

MINUTES

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

Monday, January 26, 2015 - 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 7:33 p.m. by President Livingston. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk John Burns, the following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Kuchler, Langan, McCarty, Nowak, and Palermo

ABSENT: Trustee Holder

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Fire Chief Don Gay
Deputy Police Chief Renee Strasser

President Livingston requested Clerk Burns lead the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston announced that there was a shooting in the Village earlier today and Deputy Police Chief Strasser would provide additional information upon her arrival this evening.

Inviting audience attendance, President Livingston noted there would be a Special Village Board meeting on Monday, February 2 to discuss Capital Projects.

Encouraging residents to patronize local businesses, President Livingston announced that the La Grange Business Association is sponsoring Restaurant Month with special incentives during the month of February.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Harlan Hirt, 421 S. Spring referenced the Village Manager's report. Mr. Hirt feels discussion should include the concept of diverting the 51st Street storm water sewer to the quarry in order to provide relief from flooding. Mr. Hirt believes this to be the most cost effective means to resolve overland flooding. Indicating his support to continue with those programs currently in place, Mr. Hirt feels the Maple Avenue Relief Sewer (MARS) project should continue to be funded. President Livingston acknowledged the concerns and indicated that the upcoming Capital Projects Workshop will include discussion of the projects currently in place.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Resolution (#R-15-10) – Adoption of the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- B. Ordinance (#O-15-01) – Resubdivision of Lots, 301 & 320 South Waiola
- C. Ordinance (#O-15-02) – Design Review Permit (DRP) #88, 26 South La Grange Road, Burcor Properties (Jerry Burjan)
- D. Ordinance (#O-15-03) – Design Review Permit (DRP) #89, 8 West Burlington, Damico, LLC (Daniel Collins)
- E. Ordinance (#O-15-04) – Disposal of Surplus Property / Miscellaneous Personal Property and Evidence.
- F. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, January 12, 2015
- G. Consolidated Voucher 150126 – (\$722,510.85)

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Deputy Police Chief Strasser arrived and President Livingston requested she report on the incident earlier today. Deputy Chief Strasser indicated that at approximately 2:45 p.m. the La Grange Dispatch received several 911 calls of a "drive-by" shooting in the area of Calendar Avenue and Washington Avenue. Advising of the happenings and on-going investigation, Deputy Chief Strasser assured residents that there is no threat to members of the community and

encouraged anyone with information to contact the La Grange Police Department's Investigations Division.

President Livingston noted the Village's preparedness in addressing public safety aspects for the entire Village.

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

None

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Pre-Budget Development Workshop – Funding for Sewer System Improvements

President Livingston noted the need for a step-by-step approach in addressing flood mitigation priorities and funding capital improvements. Indicating the importance in Village wide improvements for operational purposes and the need to focus on impacts to the entire community, President Livingston requested Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn to elaborate on options for funding sewer system improvements.

Mr. Pilipiszyn referenced the previous workshop and the Board's discussion of possible projects related to sewer improvements. As staff feels the Board relayed their direction for a phased approach for initiating sewer improvements, Mr. Pilipiszyn provided a list of four items for consideration in the first phase. Mr. Pilipiszyn added that Finance Director Lou Cipparrone would provide various funding options, after which staff is seeking direction for funding plans and specific revenue sources to be utilized. Adding the importance in planning for budget preparation, Mr. Pilipiszyn requested Mr. Cipparrone to detail cost estimates and funding possibilities.

Mr. Cipparrone provided detailed components for funding options which included voter approval of an increase in the Village's non-Home Rule retail sales tax; rollback or elimination of the current food and beverage tax; increase the Municipal Utility and Simplified Telecommunication tax; increase in the sewer rate; and enacting a property tax freeze. Upon review of the estimated revenue enhancements and bond interest rates with the Village's financial consultant, Mr. Cipparrone provided a detailed explanation of the planning and timing necessary for developing the budget. Taking into consideration General Fund reserves; the food and beverage tax; a property tax abatement, and miscellaneous items, Mr. Cipparrone indicated that the management team is seeking confirmation or alternate consensus direction on the alignment of revenues and corresponding spending priorities.

For purposes of discussion, President Livingston noted his favor with the proposed referendum budget with alignment of revenues and spending priorities as presented. Opening the floor for Trustee discussion, President Livingston added that the business

community has been collaborative in working with the Village and a rollback or elimination of the food and beverage tax is important.

Extensive discussion ensued amongst the Board and Finance Director in structuring a funding plan for sewer system improvements. Discussion included not losing sight of the need to continue to plan for capital improvements Village-wide; scope of emergency sewer lining; impact of the proposed property tax abatement; while specific economic development projects have yet to be defined, the Village Board would reference the recommendations of the La Grange 2020 Task Force; while public safety also has yet to be defined, the preliminary thought would be to allocate funds towards law enforcement; whether the Village can or should move out of cost containment; concern with raising most of the revenue sources available to the Village now, leaving little room for revenue growth in the future; comparison of revenue flow if the property levy was not abated and if the food and beverage tax was rolled back completely; advantages of borrowing under current market conditions; and policy points on rolling back the food and beverage tax in exchange for an increase in the Village's Non-Home Rule Sales Tax.

In responding to Trustee comments regarding continued diligence to obtain grant funding, President Livingston noted his open communication with State and federal legislators for funding assistance in addressing the needed Village wide capital improvements.

Envisioning the future, Trustees inquired what revenue options may be available. Mr. Cipparrone responded that there is the possibility to seek a referendum for increased property taxes; continue the food and beverage tax; an amusement tax; updating and increasing various fees; and gaming revenues.

Recognizing the direction of the discussion, President Livingston summarized the two budget possibilities under consideration by the Village Board. Those being either to eliminate the current food and beverage tax and maintain the 2014 property tax levy (no abatement) or a property tax freeze and partial rollback of the food and beverage tax. To assist the Board with their deliberation, President Livingston requested Village Clerk Burns provide the exact wording of the referendum question to be placed on the ballot on the April 7, 2015 consolidated election. Clerk Burns complied.

The consensus of the Board was to eliminate the current food and beverage tax and maintain the 2014 property tax levy (no abatement). President Livingston requested staff to revise the funding plan based on the consensus direction provided and to prepare the budget document for Fiscal Year 2015-16 accordingly.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

At 9:00 p.m. President Livingston opened the floor for public comments.

John Pappas thanked the Village Board for heeding the recommendations of the La Grange 2020 Task Force with capital planning and infrastructure improvements. However, he expressed concerns about low water pressure and commented that the Village also needs to give attention to its water system. President Livingston duly noted his comments.

Kim Mosley, 105 Washington expressed grave concerns with the shooting in her neighborhood and previous issues at the residence involved. President Livingston noted the investigation is progressing.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler reflected on a recent event held to raise funds to support the BEDS program.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:07 p.m. Trustee Langan moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Palermo. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: February 9, 2015