

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

53 South La Grange Road
Lower Level Conference Room
La Grange, IL 60525

Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 8:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange was held on Saturday, March 14, 2015, and called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the lower level conference room. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk John Burns, the following were present:

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

ABSENT: Trustee Holder and McCarty

OTHERS: Robert Pilipiszyn, Village Manager
Andrianna Peterson, Assistant Village Manager
Lou Cipparrone, Finance Director
Don Gay, Fire Chief
Renee Strasser, Acting Police Chief
Ryan Gillingham, Director of Public Works
Patrick Benjamin, Community Development Director
Joe Munizza, Assistant Finance Director
Angela Mesaros, Assistant Director of Community Development
Mike Bojovic, Assistant Director of Public Works

II. BUDGET WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

President Livingston opened the meeting by thanking the Board of Trustees and members of the management team for their considerable front-end efforts in the development of a Village budget for next year. He noted that it is now up to the voters to weigh in on critical infrastructure needs and operational priorities, and that the Village is on schedule for budget adoption at its regular meeting on April 13.

President Livingston commented that state government is also a factor in budget development and he provided a brief summary of recent remarks made by Governor Rauner.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn remarked that members of the Village's management team can make operations work under either budget scenario ("referendum" budget or "maintenance" budget). The Village is entering its sixth year of cost containment, and cost containment is programmed for another four years. Ninety percent of the "referendum" budget revenues are for capital improvements. While the remaining 10% of "referendum" revenues is for operations, that increment is intended to enhance operations, not to support existing service levels. Village management does not believe that there are sufficient resources to sustain the restoration of cost containment vacancies. Consequently, Department Heads have again submitted status quo budgets by working within existing budgeted amounts for line items, extending the useful life of vehicles and equipment, and continuing to look at staff efficiencies as vacancies and other opportunities arise.

The Village Board paid special recognition to Finance Director Cipparrone and Assistant Finance Director Munizza for their individual efforts in producing two budget documents for voters to consider as part of the referendum.

III. REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Finance Director Cipparrone described the differences between the two budget documents and then proceeded to report in detail on each General Fund revenue line-item.

At this point of the meeting, Department Heads were invited to present their respective departmental budgets to the Village Board for review and comment. Each Department Head was asked to describe budget variations, if any, and to provide a report on progress being made to achieve strategic goals and priorities within their respective areas of responsibility.

IV. REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUND BUDGETS

1. Administration, Legal, President & Board and General Ledger

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

Trustee Nowak commented on the Village's unique and best practices approach towards containing legal costs through the use of retainers and fixed fees.

2. Finance

Finance Director Cipparrone reported that in follow-up to the Village Board meeting from March 9, Sikich has agreed to revise its escalator provisions for

auditing services in an amount equal to or less than the average annual increase in the property tax cap of 2.5%.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

3. Community Development

It was the consensus of the Village Board to 1) concur with staff's budget recommendations, and 2) to continue to rely on staff's best judgment as it relates to departmental staffing in order to balance interests of timely and effective customer service and an increase in departmental workload and operational costs.

4. Police Department, Asset Forfeiture Fund, Auxiliary Police Fund, ETSB Fund

Acting Police Chief Strasser provided the Village Board with a status update on departmental efforts to enhance communications and policing efforts in Patrol Zone 3. Trustee Kuchler encouraged continued efforts for increased physical presence within that patrol zone.

Acting Chief Strasser also reported a trend among several local schools to replace DARE with anti-bullying classes, and provided the Village Board with a status update on the consolidated dispatch initiative.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn requested and received concurrence from the Village Board as to the recommended amendments to the restructuring plan for the Police Department and maintenance of the Village's pay plan as it related to the salary schedule for Police Sergeants.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

5. Fire Department and Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Fund

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

6. Building and Grounds and Public Works

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

7. Equipment Replacement Fund and Pension Funds

President Livingston remarked that the Village will continue to look at pensions and reserves. It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kuchler inquired about design options and Trustee input on the Brainard Avenue flood wall, and Director of Public Works Gillingham responded.

Trustee Kuchler expressed concerns that should the 50th Street Storm Sewer project move forward the Village will be limited in identifying revenue sources for other projects, and therefore encouraged continued diligence on grant acquisition. President Livingston indicated that he has made known the Village's infrastructure needs to state and federal legislators. However, the state cannot support a capital bill at this time and the federal situation is not much better with a 3-5 year window before funding may become available.

President Livingston noted the unusually large and challenging work load of the Board of Trustees during the course of this past year, and thanked them for their efforts to serve the citizens of La Grange.

Reflecting on his experience as a Village Trustee as he approaches the end of his term, Trustee Nowak thanked President Livingston and his colleagues on the Board of Trustees for their service and expressed his personal satisfaction in serving on the Village Board. He also expressed his appreciation to Village staff for their commitment to serving the residents of La Grange.

The special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: April 13, 2015