

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Village Hall Auditorium  
53 South La Grange Road  
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, November 23, 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: Trustees Arnett, Holder, Kotynek, Kuchler, and McCarty, with President Livingston presiding.

ABSENT: Trustee Langan

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

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

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston acknowledged the recent ground breaking ceremony for the OPUS development project on La Grange Road and Ogden Avenue. Encouraging residents to shop locally, President Livingston provided details for "Unwrap La Grange" and the annual Hometown Holiday event in conjunction with the La Grange Business Association. President Livingston expressed thanks to Mr. George Hess for donating the Village tree.

With the early snowfall, President Livingston extended thanks to the Public Works staff for their efforts and inquired as to additional leaf pick-up. Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham noted that leaf pick-up would be extended for an additional week.

For the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year, the Village of La Grange has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GOFA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year

2015-16 Budget document. President Livingston offered congratulations to Finance Director Lou Cipparrone and Assistant Finance Director Joe Munizza for their efforts in preparation of the document.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Stone Avenue Train Station – CMAQ Pedestrian Access Improvements Project: (1) Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement; (2) Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation; and (3) Engineering Task Order
- B. Purchase – Public Works Department / FY 2015-16 Equipment Replacement Fund (1) Front End Loader; (1) Backhoe Loader; (1) Bucket Truck; and (1) Pick-Up Truck
- C. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, November 9, 2015
- D. Consolidated Voucher 151123 (\$1,139,234.26)

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

Trustee Holder inquired about the Stone Avenue Train Station. Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson elaborated on the pedestrian access improvements for public safety. Trustee Holder inquired if the kiss-and-ride was being reconfigured. Ms. Peterson noted the space will be utilized for additional parking.

Approved by 5 to 0 roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Preliminary Review of the Proposed 2015 Property Tax Levy Request: *Referred to Trustee Kotynek*

Trustee Kotynek stated that this is a preliminary review of the proposed 2015 property tax levy request and explained that the Truth in Taxation Law requires a preliminary review of the proposed tax levy at least 20 days prior to its adoption. If the aggregate levy is more than 5% greater than the preceding year's extension, exclusive of debt service, the Village must hold a public hearing before adopting the proposed property tax levy. Since the proposed Truth in Taxation levy request, excluding debt service shows a total increase of

2.09% over the prior years' extension, the Village of La Grange is not required to hold a public hearing regarding the 2015 property tax levy.

Trustee Kotynek indicated the Property Tax Limitation Act limits the increase in property tax extensions, exclusive of debt service and new property growth to 5% or the percent increase of the National Consumer Price Index (CPI) whichever is less. The CPI for the 2015 tax levy determined as of December 2014 was 0.8%

Trustee Kotynek presented information on the General Fund levy; Pension levies; and the Special Service Area levy. Trustee Kotynek indicated that the Police and Fire pension levies reflect the annual required contributions based upon independent actuarial valuations of each fund for the year ended April 30, 2015. Adding that the Village has received letters from both the Police and Fire Pension Fund Boards to levy funds based upon the independent actuarial valuations, Trustee Kotynek noted that Mr. Todd Schroeder actuary from Lauterbach & Amen is in attendance.

Trustee Kotynek added that the La Grange Public Library is a municipal library not a library district therefore the library levy is a part of the Village levy. The Library's tax levy request represents an increase of 2.09% over the 2014 property tax levy extension.

Indicating that the Village is announcing the 2015 preliminary tax levy, Trustee Kotynek stated that the ordinance adopting the 2015 tax levy will be presented at the upcoming December 14, 2015 Village Board meeting. Prior to making a motion for approval, Trustee Kotynek invited Mr. Schroeder to elaborate on pension funds and answer any questions.

Mr. Schroeder explained that beginning this fiscal year, pension funds are affected by the new requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) for accounting and financial reporting for pension plans. Further explaining the requirements, Mr. Schroeder noted the need to recognize long-term obligation for pension benefits as a liability on the financial statements. Mr. Schroeder noted the percentage and amounts required in order to meet the new requirements.

Trustee Holder inquired about investment performance and Mr. Schroeder responded.

Trustee Arnett expressed concerns related to the compounding effects on the Village budget. Noting the Village's long range planning in order to address the pension liability, President Livingston added that legislative decision in Springfield will also be a determining factor.

Trustee McCarty inquired how pension levies are determined. Mr. Schroeder responded that recommendations are made to the Village Board based on advice from the actuary. Trustee McCarty inquired who makes up the pension boards and Mr. Schroeder responded.

President Livingston thanked those who serve on the pension boards and inquired if the Village can anticipate adhering to the pension deadlines and when the new requirements become effective. Mr. Schroeder responded that the requirements are for the current audit and affirmed the adequacy of the Village's pension funding levies.

Trustee Holder inquired the number of municipalities that Mr. Schroeder's firm manages. Mr. Schroeder indicated that his firm works with approximately 80 municipalities and as actuaries for approximately 140 pensions.

Trustee Arnett inquired if the Village would meet the percentage requirements. Mr. Schroeder responded affirmatively if it continues to allow for funding under the current plan.

It was moved by Trustee Kotynek that the Village Board approve the Resolution announcing the estimated 2015 tax levy of \$8,830,044 exclusive of debt service, which is a 2.09% increase from the 2014 tax levy, seconded by Trustee McCarty.

Approved by 5 to 0 roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Langan

President Livingston noted this is the beginning of the budget making process and advised that the next Village Board meeting would be on December 14, 2015.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

None

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler extended a Happy Thanksgiving.

Trustee McCarty thanked staff for achieving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Trustee Holder added his congratulations to staff on financial reporting and inquired about the status of the traffic report update at Lyons Township High School. President Livingston noted the Village continues to move forward on establishing a date to meet.

President Livingston encouraged residents to shop local and extended a Happy Thanksgiving.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 p.m. Trustee Holder moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Kotynek. Motion approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date:

12/14/15