

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Village Hall Auditorium
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, July 14, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Livingston. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk John Burns, the following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Holder, Kuchler, Langan, McCarty, Nowak, and Palermo with President Livingston presiding.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic
Acting Fire Chief Don Gay
Police Chief Michael Holub.

President Livingston requested Village Clerk John Burns to lead the audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston explained items on this evening's agenda which include approval of a liquor license for La Buona Vita restaurant who will celebrate their grand opening in August. Expressing thanks to staff and the La Grange Business Association, President Livingston noted the success of the 40th annual Art and Craft Fair.

A. Oath of Office – Deputy Chief of Police

With the recent establishment of the position of Deputy Chief and restructuring of the Police Department, the Police Chief has been authorized to appoint an individual to fill that position. President Livingston stated that Renee Strasser has been chosen to become Deputy Chief of Police. Providing her education, experience and prestigious achievements, President Livingston requested she step forward and Village Clerk Burns to administer the oath of office.

B. Informational Workshop – Village Sewer System

Addressing a capacity audience, President Livingston provided information on the process by which public and Trustee comments would be heard. President Livingston explained some history of the previous issues related to the Village's sewer system and the Board's desire to work closely together with professionals to resolve flooding. Although less than 13% of a La Grange property tax bill is allocated to the Village, President Livingston noted that addressing maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure are a priority. Seeking a show of hands on various related flooding conditions and locations, President Livingston explained the difficulty in replacing outdated infrastructure while maintaining budgetary constraints.

Providing information on his education and professional background, President Livingston requested Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham to present information on the Village's sewer system.

Mr. Gillingham indicated the informational workshop on the Village's sewer system is based on resident inquiries. Annotating a power point presentation which detailed how the Village's sewer system operates, how flooding can be reduced and measures the Village is taking to reduce flooding, Mr. Gillingham presented historical data on the Village's sewer infrastructure. Mr. Gillingham identified various drainage districts, and explained the difference and interrelationship between storm sewers, sanitary sewers, combination sewers, relief sewers and the Deep Tunnel System.

Mr. Gillingham explained the manner in which storm water drains through the various systems and noted capacity issues when torrential rainfall occurs within a short period of time. Adding how the Village seeks to identify causes of flooding during excessive rainfall, Mr. Gillingham provided several options for homeowners to consider.

Mr. Gillingham added information related to the Maple Avenue Sewer Relief Sewer (MARS) and Ogden Avenue Relief Sewer (OARS) and how the Village works with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). Noting the complexity and significant cost to address local drainage, Mr. Gillingham provided a series of recommended action steps to address residential flooding.

At 8:20 p.m. President Livingston indicated his desire to open the floor to Village Trustees followed by the public and then back to Village Trustees.

Trustee Holder inquired as to funding availability of the MARS project. Mr. Gillingham responded that funding is on a pay-as-you go basis and that the next segment of MARS is budgeted for 2018.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his gratitude to Public Works staff for their personal response to residents flooding complaints due to the severe rain events on June 24 and June 30, 2014. Trustee Kuchler asked if all complaints have been addressed and if there is a more efficient way to respond to citizen inquiries. Mr. Gillingham responded that most have been addressed and although challenging it is beneficial to review individual property situations whereby data can be tabulated.

Trustee Palermo complimented Mr. Gillingham on an outstanding presentation and inquired if the completion of MARS would alleviate flooding. Mr. Gillingham noted the difficulty in predicting as the elimination of rain water is dependent on several variables such as the capacity of the MWRD. However, for purposes of estimation, MARS should be able to handle a 1-10 year rain event once it has been completed.

Trustee McCarty inquired what taxpayers could expect if the \$40 million necessary to address flooding in all areas of the Village would be bonded over 20 years. Finance Director Cipparrone responded that the Village's property tax levy would increase by approximately 50%. Trustee McCarty clarified that only a small percentage of taxes are allocated to the Village, thus the average property tax bill paid to the Village would increase from \$1,200/yr. to \$1,800/yr.

Trustee Kuchler inquired if the work completed thus far with the MARS project has performed as expected. Mr. Gillingham responded that MARS has definitely been a beneficial addition to the Village's sewer infrastructure.

At 8:30 p.m. President Livingston opened the floor to the public.

1. Clinton Whiteway, 249 S. Edgewood expressed concerns that tear downs are being replaced with much larger homes causing areas to be saturated due to less drainage.
2. Sean Graham-White, 844 S. 8th Avenue inquired if access to the deep tunnel is automatic or switch operated. Mr. Gillingham responded that it is automatic by gravity; there are no valves to be opened in the Village's system.
3. Renee Clarke, 125 N. Park indicated that water ponds in the streets and inquired if the planned relief sewer would alleviate this situation. Mr. Gillingham explained that when the sewer system has reached capacity flooding occurs in areas of depression such as hers.

4. Matt Larson, 15 S. 6th Avenue inquired if the Village would consider sharing in the cost of flood protection with residents as a more cost-effective solution. Mr. Gillingham indicated the Village has not conducted such an analysis. President Livingston noted that budget priorities include capital improvements.
5. Bridget Lombardi, 73 N. Edgewood inquired if the presentation is posted on the Village website and was informed that it would be posted. Ms. Lombardi believes flooding issues are not limited to the local sewer relief system and inquired if representatives from the MWRD are in attendance. Mr. Gillingham responded that he has been in contact with MWRD who indicated that the main stream was filled to capacity during the severe rain events.
6. Dan Lombardi, 73 N. Edgewood has not seen any improvements in flooding issues for several years.
7. Mike Matteucci, 744 S. Spring noted the difficulty in selling homes which have experienced severe flooding. Mr. Matteucci inquired if the improvements identified by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for 47th Street and East Avenue would resolve some of the street flooding which is overflowing into residential homes. As information is provided to IDOT, President Livingston noted that long term priorities are included in the Village's capital improvements budgetary process.
8. Gentleman who resides at 822 S. Madison suggested better practices for removal of leaves which accumulate thus diminishing drainage capacity.
9. Mary Demski, 300 S. Edgewood expressed concerns that the redevelopment planned for the former YMCA property would add to flooding. Mr. Gillingham indicated a significant investment in the redevelopment will allow for the slow release of water thus an improvement over current conditions.
10. Frank Meyers, 135 N. Park inquired what determines priorities for sewer relief projects. President Livingston noted that the Village Board determines core priorities as part of the budget development process for capital projects.
11. Kim Davies, 324 S. 9th asked if restrictors will be evaluated and Mr. Gillingham responded affirmatively.
12. Anne Bennett, 644 S. Stone inquired if neighboring communities have been consulted. Mr. Gillingham responded affirmatively indicating that a regional meeting was conducted with the MWRD.
13. Female who resides at 212 S. 7th has never incurred flooding and inquired if an engineering simulation was performed for the MARS project. She feels the MARS project is causing rather than solving flooding. Mr. Gillingham responded

that a computer simulation was performed and acknowledged a scheduled meeting to discuss neighborhood flooding concerns.

14. Joe Fedoruk, 217 W. Harris addressing the audience, strongly believes the Village is not doing enough to address flooding.
15. Janice Stahl, 66 S. Kensington has never seen such flooding and feels the MARS project is backing up thus causing water into the neighborhood.
16. Anthony Anscombe, 400 S. Brainard inquired about the percentage of homes with overhead valves and if they are attributing to excess flooding. Although an exact amount is not known, Mr. Gillingham indicated data is being reviewed.
17. Female who resides on the 600 block of 9th inquired why flooding in her area dispersed so quickly after rains ended. Mr. Gillingham responded that depression areas such as hers will drain quickly once sewer capacity catches up to the volume of rain entering the system.
18. Steve Elrod, 204 7th inquired if drainage systems are operating efficiently and is concerned that the MARS system is not providing relief.
19. Jamie Bonnevier, 337 S. Brainard noted that other communities have assistance programs and expressed her thoughts for assistance to residents.
20. Al Low, 40 N. Brainard noted his concerns as size of residential homes increases where and how will storm waters dissipate. Although building coverage is a concern, the Village will address preventive measures such as disconnection of residential downspouts.
21. Gentleman at 340 9th Avenue inquired about the replacement of older sewer mains which were designed when the population was less dense. Mr. Gillingham indicated that sewer replacement is very expensive so the Village has scheduled sewer lining as a cost-effective alternative.
22. Young man inquired if the commercial district receives preference over residential areas and Mr. Gillingham responded there is no preference provided to commercial districts.
23. Phillip Bernard 2 S. Catherine expressed frustration that he needs to remove debris from the catch basin in order to prevent flooding. Mr. Gillingham indicated that although the Village monitors when rain events are evident and seeks to clear catch basins, it is difficult to avoid accumulation of leaves and other organic material.
24. Barb Hemminger 157 N. Edgewood has never had such flooding issues and inquired if the OARS project is in place and was informed it has not started.

25. Pat Kozlowski 218-220 W. Harris indicated her area floods every time it rains.
26. Female at 604 9th Avenue feels that other municipalities have resolved flooding issues and is frustrated that it flooding continues in her area.
27. Ken Kairuz 604 9th Avenue noted his frustration with raw sewerage and the dissipation system not working.
28. John Vega 424 S. 8th feels flooding issues are a huge problem which need to be addressed.

President Livingston opened the floor to the Board of Trustees for their thoughts and comments.

Trustee Kuchler thanked the audience for attending the meeting and expressing their concerns. He inquired if the restrictors are permanently placed. Explaining that the preference being to have streets flood rather than homes, Mr. Gillingham indicated that while removable, restrictors are in place to slowly control the flow of water into the combined sewer system.

Trustee Langan noted that improvements to the Village's sewer system is a priority for the Village Board, but how to manage the significant cost is a budgetary challenge. He also suggested tighter building codes which will need resident support.

As sewer capacities were reached due to the high intensity and sudden influx of rain, Trustee Holder noted flooding was not just local. Trustee Holder expressed his thanks to the audience for attending the meeting and that neighbors have reached out to help others. Trustee Holder added that another long term solution is access to the MWRD reservoir currently under construction in the area.

Trustee Nowak echoes previous Trustee comments. Adding this matter is taken very seriously, Trustee Nowak stated the importance of balancing funding priorities. As the Village Board is a group of citizen volunteers trying to find solutions and make decisions on behalf of Village residents, Trustee Nowak encouraged residents to be patient and thoughtful.

As residents should notify and report flooding to the Village, Trustee Palermo feels the importance in developing a systematic plan with topographic information.

Trustee McCarty shares resident concerns related to flooding adding solutions take both time and funding.

In closing the workshop, President Livingston thanked residents for their feedback, the Board of Trustees for their comments and suggested that an outreach to the

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District should be part of the identified action steps and soon.

C. Public Hearing – Proposed Special Service Area (SSA) #8 Sidewalks – 700 Block of S. 12th Avenue

At 9:45 p.m. President Livingston requested a motion to open the public hearing. Trustee Langan moved to open the public hearing for the proposed Special Service Area #8 Sidewalks, seconded by Trustee Holder. Approved by voice vote.

President Livingston requested Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn to identify any oral or written comments received by the Village. Mr. Pilipiszyn noted that six residents within the project area have identified their opposition to the sidewalks. Those being Mercedes Sorbara 730 12th Avenue; Sharon and Robert Cooke 729 12th Avenue; Jadvyga Brezanskiene 710 12th Avenue; Rima Burauskiene 731 12th Avenue; Frances Frank 750 12th Avenue; and Joe Adams 711 12th Avenue.

Explaining that no Village Board action is required this evening, Village Attorney Burkland detailed the next steps in the process for the proposed establishment of SSA #8 Sidewalks in the 700 block of S. 12th Avenue.

Thomas Meistininkas 731 12th Avenue is opposed to the creation of sidewalks and believes monies should be utilized to address the sewer crisis.

Betty Guyer 711 12th Avenue expressed her opposition to the creation of sidewalks as a safety issue. Ms. Guyer requested a definition of electors and owners of record. Attorney Burkland responded that at the time of this public hearing electors are registered voters and owner of record is each person that owns the property.

Trustee Palermo inquired if both husband and wife are listed as the property owners would they be considered as two votes and Attorney Burkland responded affirmatively.

There being no further comments at 9:56 p.m. President Livingston requested a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Palermo moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Langan. Approved by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Jasinski, President of the La Grange Business Association expressed his thanks for support with the upcoming Endless Summer event.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-14-31) – Creating an Additional Class A-2 and Class G Liquor License, Rosemary Basil II, LLC d/b/a La Buona Vita, 15 West Calendar Avenue
- B. Spring Lease Agreement – Amendment No. 1
- C. Award of Contract – 2014 & 2015 Tree Trimming Program
- D. Consolidated Voucher 140714 (\$840,097.17)
- E. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, June 23 2014

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, D, and E of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Nowak.

Trustee Palermo inquired about the Sprint lease agreement and Attorney Burkland responded.

Approved by a 6 to 0 roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Kuchler, McCarty, Nowak, Palermo, Holder and Langan
Nays: None
Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Special Event – La Grange Endless Summerfest: Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler noted that the Village has received a request from the Park District and La Grange Business Association to hold the La Grange Endless Summerfest from Friday August 1 to Sunday August 3, 2014. Trustee Kuchler noted that both the Police Chief and Fire Chief have reviewed the request for fireworks and have submitted their comments and recommendations.

Trustee Kuchler moved to approve the closure of the Locust Avenue roadway parking as well as Parking Lot 14 and the entrance to Locust Avenue off of Ogden Avenue; waive restrictions for the outdoor display and sale of goods; approve carnival rides as a temporary use; grant permission for display of fireworks; and the Liquor Commissioner to grant permission to sell beer and wine at the La Grange Endless Summerfest, seconded by Trustee Holder. Motion approved by voice vote

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Pilipiszyn stated that the July 28 Village Board meeting is canceled and the next regularly scheduled Village Board meeting would be on Monday, August 11, 2014

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Nowak thanked Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham for an excellent presentation.

Trustee Holder echoed his thanks to Mr. Gillingham for taking time to personally meet with residents and his presentation.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 p.m. Trustee Langan moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Kuchler. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: August 11, 2014