

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

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

Monday, April 11, 2011 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange public hearing and regular meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk Thomas Morsch, the following were:

PRESENT: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, and Palermo with President Asperger presiding.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Assistant Community Development Dir. / Planner Angela Mesaros
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Police Chief Mike Holub
Fire Chief Bill Bryzgalski

President Asperger explained that there would be a public hearing prior to the regular Village Board meeting this evening.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2011-12 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget:
Referred to President Asperger

President Asperger indicated that notice of this Public Hearing had been posted and published according to State Statute and that the budget document has been available for inspection at the Village Hall and the La Grange Public Library as well as posted on the Village website. President Asperger noted the public hearing represents the conclusion of the process by which public input has been solicited throughout the development of the budget document and asked if anyone in the audience had any oral or written comments or questions on the FY 2011-12

Operating and Capital Improvements Budget. There being none, President Asperger inquired of Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn if any written comments had been received and was informed none specific to this hearing. However, Village Manager Pilipiszyn noted that citizen comments received relative to capital improvements and public safety were distributed to the Village Board for consideration.

At 7:38 p.m. with no additional oral or written comments the public hearing was closed and the Village Board meeting was convened, with the same Village Officials as the Public Hearing being in attendance.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Proclamation – Arbor Day

President Asperger stated that the Village of La Grange has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 28th consecutive year and proclaimed April 29, 2011 as Arbor Day. President Asperger invited the public to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a tree at the Ogden Avenue Elementary School. President Asperger recommended that the Proclamation declaring April 29, 2011 as Arbor Day in La Grange be approved. It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the proclamation, seconded by Trustee Horvath and approved by voice vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Katie Cannizzaro who resides in the vicinity of Catherine and 52nd Street feels the need for additional parking at Spring Avenue and Gurrie Schools (item 6-A), however is not in favor of replacing green space with concrete.

Jim Bergschneider, 920 S. Spring Avenue expressed concerns with the proposed improvements for parking at Spring Avenue and Gurrie Schools and suggested several alternatives.

Steve Metsch, 1055 S. Catherine added his concerns with the loss of green space and his opposition to the proposed variation. Mr. Metsch suggested parking on the street as an alternative.

Sterling Topol, 641 S. Sixth Avenue expressed his opposition to paving over the tennis courts.

Evelina Springer, 741 S. Waiola Avenue as President of the Parent Teacher Organization at Spring Avenue School expressed her support of the proposal.

Kathy Gibbons, Seventh Avenue as President of the Parent Teacher Organization at Gurrie School, also expressed her support of the proposal.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone Avenue expressed grave concerns at the loss of green space and suggested shared parking as an option. Ms. Naseef would also like to see further study of the matter and hopefully a better solution.

Mark Smith, School Board President for School District 105 expressed his support for the proposed set back variance. Mr. Smith noted working with Village staff; the Police Department; architects; and engineers to consider the best plan and solution for the parking issue with the least impact on the schools and citizens.

Red Weller, 134 S. Sixth Avenue requested the Board approve the proposed variance. Mr. Weller noted negative repercussions to little league baseball fields if the variance were denied.

Frank and Kathy Mungo, 525 S. Waiola expressed numerous concerns with the proposed Village Budget. Mrs. Mungo noted her belief in the need for public safety and the utilization of funds for additional staffing in the Police Department and presented her suggestions.

Lynn Petrak, suggested the planting of a tree at Spring Avenue and Gurrie Schools and President Asperger noted that each year a different school is chosen to receive the Arbor Day tree.

5. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

A. Engineering Services Agreements – KLOA – Pedestrian Safety Enhancements:

- 1) Crosswalk Safety Enhancements – 47th Street Adjoining Waiola Park
- 2) Crosswalk Safety Enhancements – La Grange Road and 52nd Street
- 3) Crosswalk Safety Enhancements – 47th Street and 9th Avenue
- 4) Pedestrian Push Button Relocation Project – La Grange Road

B. Budget Amendments (#R-11-05) – Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2011

C. Material Purchase – Public Works / 2011 Spring Tree Planting Program & Resolution (#R-11-06) – Public Works / Suburban Tree Consortium

D. Open Meetings Act – Review of Closed Session Minutes

E. Consolidated Voucher 110328 (\$569,709.51)

F. Consolidated Voucher 110411 (\$574,807.10)

G. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, March 14, 2011

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

Omnibus items approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston
Palermo, and President Asperger
Nays: None
Absent: None

6. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance (#O-11-07) – Variation – Front and Corner Side Yards, Spring-Gurrie Schools, 1001 S. Spring Avenue, School District 105: Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler explained that La Grange School District 105 has applied for a variation from front and corner side yards in order to remove, rebuild and expand an existing parking lot at Gurrie and Spring Avenue Schools.

Trustee Kuchler detailed the need for additional parking to accommodate increased staff due to growth in student population. Noting citizen concerns relating to parking; safety issues; and parked cars along with adjoining tennis courts owned by the Park District and highly utilized baseball fields, the School District has been working with Village staff for the past two years to develop a parking plan.

Trustee Kuchler added that the requested variation falls within the authorized limits of the Zoning Code and on February 24, 2011 the Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on this matter. The motion to recommend that the variation be granted failed by a five to two roll call vote with all of the Commissioners present, at least four aye votes are required to decide in favor of any application.

Trustee Kuchler added that in accordance with State Statute, the approval of any proposed variation which fails to receive the approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals will not be passed except by the favorable vote of two-thirds majority vote by roll call of all Trustees (four out of six Trustees) currently holding office.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to approve the ordinance for a variation of front and corner side yards for Spring-Gurrie Schools located at 1001 S. Spring Avenue, School District 105, seconded by Trustee Langan.

President Asperger invited Dr. Glenn Schlichting, Superintendent of School District 105 to speak.

Dr. Schlichting detailed the background and numerous issues and citizen concerns regarding the additional parking for teachers. Although there is no perfect plan, Dr. Schlichting indicated his belief and that of the School Board that the proposed variance before the Board is the best possible solution for student safety.

Trustee Kuchler inquired what the school district would do to encourage the teaching staff to utilize the proposed parking lot. Dr. Schlichting noted that teachers are excited about the proposal and he is confident it will be utilized.

Trustee Holder inquired if this plan would enlarge the existing parking area and if the baseball fields would remain the same. Dr. Schlichting responded affirmatively.

Trustee Langan inquired if the additional parking spaces would be enough to accommodate the added teaching staff and was informed yes.

Trustee Palermo expressed concerns about the safety measures to separate parked cars from the baseball fields and requested information of Village staff to compare and contrast between the on-street and diagonal parking space solutions. Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson was asked to respond and clarify.

Trustee Langan noted his support of this proposal. Trustee Langan believes the School District has made careful and thoughtful considerations on the effects of residents and the Park District while focusing on safety.

Trustee Horvath concurred with Trustee Langan and believes the School District is making the best compromise while keeping student safety as their goal.

Trustee Holder indicated his support and believes this is a good plan for solving a tough problem. Trustee Holder expressed his gratitude to all involved for their thoughtful deliberation.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his support for this item and noted his appreciation for the commissioners in their deliberations.

President Asperger clarified that the ordinance before the Board this evening is the revised plan for 32 spaces and not 56 spaces as was presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None
Absent: None

B. Resolution (#R-11-07) – Approving the FY 2011-12 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget: Referred to Trustee Holder

Trustee Holder explained that this item has evolved over several workshops which were conducted in the last six months and a public hearing which was conducted earlier this evening to accept any oral or written public comments. Trustee Holder indicated this five-year budget is used as a guideline for financial, administrative and operational purposes, however only the FY2011-12 operating and capital improvement budget is required to be adopted.

Trustee Holder noted that although a struggling economy has challenged the budget process, the Village has taken steps to reduce operating and personnel expenses. The Village continues to observe conservative financial management practices, recognizing the downward pressure on its financial means, while being sensitive to financial challenges being experienced by taxpayers, yet at the same time maintaining community vitality.

Trustee Holder detailed the Village's changes in funding and financial assumptions reflected in the FY2011-12 budget and noted financial discipline by adhering closely to its five-year financial plan.

Trustee Holder noted the Village Boards commitment to adequately fund pensions based upon independent actuarial valuations of the funds.

It was moved by Trustee Holder to adopt the Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Horvath expressed concerns with financial challenges and explained his reasoning to reallocate funds to augment police staffing.

Trustee Horvath moved to amend the FY 2011-12 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget and to place \$50,000 back into the Part-time Police Officer Program, seconded by Trustee Palermo.

Trustee Langan inquired where the funds would be transferred from.

Trustee Horvath noted possibilities being TIF surplus funds or utilize funds which will become available when state funds are used for pedestrian crosswalk improvements.

President Asperger clarified that grant funds for the crosswalks have not yet been received.

Trustee Langan is not in favor of utilizing TIF funds.

Trustee Kuchler expressed concerns with the timing of this proposed amendment, after the matter had already been discussed in detail by the Village Board.

Trustee Livingston expressed his support for law enforcement and public safety however is most opposed to the use of TIF funds. Trustee Livingston noted his comfort with adopting the budget as is, adding that line items can be revisited.

Trustee Holder concurred with Trustee Livingston and is not in favor of amending the budget.

Trustee Palermo noted he would support the amendment to the budget.

It had been moved and seconded to amend the FY 2011-12 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget.

Motion failed by a 4 to 2 roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Horvath and Palermo
Nays: Trustees Holder, Langan, Livingston, and Kuchler
Absent: None

It had been moved and seconded to approve the FY 2011-12 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget as presented.

Trustee Palermo noted difficult economic conditions and expressed his views and grave concerns regarding Pension funding. Trustee Palermo suggested that more personnel expense reductions and service reductions may be required in the future, as well as revenue enhancements.

Trustee Kuchler is not in favor of a tax increase to enhance revenues and noted that the Village has consistently made its annual required contributions to its pension funds.

President Asperger requested the Board to focus on the motion to adopt the budget.

Approved by a 5 to 1 roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston and Palermo

Nays: Trustee Horvath
Absent: None

President Asperger noted previous comments from Mr. and Mrs. Mungo relating to the budget. President Asperger expressed her concurrence with Trustee Holder with staff's dedication and shared sacrifice. President Asperger noted extensive analysis and dialogue by the Village Board involving the proposed Village budget. President Asperger added that all aspects of the budget are important in their own way and the Village Board recognizes that by looking at the document as a whole.

C. Ordinance (#O-11-08) – Water Rate Increase: Referred to Trustee Holder

Trustee Holder explained that the Water Fund was established as an enterprise fund to finance the cost of operating, maintaining and replacing the Village's water distribution system. In order to maintain sufficient reserves for operating expenses incurred, to replace water meters and water mains, and to rehabilitate the pumping station, a 10 percent increase each year for the next two years effective May 1, 2011 is being proposed. The estimated increase in cost to homeowners is approximately \$65 annually. Trustee Holder noted that the increase in the water rate does not affect sewer revenues.

It was moved by Trustee Holder to approve the ordinance for a 10 percent water rate increase from \$5.286 per one hundred cubic feet to \$5.815 per one hundred cubic feet, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Kuchler noted his reluctance to support this increase.

Trustee Horvath inquired about meter replacement and Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham responded.

Trustee Langan reminded the Board that for several years the Village had absorbed previous water rate increases passed along by Mc Cook due to water rates charged by the City of Chicago.

Trustee Palermo inquired as to when the Village absorbed the water rate increase and Finance Director Lou Cipparrone responded.

Trustee Horvath expressed his concerns with water accountability and increased efficiency to be gained by new water meters, leading him to indicate his unfavorable position on this item.

Trustee Livingston noted his support and the importance of public health.

Approved by a 4 to 2 roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Kuchler, Langan, and Livingston
Nays: Trustees Horvath and Palermo
Absent: None

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn stated that there will be extended hours at Village Hall for renewal of vehicle and animal licenses. In addition, he informed residents of the scheduled increase in refuse and yard waste stickers. Information was provided regarding the upcoming Lyons Township High School computer recycling event and lastly Mr. Pilipiszyn noted that Village Hall will be closed on Friday, April 22 for a Spring Holiday, however a full complement of public safety personnel will be available in the event of an emergency.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:57 p.m. it moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Palermo.
Approved by voice vote.

Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:

Thomas Morsch, Village Clerk

Approved Date: April 25, 2011