount not to exceed $7,000.