

## MINUTES

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

Monday, March 9, 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 7:30 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 Holder, with President Livingston presiding.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Palermo

**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

### 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston requested Village Clerk John Burns introduce members of Boy Scout Troop 19 of the Robert E. Coulter, Jr. American Legion Post 1941. Clerk Burns introduced Scoutmaster Thad Przybylowski, Assistant Scoutmaster David Kelly, and Boy Scouts Austin Biocic, Michael Fanta, Caden Hogan, John Kane, Aidan Kelly, Cole Kostrzewa, Jack O'Brien, Jack Petrak, Joe Przybylowski, Quinn Tischler, Jack Townsend, and Patrick Townsend who will present the flags and lead the audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

President Livingston invited residents to attend the upcoming budget workshop on March 14 at 8:00 a.m. in the lower level conference room of the Village Hall and added that both proposed referendum and maintenance budgets are posted on the Village's website and available at the library for review.

If the Plan Commission concludes their discussion tomorrow evening regarding the proposed residential facility for the Beds program, President Livingston indicated the Village Board would be asked to consider their recommendation on March 23. If the Plan Commission does not conclude their deliberations, then the Village Board will hear the matter at a later date.

President Livingston announced Spring Clean Up would be held the week of April 13 on regular collection days and advised that additional information along with alternative recycling options are posted on the Village website.

President Livingston noted that vacancies on various Boards and Commissions would be posted later this month on the Village website.

Expressing congratulations to the Community Nurse Association, President Livingston noted they have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for their high quality clinical performance.

A. Community Update from Aging Care Connections

President Livingston requested Village Manager to report on this item.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn introduced Saranne Milano and Linda Hussey of Aging Care Connections and invited them forward to provide an update on their services to the community.

Ms. Milano shared background information, explaining that Aging Care Connections mission is to enrich the quality of life of older adults and their families through a range of programs and services that enhance their well-being and independence. Ms. Milano identified the main focus is to provide individualized help to seniors for independent living. Indicating numerous services offered, Ms. Milano requested Linda Hussey to provide more detailed information.

Ms. Hussey provided statistics on services provided and communities served by Aging Care Connections. Identifying federal, state and funding from the United Way, Ms. Hussey encouraged community support of this important service to older adults.

Trustee Langan noted the remarkable endeavors of this organization. Trustee McCarty added his thanks for this organization and the overall savings by working toward independent living.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Award of Contract – FY 2015-2016 & FY 2016-2017 Tree Removal Program
- B. Ordinance (#O-15-06) Disposal of Surplus Property / Miscellaneous Personal Property (Police)
- C. Ordinance (#O-15-07) Disposal of Surplus Property (Fire)
- D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, February 9, 2015
- E. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, February 23, 2015
- F. Consolidated Voucher 150309 – (\$833,297.02)

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

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Kuchler, Langan, McCarty, and Nowak

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Palermo

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Engineering Services Agreement – 50<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Sewer: Referred to Trustee Langan

Trustee Langan provided the background of events and Board priorities to implement solutions to address overland flooding and water pooling in areas of depression. Given the Village's limited resources, Trustee Langan explained the recommended flood mitigation projects that were developed. Trustee Langan stated that the sewer televising program identified needed repairs in addition to construction of the 50<sup>th</sup> Street storm sewer. Indicating the tasks to perform the design engineering related to the 50<sup>th</sup> Street storm sewer, Trustee Langan detailed the scope of work for the project and timeline for completion.

Trustee Langan noted the funding mechanisms in place which include a referendum to fund the flood mitigation projects as part of the budgetary process. If the referendum does not pass, Trustee Langan indicated that professional services would be suspended and funding would be reevaluated by the Board.

Trustee Langan moved to approve the task order contracts with Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$644,000 for the completion of the detailed engineering and design for the construction of the 50<sup>th</sup> Street storm sewer, lateral to depression area 5 and outfall if required, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Trustee Holder inquired if sewer televising determined needed repairs in the south basin areas of the Village. Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham indicated that needed repairs are Village wide and the focus would be on areas of upcoming scheduled resurfacing projects.

Trustee Kuchler fully supports the engineering study but expressed concerns with the Village taking on the full cost. Trustee Kuchler feels the Village should look for other federal, state, and regional entities to assist with funding.

Trustee McCarty feels the amount for engineering services is excessive. Mr. Gillingham explained the utilization of IDOT's rates identifying it as a qualified fixed rate.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Kuchler, McCarty, Nowak, Holder and Langan

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Palermo

B. Professional Service Agreements – Financial Consultant and Bond Counsel for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bond Issue Related to Sewer Improvements: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak presented information on funding for the sewer system improvements including the 50<sup>th</sup> Street storm sewer, a sewer lateral to depression area 5, and Brainard Avenue flood wall, noting that these details were discussed by the Village Board at previous workshops.

Explaining that the issuance of a general obligation, alternate revenue bond can be either negotiated or competitive, Trustee Nowak indicated that in order to ensure that the lowest interest rates are obtained a competitive sale for this bond issue is being proposed. Trustee Nowak added that staff recommends the engagement of Kane, McKenna Capital, Inc. as financial consultants and Chapman and Cutler LLP as bond counsel.

Trustee Nowak indicated that upon approval of contracts with the recommended financial consultant and bond counsel, the Board would need to adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation alternate revenue bonds and publish with the ordinance, a notice of intent to issue bonds with the right to file petition. Upon approval of the authorizing ordinance public notification of the Village's intent to issue bonds; purpose for the bonds; and the bond issue size and would begin the 30

day waiting period for the public to petition for a referendum. It is anticipated that these two ordinances shall be ready for consideration at April 13, 2015 regular Village Board meeting.

Trustee Nowak moved to approve the Professional Service Agreements with Kane McKenna Capital Inc. as financial consultant and Chapman & Cutler LLP as bond counsel for a general obligation alternate revenue bond issue related to the sewer improvements, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Holder inquired if it was necessary that the Village apply for a bond rating affirmation with Moody's based on current financial conditions and Finance Director Lou Cipparrone responded affirmatively.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees McCarty, Kuchler, Langan, Holder and Nowak

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Palermo

President Livingston noted that these two items focus on market conditions. President Livingston added that a timely review within the next several months will assist in making informative decisions.

C. Professional Service Agreements – Auditing Services: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak explained that the audit of the Village's FY 2013-14 Comprehensive Annual Financial Statements was the final audit under the Village's current contract with Sikich LLP. Identifying the high level of services rendered by Sikich in the past, Trustee Nowak indicated that Sikich is not only able to serve as an independent auditor but also as consultants to the Village in numerous other areas.

Trustee Nowak added that auditing services are exempt from the formal bidding process due to the professional nature of the work. Trustee Nowak stated that the proposed five year audit contract is renewable annually, thus the Village has the option not to renew the contract.

Trustee Nowak moved to approve the proposal from Sikich, LLP for FY 2014-15 auditing services at \$29,936 inclusive of a single audit which is required as federal funds for the Stone Avenue Train Station renovation exceeded \$500,000 and a 3% fee increase for each of the four subsequent years, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Kuchler expressed concerns related to the 3% fee increase every year. Noting that the Village may be unable to afford the services offered by Sikich, Trustee Kuchler feels the need to put the matter out to bid. President Livingston duly noted these concerns.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

D. Contract – Group Health and Life Insurance Renewal: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak provided detailed information on the Village's group health insurance coverage under Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois and group life insurance under Fort Dearborn. Explaining the various plans, employee contributions, co-payments, while maintaining consistencies between unionized and non-union employees, Trustee Nowak noted the upward trends in health care costs as a significant operating expenditure for the Village.

Elaborating on the Village's cost containment efforts, Trustee Nowak referenced previous pre-budget development workshops and extensive discussion with benefits consultants and determined not to make any changes to this employee benefit at this time.

Trustee Nowak noted the initial renewal proposal was for a 5.67% increase in employee health insurance premiums, however the Village's consultant negotiated a reduction in that rate to a 3.47% increase in premiums effective May 1, 2015. Trustee Nowak explained that the reduction was primarily a result of reduced claims experience and includes compliance with the Affordable Care Act. This final proposed renewal results in a gross cost savings of \$40,000 to the Village.

Trustee Nowak also noted that due to an advantageous claims history, the Village received a 10.5% decrease in premiums for group life insurance.

Trustee Nowak moved to approve the contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for group health insurance and Fort Dearborn for group life insurance, effective May 1, 2015, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Trustee Holder expressed his gratitude to Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson for her diligence in negotiating this extraordinary cost savings for the Village.

Trustee Langan echoed comments from Trustee Holder.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Electricity Aggregation – Status Update

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn advised that Mark Pruitt Director with the Illinois Community Choice Aggregation Network is in attendance to advise the Board on the current status of electric aggregation. Manager Pilipiszyn requested Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson provide some background information.

Ms. Peterson explained the establishment of the Village's twenty-four month electric aggregation program in 2013 and its success in obtaining savings for residents. Indicating that changes in the electricity marketplace resulted in a narrowing of competitive pricing from alternative suppliers, thus residents were returned to ComEd in 2014. Further explaining the consulting services proposed under a not-to-exceed fee of \$5,000, Ms. Peterson requested Mr. Pruitt to provide a status update on current conditions with electricity aggregation in order to assist the Village Board on the next steps.

Mr. Pruitt noted that although market conditions are more favorable than last year, other items to be considered are changes in regulations as well as participation by other communities. Mr. Pruitt added that dependent on timing it is believed that a 5% savings could be achieved. Mr. Pruitt indicated that the Illinois Commerce Commission is performing due diligence enforcing rules relating to suppliers of electricity. As ComEd will release their price in April, Mr. Pruitt advised that most municipalities are taking the watch and wait approach but are prepared if favorable opportunities materialize.

President Livingston expressed thanks to Mr. Pruitt for the information provided and noted that staff is seeking direction from the Board to engage the consultant in order to pursue the competitive bid process for alternative retail electricity or perhaps consider the watch and wait directive.

Trustee Kuchler inquired if the \$5,000 consultant fee would be reimbursed. Ms. Peterson responded that only if the Village pursues a bidding process and elects to enter into a contract with an alternative supplier would the consultant fees be reimbursed through the program.

Trustee Langan believes it best to wait to see what Com Ed rates are in April and then make a determination.

Trustee Holder concurs that it is in the best interest of residents to observe trends prior to making a determination.

Trustee Kuchler agrees to commit after Com Ed's rates become available.

President Livingston duly noted the Board's recommendations.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Al Banks advised of upcoming community meetings conducted by Reverend Moran and held at the Davis Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church located at 320 East Calendar. Mr. Banks encourages open communication with the police department in developing a neighborhood watch program and is hopeful the Board will pool resources to ensure public safety. President Livingston noted the Board being proactive on open communication for neighborhood policing and safety.

Kim Mosley, 105 Washington is thankful for police presence in her neighborhood and is hopeful it will continue as she has observed illegal behavior. President Livingston encouraged her to continue to contact the police.

Mimi Meagher, 103 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue noted that all residents want what is best for the Village. Ms. Meagher expressed grave concerns in reference to the proposed Beds shelter to be constructed for the homeless. Ms. Meagher does not feel the Plan Commission has ample time to evaluate all of the documents concerning this matter nor has adequate financial information been provided.

Pastor David Hulse of Grace Lutheran Church delivered a letter signed by numerous clergy in favor of the Beds shelter for the homeless. Referencing scripture, Pastor Hulse feels this is an amazing opportunity to impact lives of those less fortunate.

Jeanine Marshall noted fears for public safety is of utmost concern. Ms. Marshall is hopeful that solutions and funds can be found to address the needs of the neighborhood.

Liz Vantassel 129 S. Madison noted that the Beds program services several other communities and feels the importance in those communities providing for these services.

President Livingston thanked residents for their comments. Adding that should the Plan Commission recommend the proposed construction of the Beds shelter President Livingston advised that it may come before the Village Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 23.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Holder wanted to advise the audience that the Village does not fund the Beds program.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:02 p.m. Trustee Langan moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee McCarty. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: March 23, 2015