



Village of Poplar Grove – Board Meeting Memo

April 1, 2026

****Subject:****

Open Burning Ordinance

1. Background:

The Village of Poplar Grove has an ordinance (5-3-1 Fires) on open burning. This ordinance was last updated in 2007.

2. Current Status:

Over the course of the year since May 1, 2025 we have had several incidents and complaints regarding open burning. Staff and I felt we should bring this issue to the attention of the board for discussion as we head into the spring season.

Issues and complaints have included;

- Burning in the right-of-way
- Fire locations as it relates to property lines
- Fire locations as it relates to structures
- Burning during high winds and/or fire warnings by the national weather service
- Smoke issues as it relates to burning leaves
- Time of day of burning

I have reviewed other comparable communities open burning ordinance (see below). If they allow open burning, they include, maximum size of fire, time of day, and time of year.

Village of Beecher – does not allow open burning, only recreational fires and food cooking.

Village of Lake Barrington – has time of year and hours restrictions, along with maximum size.

Village of Spring Grove – sets distance from structures (100 ft habitable, 50 ft non-habitable), sets months of the year, days of the week and time, winds less than 10 mph, and min age requirement.

Village of Hampshire – brush only (so no leaves, flowers, greens), regulate the size of the fire, provide definitions, winds under 10 mph including weather alerts (atmospheric and ozone), and hours of day.

Both Fire Districts were consulted on this matter.

3. Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Impact includes legal fees to update ordinance, codification expenses, and any additional code enforcement fees to enforce the ordinance.

4. Legal Review (if applicable):

Legal has not been consulted on this matter.

5. Recommendation:

- Add definitions
- Add language restricting burning during high winds (over XXX miles per hour) and/or when the National Weather Service has issued a fire warning or ozone alert.
- 5-3-1 A. - add language that provides the actual distance to a structure and to property lines.

Other considerations, provided above

6. Supporting Documents (if applicable):

Attached - Open Burning Ordinance 5-3-1

Not Applicable

Kristi Richardson
Village President