

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 12, 2016 - 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 12, 2016 and called to order at 8:04 a.m. in the lower level conference room. On roll call, the following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Holder, Kotynek, Kuchler, Langan and McCarty, with President Livingston presiding.

ABSENT: Trustee Arnett

OTHERS: Village Clerk John Burns
Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Assistant Finance Director Joe Munizza
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Police Chief Renee Strasser
Fire Chief Don Gay
Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros

II. BUDGET WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

President Livingston opened the meeting by thanking the Board of Trustees and members of the management team for their work over the past several months in preparing the draft budget.

He noted that uncertainty remains at the state level and that the Village will need to remain vigilant and nimble.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn reported that the Village's financial position is strengthening as a result of stronger revenues. Surpluses are anticipated for the next four years and no new taxes or fees are proposed. The approach to the budget continues to be conservative in nature, for example revenues anticipated as a result of several large projects (OPUS, Pathways, etc.) have not been factored into the budget at this time. He reiterated that the

budgeting optimism is tempered by uncertainty at the state level, therefore requiring the Village to maintain fiscal discipline. As such, Department Heads have prepared proposed status quo budgets.

III. REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Finance Director Cipparrone reported in detail on each General Fund revenue line-item.

President Livingston noted that he would like to discuss pension funding as there is a correlation with the revenue discussion.

While it is the intent of the Village Board to fully fund (100%) employer contributions to the Police and Fire Pension Funds on an annual basis, tax levy receipts collected by Cook County can sometimes be less than expected due to issues outside of the Village's control such as tax appeals and foreclosures. As a result, the budgeted amount to be transferred to the respective pension funds has been reduced proportionally. When these "loss and cost" reductions are made by the County, the typical pension contribution is about 98% of what has been budgeted. After discussion, the Village Board directed staff to adjust the allocation of property tax revenue as it is received so that the Village's employer contributions to the Police and Fire Pension Funds will always reflect 100% of the "budgeted" annual required contribution.

At this point in 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

In follow-up to the Strategic Planning session back in January, President Livingston noted that he would like to allocate funds in the proposed budget to improve Village communications. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Village Board that improved Village communications was a priority and that a workshop will be scheduled perhaps as soon as June 2016 to discuss the matter in greater detail.

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

2. Finance

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

3. Community Development

The Village Board discussed several economic development initiatives which are in various stages of development. First, it was the consensus of the Village Board to schedule a workshop later this year to evaluate the results of the free valet service after one-year of operational data has been collected. There was also a discussion about identifying a separate funding source for the valet program so that other economic development initiatives could be considered using the non-Home Rule Sales Tax allocation of \$50,000 per year.

Second, President Livingston noted that the LGBA will be making a presentation at the Village Board meeting on Monday, March 14 concerning its request for additional funding from the Village. President Livingston also reported that the LGBA explained their proposal to the CEDC about a week ago, and that the CEDC was impressed with the presentation. He indicated support for some but not all of the requested amounts. Discussion of this request is to be continued.

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

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

There was a discussion of staffing in the Police Department (e.g. – status of filling existing vacancies, status of the referendum-funded position, etc.) President Livingston also noted that the Village continues to collect revenue to partially fund a School Resource Officer. He suggested that it would be appropriate to revisit the matter with the LTHS Board of Education and Administration.

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

The Village Board discussed several strategic priorities and pending projects – consideration of restoring the Village's \$1.0 million annual transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund (currently \$700,000 per year due to cost containment); as workload permits, begin thinking about a facilities plan for Public Works; the offer of Board assistance in helping to communicate to affected residents and businesses the NICOR gas main and service line replacement project scheduled for this year; and continued discussion of water accountability.

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

7. Equipment Replacement Fund and Debt Service Fund

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

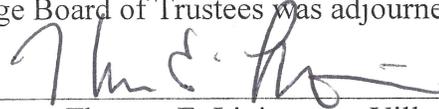
President Livingston thanked the staff for an impressive and solid budget.

He noted that while cost containment has been a success, the Village Board will need to consider either retaining cost containment vacancies and funding levels, or returning staffing and funding to previous levels at some point in the future.

President Livingston also noted that the Village Board needs to continue to be mindful of reserve management.

While not included at this time in the FY 2016-17 budget, he noted that the Village Board expects to consider a proposal from the LGBA for increased funding.

The special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: