

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Village Hall Auditorium
53 S. La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, September 14, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.

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

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

PRESENT: Trustees Arnett, Holder, Kotynek, Kuchler, Langan, and McCarty

Clerk Burns acknowledged that a quorum of the Board of Trustees is present and requested a motion to elect Trustee Mark Langan as Chairperson Pro Tem to preside over the meeting. It was moved by Trustee Kuchler and seconded by Trustee Holder to elect Trustee Mark Langan as Chairperson Pro Tem. Motion approved by voice vote.

ABSENT: President Livingston

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

Chairperson Pro Tem Langan requested that the Village Clerk lead the audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Extending thanks to local legislators and staff, Chairperson Pro Tem Langan announced that the Village is a recipient of a \$123,000 grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program which will be utilized to purchase new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Chairperson Pro Tem Langan expressed thanks to the Robert E. Coulter American Legion for their commemorative ceremony in remembrance of first responders and victims of September 11.

Adding his thanks to the Community Diversity Group for their annual Race Unity Day, Chairperson Pro Tem Langan encouraged participation in this annual event.

Reminding residents of upcoming events, Chairperson Pro Tem Langan noted the Evening of Art and Jazz; West End Art Festival; Cure free medical clinic; prescription drug take back day; and shredding event.

Lastly, Chairperson Pro Tem Langan clarified that the agenda action item is for the creation of two four-way stop signs and not the creation of a student loading zone on Brainard Avenue.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

John Reardon, 115 S. Brainard Avenue disagrees that the creation of stop signs is beneficial and encouraged the Board to table the item for further traffic study and open discussion.

Lara Taylor feels strongly that a designated parking zone plan for student drop off and pick-up with strict enforcement is needed at Lyons Township North High School.

John Pappas who resides on 7th Avenue, noted the difficulty in the Zoning Board of Appeals decision making process to deny the request for front yard parking.

Cheryl Seivert, 21 S. Brainard also feels that the stop signs should be tabled for open transparency and further discussion from residents.

Kathleen Weber who resides on Brainard Avenue believes the school district should be responsible in addressing safety concerns for students and pedestrians.

Katie Allan, 126 S. Park feels that Lyons Township High School should develop a comprehensive plan for student safety as have other schools in the area.

Chairperson Pro Tem Langan encouraged residents to share their concerns with the school district.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-15-32) – Amendment to the Village Code Subdivision Regulations regarding lot depth
- B. Award of Contract – Parking Structure Waterproofing Membrane Repairs
- C. Material Purchase – Public Works / Rock Salt
- D. (#R-15-10) Amendments to the Foreign Fire Insurance Board Rules and Regulations
- E. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, August 24, 2015
- F. Consolidated Voucher 150914 (\$1,600,709.07)

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

Motion approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Arnett, Kotynek, Kuchler, Langan, McCarty, and Holder

Nays: None

Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance (#O-15-33) – Amendment to the Zoning Map and Resubdivision of Lots, First Church of Christ Scientist, 100 S. Catherine Avenue: *Referred to Trustee Langan*

Trustee Langan provided background information on the First Church of Christ Scientist which has been vacant for more than a year. Adding that the intent is to demolish the church and develop the parcel into three single family homes, Trustee Langan explained that the property owner and contract purchaser have applied for an amendment to the La Grange Zoning Map to reclassify the property into the R-4 Single Family Residential District and a Resubdivision of the existing lots.

Trustee Langan noted that a public hearing was held after which the Plan Commission recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the reclassification and Resubdivision. As staff concurs with the Plan Commission, Trustee Langan moved to approve an ordinance amending the La Grange Zoning Map and Granting Resubdivision of Lots for 100 S. Catherine Avenue, seconded by Trustee McCarty.

To avoid any future issues, Trustee McCarty requested confirmation that there was no other alley access and Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros responded affirmatively. Mr. Peter Coules the attorney representing Greyson Custom Builders indicated that the church would be demolished prior to the creation of lots.

Trustee Holder expressed sorrow with the demolition of the historical church but would vote in favor of the matter.

Motion approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Kotynek, Kuchler, Arnett, Langan, and McCarty

Nays: None

Absent: None

- B. Ordinance – Variation – Parking Area in the Front Yard / Barbara Myslinska, 15A S. Madison Avenue: *Referred to Trustee Langan*

Trustee Langan detailed the circumstances relevant to the applicants request for a variation to construct a parking space in the front yard of her townhome with a curb cut and driveway access to Madison Avenue. Further noting that the Zoning Board of Appeals

held a public hearing on this matter, Trustee Langan indicated that the motion failed by a vote of three Commissioners in favor and four Commissioners opposed. Trustee Langan advised that in accordance with Illinois law, the approval of any proposed variation which fails to receive the approval of the Board of Appeals must have a favorable vote of two-thirds of the trustees.

Prior to making a motion, Chairperson Pro-Tem Langan requested Board discussion.

Trustee Holder prefers to adhere to the Zoning Board of Appeals determination to deny the request.

Trustee McCarty believes it would be setting a very dangerous precedent to approve this request and feels the need to seek a better solution.

Trustee Kuchler does not favor front yard parking and echoes the need to explore other alternatives.

Trustee Arnett inquired about other parking options and Finance Director Lou Cipparrone responded.

Assessing the Board's discussion against front yard parking, Chairperson Pro Tem Langan encouraged the petitioner to work with staff in identifying other alternatives.

Trustee Langan moved to deny the variation, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Motion to deny approved by 5 to 1 roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees McCarty, Kotynek, Kuchler, Holder Langan

Nays: Trustee Arnett

Absent: None

- C. Ordinance – Creation of Four-Way Stop Intersections at Cossitt Avenue and Park Road, and at Park Road and Elm Avenue: *Referred to Trustee Holder*

Trustee Holder explained that School District 204 has received numerous comments regarding pedestrian and traffic safety in the area of the north campus of Lyons Township High School, specifically related to illegal movements on Cossitt Avenue between Brainard Avenue and Park Avenue. Trustee Holder noted that the Village and school district jointly hired the professional traffic engineering firm Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. (KLOA) to complete a comprehensive study. Trustee Holder detailed the report provided to Village staff and the school district and annotated the preferred alternatives and recommended improvements.

Trustee Holder further added that the only action this evening is the creation of two four-way intersections to function effectively and independently from a proposed creation of a student loading zone on Brainard Avenue. Trustee Holder moved to approve the creation of four-way stop signs at Cossitt Avenue and Park Road and Park Road and Elm Avenue, seconded by Trustee McCarty.

Trustee Holder requested Eric Russel of KLOA to provide details on the study performed and Mr. Russel responded.

Considerable Trustee discussion ensued with Mr. Russell on various aspects of the study; more explanation as to the benefits of installing the two sets of stop signs; the effectiveness of a stepped approach; working with the school district; pedestrian safety; assessing if additional traffic congestion will occur on Cossitt Avenue and Brainard Avenue; and more opportunity for additional citizen input.

Motion approved by 5 to 1 roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Langan, Kuchler McCarty, Arnett and Holder
Nays: Trustee Kotynek
Absent: None

Chairperson Pro Tem Langan noted that a work session between the Village, residents and representatives of Lyons Township High School will be scheduled at a future date to consider alternatives.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

None

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

John Reardon does not feel the process for pedestrian safety at the high school was justly discussed and encouraged future discussions with the school district for solutions.

Eleanor Boland does not feel the process was transparent and residents should have an opportunity to express their views.

Lara Taylor added her concerns for future workshop discussions in order to make the best decisions for everyone.

Female resident favors future workshops to determine if stop signs are effective.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Closed Session – Consideration of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Village.

Chairperson Pro Tem Langan requested a motion to adjourn to closed session and the Village Board would not reconvene to open session as no formal action would occur.

Trustee Holder moved to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Village. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kuchler

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Kuchler, Langan, Kotynek, Arnett and McCarty
Nays: None
Absent: None

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler believes transparency when making decisions is in the best interest of the entire Village.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 p.m.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: 9/28/15