

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

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

AGENDA

Monday, August 9, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

*President Elizabeth Asperger
Trustee Bill Holder
Trustee Mike Horvath
Trustee Mark Kuchler
Trustee Mark Langan
Trustee Tom Livingston
Trustee James Palermo*

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is an opportunity for the Village President to report on matters of interest or concern to the Village.

A. [Proclamation – CommUnity Diversity Group 19th Annual Race Unity Rally](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

This is the opportunity for members of the audience to speak about matters that are included on this Agenda.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

Matters on the Omnibus Agenda will be considered by a single motion and vote because they already have been considered fully by the Board at a previous meeting or have been determined to be of a routine nature. Any member of the Board of Trustees may request that an item be moved from the Omnibus Agenda to Current Business for separate consideration.

A. [Open Meetings Act – Review of Closed Session Minutes](#)

B. [For-Profit Solicitor – Edgewood Photo Art](#)

C. [Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Monday, July 26, 2010](#)

D. [Consolidated Voucher 100809](#)

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

This agenda item includes consideration of matters being presented to the Board of Trustees for action.

- A. [Engineering Service Agreement – Preliminary Engineering Study For The Combined Sewer Drainage Basin South of 47th Street:](#)
Referred to Trustee Horvath

- B. [Resolution – Initiating the Submission of a Public Question to Support Regional Actions to Attain Long-Term Pension Sustainability:](#) *Referred to Trustee Holder*

6. MANAGER’S REPORT

This is an opportunity for the Village Manager to report on behalf of the Village Staff about matters of interest to the Village.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

This is an opportunity for members of the audience to speak about Village related matters that are not listed on this Agenda.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Trustees may decide, by a roll call vote, to convene in executive session if there are matters to discuss confidentially, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

The Board of Trustees may wish to comment on any matters.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Village of La Grange is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations so that they can observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions, regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the Village’s facilities, should contact the Village’s ADA Coordinator at (708) 579-2315 promptly to allow the Village to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
Administrative Offices

BOARD REPORT

TO: Village President, Village Clerk,
Board of Trustees and Village Attorney

FROM: Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Village Manager

DATE: August 9, 2010

RE: **PROCLAMATION - COMMUNITY DIVERSITY GROUP**
19TH ANNUAL RACE UNITY RALLY

The CommUNITY Diversity Group will hold its 19th Annual Race Unity Rally in the Village Hall Auditorium on Sunday, September 12, 2010 beginning at 3:00 p.m. The CommUNITY Diversity Group has asked the Village to proclaim Sunday, September 12, 2010 "Race Unity Day" in La Grange.

The unity rally is a recognition and appreciation of the Village's diversity and to celebrate the Village's rich history and contributions made by all of its residents.

It is our recommendation that the Village Board approve the attached proclamation.

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PROCLAMATION

**Village of La Grange
"Race Unity Day"
Sunday, September 12, 2010**

- WHEREAS, the 19th Annual Race Unity Rally is an event to reaffirm the commitment to achieving race unity in La Grange and surrounding communities; and
- WHEREAS, this year, the CommUnity Diversity Group calls the Village together for a joyous weekend celebration of human diversity culminating with Race Unity Day; and
- WHEREAS, the concept of unity and diversity is deeply rooted in the fabric of our American society; and
- WHEREAS, much progress has been made in the legislative arena, we have much to do yet to bring us together on a personal level; and
- WHEREAS, the Race Unity Rally will demonstrate the commitment of the people of the Village of La Grange and surrounding communities to the principle that all are created equal and come together in recognition of the oneness of humanity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth M. Asperger, President of the Village of La Grange, and we the Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange do hereby proclaim that Sunday, September 12, 2010, is

"RACE UNITY DAY"

We urge all residents of our community to resolve this day to promote in ourselves, our community, state and nation those qualities and attributes which will generate the recognition that all humanity belongs to one family, to fight prejudice wherever it is found, and to assure that all persons have equal opportunities regardless of their race.

Dated at the Village of La Grange, Illinois this 9th day of August, 2010.

Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
Administrative Offices

BOARD REPORT

TO: Village President and Board of Trustees

FROM: Robert Milne, Village Clerk
Mark Burkland, Village Attorney
Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Village Manager

DATE: August 9, 2010

RE: **OPEN MEETINGS ACT - REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES**

State law requires that minutes of closed meetings be reviewed periodically to determine if there is any continuing need to have them remain confidential. The Village Clerk, Village Attorney and Village Manager recently conducted such a review and have determined that the minutes from the following closed sessions of the La Grange Village Board of Trustees should remain confidential:

January 12, 2009

July 7, 2009

March 8, 2010

July 26, 2010

A complete set of the minutes listed above are available for inspection by the Village Board at the Village Clerk's office in advance of your meeting.

No Village Board action is required if you concur with our recommendation.

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
Administrative Offices

BOARD REPORT

TO: Village President, Village Clerk,
Board of Trustees, and Village Attorney

FROM: Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Village Manager

DATE: August 9, 2010

RE: **FOR-PROFIT SOLICITATION – EDGEWOOD PHOTO ART**

The Village Code provides that whenever a for-profit organization desires to solicit in the Village of La Grange, their application for a license must be reviewed by the Village Board.

The following for-profit solicitor license application has been submitted by Edgewood Photo Art to solicit in the Village of La Grange and is presented for your consideration:

Edgewood Photo Art
38 North Edgewood
La Grange, IL 60525

Business Owner: Patricia Kolar
Phone: (708) 354-0575
Use: Digital photographs of residences and other structures.

Edgewood Photo Art is requesting permission to solicit in La Grange for the purpose of retail sales of photographic sketches of homes; businesses; historic structures; and other subjects. Mr. Kolar has described his new endeavor as taking a digital photo; turning it into a black and white sketch; soliciting the sketch with a business card to contact Edgewood Photo Art. This is a new business in La Grange, operating from a single family residence as a registered home occupation use. They are also registered with the Illinois Department of Revenue.

They have provided the Village with three references which after checking have not produced any adverse comments. Solicitation will be door-to-door, for a 15 day period yet to be determined. Additional regulations governing for-profit solicitation, which include a background clearance process, are attached for your reference.

We recommend that the above listed for-profit organization be approved to solicit in the Village of La Grange.

MINUTES

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

Monday, July 26, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange regular meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Administrative Secretary Ellie Elder, the following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Langan, Livingston, Kuchler, and Palermo

ABSENT: Village Clerk Milne

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Fire Chief David Fleege
Police Chief Mike Holub

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Asperger began by commenting on the excessive amounts of rain received over the past weekend and requested Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn to speak on the severe weather issues.

Mr. Pilipiszyn described how the Village responded to the severe rain event on July 24 and identified the most impacted neighborhoods. The process of disaster declaration was also explained. Mr. Pilipiszyn requested Director Ryan Gillingham to provide information on the sewer system. Mr. Gillingham explained fundamentals of the Village's sewer system noting the difference and interrelationship between storm sewers, sanitary sewers, combination sewers, relief sewers and the Deep Tunnel System. Mr. Pilipiszyn concluded the staff report by announcing that a public meeting will be scheduled at which time more detailed information would be provided concerning sewer system operations and potential improvements.

President Asperger thanked all departments who helped residents during and after the recent storms.

President Asperger noted that this evening's regular Village Board meeting would be followed by a workshop to discuss technology and invited the public to attend.

President Asperger announced that HB 43, the new law regulating vehicles to stop and yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, goes into effect immediately. The Village will be working with its traffic consultant and the Illinois Department of Transportation for guidance regarding signage and enforcement.

Congratulations were offered to the La Grange Business Association on their successful 36th annual craft fair.

Congratulations were extended to Police Chief Mike Holub for having received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Legion. Representing Illinois, Chief Holub is a candidate for the National Award.

Congratulations and well wishes were also extended to Fire Chief David Fleege who has announced his retirement. Chief Fleege will assist the Village Manager in the selection process to promote from within the Fire Department.

At this time President Asperger opened the floor to residents with concerns regarding the severe weather and rain storm issues.

1. John Bovard, 125 N. Peck Avenue indicated flooding of his property has occurred several times and does not believe the Village has been responsive to the matter. Mr. Bovard questioned if the repaving of streets may have added to the problem. Mr. Bovard also requested the Village consider offering residents some compensation for the cost of installing overhead sewers.
2. Cindy Brom, 700 block of Kensington Avenue believes that the sewer restrictors are making matters worse. Ms. Brom inquired when the future meeting for updates will occur. President Asperger encouraged residents to sign up on the "Notify Me" page on the Village's website for e-mail notification on future meetings.
3. Jan Reagan, 700 block of Kensington Avenue inquired if drainage from the La Grange Country Club could be diverted. Mr. Gillingham noted that flooded areas will be researched for possible solutions.

4. Bridget Wicklander, 140 Sunset noted her previous meeting with personnel from Public Works regarding this low area and is hopeful the Village can provide assistance.
5. Peggy Hagen, 700 block of Kensington Avenue added her comments requesting the Village take note of this area as matters have worsened.
6. Sue Robinson, Sunset and Cossitt expressed great concerns with sewer backup and is hopeful the Village will offer assistance with overhead sewer systems.
7. Philip Fulton, 49 Poplar Place requested to be included on the list for improvements.
8. Tim Takash, 118 N. Peck Avenue indicated his entire block flooded and believes it is the Village's problem to resolve drainage.
9. Brian Reilly, 729 S. Spring Avenue inquired if the sewer system failed and requested the Village to be more proactive in its communications. Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham explained how the sewer system accepts water and noted issues would be researched.
10. Bob Westrick, 136 N. Peck Avenue expressed issues with water since the commencement of street resurfacing.
11. Bill Wolz, 730 S. Spring Avenue wondered why the Deep Tunnel did not alleviate the flooding. Although he could not speak for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation System, Mr. Gillingham believes that the sewer system reached its capacity with the tremendous amount of rain received in a short period of time.
12. Susan, 700 block of Spring Avenue noted that rear yard drainage is also a problem on her block.

President Asperger thanked all in attendance and assured the audience that Village staff will continue to address the issues raised.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Special Event – Park District of La Grange / Public Display of Fireworks at Community Family Fest

- B. Resolution (#R-10-13) Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Village of La Grange and International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150 (Public Works General utility Workers and Crew Leaders)
- C. Engineering Services Agreement – Preliminary Engineering Studies for the Maple Avenue Relief Sewer and Ogden Avenue Relief Sewer Projects
- D. Resolution (#R-10-14) Access to Cook County Geographic Information System Data Access Agreement
- E. Ordinances (#O-10-25 & #O-10-26) – Amendments to the Village Code Governing Abandoned Vehicles
- F. Budget Amendments – Grant Funds (#R-10-15)
- G. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Monday, June 14, 2010
- H. Consolidated Voucher 100628 – (\$487,818.12)
- I. Consolidated Voucher 100712 – (\$1,074,861.08)
- J. Consolidated Voucher 100726 – (\$341,388.97)

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston,
Palermo and President Asperger

Nays: None
Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Special Event – La Grange Business Association “West End Art Festival” and “An Evening of Art & Jazz”: Referred to Trustee Langan

Trustee Langan stated that the Village has received a request from the La Grange Business Association to conduct the 15th Annual “West End Art Festival” on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19, 2010.

Trustee Langan noted that in addition to the traditional West End Art Festival, the La Grange Business Association will incorporate a new event “An Evening of Art and Jazz” to be held on Friday, September 17.

Trustee Langan explained that it is necessary for the Village to formally approve the temporary closure of Burlington Avenue and portions of Stone and Waiola Avenues for the outdoor display and to waive restrictions for the outdoor display and sale of goods and services in the C-2 Zoning District.

It was moved by Trustee Langan that the Village Board authorize the La Grange Business Association to utilize Burlington Avenue from Waiola Avenue to Brainard Avenue for the “West End Art Festival” and the “An Evening of Art and Jazz” on September 17 and 19, 2010; that restrictions prohibiting outdoor display and sale of goods and services be waived in conjunction with this event; and that all conditions be satisfied, seconded by Trustee Holder. Approved by voice vote.

Trustee Langan expressed thanks to Andrea Barnish who has chaired this successful and rewarding event for numerous years.

- B. Resolution (#R-10-16) Authorizing a Case Study Evaluation of police Department and Fire Department Service Delivery, and Cooperative Opportunities with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus between the Villages of La Grange, La Grange Park and Western Springs, Illinois: Referred to President Asperger

President Asperger noted that one of the outcomes of the Village Board’s strategic planning session in January 2010 was to identify and develop opportunities for consolidation with other municipalities. President Asperger indicated that recently the Presidents and Managers of La Grange, La Grange Park and Western Springs met to discuss a willingness to work together for consolidated services with emphasis on public safety.

President Asperger explained that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus in conjunction with the Mac Arthur Foundation, is willing to underwrite one-half of the cost of a preliminary study to determine if there is sufficient departmental compatibility on an operational level and potential cost savings to warrant a more in-depth technical analysis. President Asperger added that the net cost to the Village for this feasibility study is \$7,500 and in order to participate in the case study, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus requested the each governing body pass a resolution to authorize the evaluation.

Both Fire Chief David Fleege and Police Chief Michael Holub support this initiative, as they both identified and recommended specific opportunities for consolidated services within their respective departments.

Trustee Langan moved to approve a Resolution authorizing a case study evaluation of Police Department and Fire Department service delivery, and cooperative opportunities with the Metropolitan Mayor Caucus between the Villages of La Grange, La Grange Park and Western Springs, Illinois, seconded by Trustee Livingston. Motion approved by voice vote.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his agreement with this opportunity to consolidate services and hoped the Village would continue to pursue this venue with refuse hauler services.

Trustee Palermo concurred with Trustee Kuchler adding his desire for the Village to reach out in other areas for cost effective methods to consolidate.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn responded to an inquiry from Reverend Debra Williams regarding public input for the case study of the cooperative agreement. Mr. Pilipiszyn explained that the Metropolitan Mayor's Council would provide the findings which would be presented to the Village Board at a future meeting and the public would be offered an opportunity to comment.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Closed Session – Pending Litigation

President Asperger indicated that there would be a motion to adjourn to closed session immediately following this evening's workshop session. Village Attorney Mark Burkland noted the Village Board would not reconvene to open session as no formal action would occur.

Trustee Langan moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss pending litigation, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston,
Palermo and President Asperger

Nays: None

Absent: None

9 TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler inquired about flooding streets and the use of restrictors along with the capacity of sewer size to accept flood waters. Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham responded that all issues are being evaluated. Village Manager Pilipiszyn elaborated on the matter adding that as street surfacing projects occurred sewer work was limited to spot repairs, namely involving catch basins and no pipe size was reduced. Trustee Kuchler encouraged that a date for a public meeting be selected and advertised.

Trustee Holder agreed that a follow-up meeting after review of the flooding issues is in order.

Trustee Horvath also concurred and was surprised to learn about the amount of rainfall coming off of the Country Club. He also suggested that the Village post a frequently asked questions and answers to educate residents about sewer system operations and what residents can do to protect their property.

President Asperger noted that previous public presentations to the Village Board concerning the Village's sewer system will be posted on-line.

Trustee Palermo added that residents can assist by volunteering to clear debris clogged drains. Trustee Palermo also congratulated the girl's softball team and expressed his pride in the community.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45p.m. it moved by Trustee Langan to recess to the technology workshop, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Motion approved by voice vote.

ATTEST:

Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk

Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

Approved Date

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

Disbursement Approval by Fund

August 9, 2010

Consolidated Voucher 100809

<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>08/09/10 Voucher</u>	<u>08/06/10 Payroll</u>	<u>Total</u>
01	General	177,761.54	269,978.08	447,739.62
21	Motor Fuel Tax			0.00
22	Foreign Fire Insurance Tax	15.00		15.00
23	TIF			0.00
24	ETSB	4,738.32		4,738.32
40	Capital Projects	14,541.49		14,541.49
50	Water	20,040.37	37,079.69	57,120.06
51	Parking	8,264.39	22,675.73	30,940.12
60	Equipment Replacement	350.00		350.00
70	Police Pension	2,268.67		2,268.67
75	Firefighters' Pension			0.00
80	Sewer		9,402.96	9,402.96
90	Debt Service			0.00
91	SSA 4A Debt Service			0.00
93	SAA 269			0.00
94	SAA 270			0.00
		<u>227,979.78</u>	<u>339,136.46</u>	<u>567,116.24</u>

We the undersigned Manager and Clerk of the Village of La Grange hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the foregoing items are true and proper charges against the Village and hereby approve their payment.

Village Manager

Village Clerk

President

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
Department of Public Works

BOARD REPORT

TO: Village President, Village Clerk,
Board of Trustees, and Village Attorney

FROM: Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Village Manager
Ryan Gillingham, Director of Public Works

DATE: August 9, 2010

RE: **ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT – PRELIMINARY
ENGINEERING STUDY FOR THE COMBINED SEWER
DRAINAGE BASIN SOUTH OF 47TH STREET**

On July 24 the Village experienced an unprecedented amount of rainfall (over six inches in a twelve hour period), which resulted in widespread flooding of streets, basements, rear yards and other low areas of the Village. While all neighborhoods were effected by the severe rain event, the area south of 47th Street between Brainard Avenue and La Grange Road, which traditionally has not experienced such wide spread flooding problems, was particularly impacted as well.

Since we have not seen such widespread flooding within this neighborhood, we theorize that flooding in this area was caused by a significant amount of rainfall in a relatively short period of time, overwhelming the sewer system, and a significant amount of overland storm water flow coming off of the Country Club property. In order to more fully understand what happened, assess the capacity of the Village's sewer system, and develop possible solutions to reduce the frequency of flooding, we have requested a proposal from Heuer and Associates to conduct a preliminary drainage study for this neighborhood. We requested a proposal from Heuer and Associates based on their familiarity with these types of projects and experience in this area of work. This proposal is attached for your reference.

The drainage area to be studied encompasses the combined sewer area south of 47th Street to the southern limits of the Village, and from Willow Springs Road to East Avenue. The purpose of this study will be as follows:

1. Assess the capacity of the Village's existing sewer system based on existing topography, sewer infrastructure, and flood data collected from the most recent storm. Work will include performing a pipe flow analysis utilizing available computer simulations to model the available capacity of the sewer system based on various storm events.

2. In cooperation with the La Grange Country Club, evaluate the topography and drainage characteristics of storm water discharging from the Country Club Property into Village sewer systems and onto local roadways.
3. Assess various alternatives for improvements that result in a reduction of the flooding issues experienced in the most recent rain event. Provide assessment of the level of protection against flooding associated with each alternative. At a minimum flood reduction measures to be considered include the following:
 - a. Relief sewer similar in scope to the Maple Avenue Relief Sewer
 - b. In cooperation with the La Grange Country Club, evaluate flood control measures for the Country Club property, which include improvements to the open channel flow, an assessment of localized storage of storm water on the Country Club property, and construction of a flood wall along Brainard Avenue to capture and direct storm water away from local properties.
4. Make recommendations for improvements to the Village's sewer system based on an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with each alternative. Construction costs associated with the each alternative will be included.
5. Identify any regulatory requirements or issues for each of the alternatives presented.
6. Provide final report with executive summary which details the results of the above analysis of each of the tasks.

In addition to the objectives stated above, this study will serve as planning document that will provide the Village guidance as it develops future long term capital improvement projects to address flooding within this drainage basin.

Based on the above scope of work, Heuer and Associates provided a proposal in the amount of \$24,646.92 for the development of a preliminary engineering study for the combined sewer drainage basin south of 47th Street. Since this study is not included in the FY2010-11 budget, a budget amendment at the end of the year will be necessary to recognize this expenditure. We will seek to offset the costs associated with this project from other capital projects not yet initiated. This report is planned to be completed at the end of October so that this information is available in the development of future capital improvement programs.

We recommend approval of the task order with Heuer and Associates in the total amount of \$24,646.92 for the development of a preliminary engineering study for the combined sewer drainage basin south of 47th Street.

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
Administrative Offices

BOARD REPORT

TO: Village President, Village Clerk,
Board of Trustees and Village Attorney

FROM: Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Village Manager
Andrianna Peterson, Assistant Village Manager
Lou Cipparrone, Finance Director

DATE: August 9, 2010

RE: **RESOLUTION – INITIATING THE SUBMISSION OF A
PUBLIC QUESTION TO SUPPORT REGIONAL ACTIONS
TO ATTAIN LONG-TERM PENSION SUSTAINABILITY**

In February, 2010 the Village of La Grange adopted a resolution urging the Illinois General Assembly to consider pension reform measures. More specifically, the resolution urged the General Assembly to: (1) quickly enact comprehensive, significant and progressive pension reform and (2) to discontinue its practice of granting pension benefits while shifting the responsibility of paying for those benefits onto municipalities. The latter legislative action is commonly referred to as an “unfunded mandate”.

To raise the public’s awareness of pension funding and reform issues, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, as well as other municipal associations, have recommended that municipalities place an advisory referendum on their ballots in the upcoming general election on November 2.

The attached resolution, if approved by the Village Board, would submit a public question to the voters of La Grange at the November 2, 2010 general election as follows:

“Shall the Illinois General Assembly and Governor take immediate steps to implement meaningful public safety pension reform which will relieve the extensive burden on local taxpayers now that the General Assembly and Governor have reformed the pension systems for all other public employees?”

We recommend that the resolution be approved.

RESOLUTION R-10-

INITIATING THE SUBMISSION OF A PUBLIC QUESTION TO SUPPORT REGIONAL ACTIONS TO ATTAIN LONG-TERM PENSION SUSTAINABILITY

WHEREAS, preserving the public safety, health and welfare of its citizens is a critical priority and of paramount concern of the Village of La Grange; and

WHEREAS, the Village of La Grange, like many communities across the State of Illinois, has been experiencing a significant increase in required contributions to fund the pension of eligible municipal employees; and

WHEREAS, the actuarially determined contribution for the Village of La Grange Firefighter Pension Fund has increased by \$236,903 or 44.1 percent from the 2007 tax levy to the 2009 tax levy; with the 2009 tax levy equaling approximately \$38,676 or 52.0 percent of salary per plan member; and

WHEREAS, the actuarially determined contribution for the Village of La Grange Police Pension Fund has increased by \$341,285 or 70.7 percent from the 2007 tax levy to the 2009 tax levy; the 2009 tax levy equaling approximately \$30,510 or 37.6 percent of salary per plan member; and

WHEREAS, a combination of factors including legislatively-mandated pension benefit increases, investment losses, cumulative wage increases and others have contributed to this situation; and

WHEREAS, these steadily escalating pension costs have created a fiscal crisis that is consuming an ever increasing portion of the Village of La Grange's municipal budget and threatens the long-term sustainability of the pension funds and the continuation of existing levels of public safety services; and

WHEREAS, while the Village of La Grange recognizes that offering a quality pension program is vital for the recruitment and retention of quality public employees, it also recognizes that increasing public safety pension costs place local pension funds in financial jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly reformed the pension systems for all public employees in the spring 2010 session with the exception of police officers, firefighters and sheriffs; and

WHEREAS, without both immediate and long-term legislative relief from these escalating pension costs, the Village of La Grange and many other communities across the state are faced with complex choices, including budget cuts that reduce or eliminate vital services; compromise public safety service levels; defer critical infrastructure maintenance and repairs; and/or increase the burden on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, because Article XIII, Section 5 of the Illinois Constitution does not allow earned pension benefits to be diminished or impaired, the General Assembly must exercise extreme care in any pension enhancements that may cripple governments' ability to fund both pension and other essential operations, especially in times of economic hardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and the Village Board of the Village of La Grange, Cook County, State of Illinois, that:

SECTION ONE: Incorporation of Recitals. The foregoing recitals are by this reference incorporated into and made a part of the resolution as if fully set forth.

SECTION TWO: Public Question on Pension Sustainability. A public question shall be submitted to the voters of the Village of La Grange, Cook County, State of Illinois, at the November 2, 2010 general election (or at the next available election permitted by the general election law) as follows:

Shall the Illinois General Assembly and Governor take immediate steps to implement meaningful public safety pension reform which will relieve the No <input type="checkbox"/> extensive burden on local taxpayers now that the General Assembly and Governor have reformed the pension systems for all other public employees?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
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SECTION THREE: Publication: Filing. The Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this authorizing resolution within ten days after passage in a newspaper of general circulation within the Village and to file this authorizing resolution or other related matters with the appropriate election officials in accordance with applicable law.

SECTION FOUR: Effective Date: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this ___ day of _____, 2010.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2010.

Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:

Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk