

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, December 8, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The public hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk Robert Milne, the following were:

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

ABSENT: None

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

President Asperger announced that there would be two meetings this evening. The first being a public hearing regarding the 2008 tax levy for fiscal year 2009-10 and the regular Village Board meeting.

II. 2008 PROPERTY TAX LEVY REQUEST FOR USE IN FY 2009-10

President Asperger explained that prior to the adoption of a tax levy when the aggregate levy is more than five percent greater than the preceding year's tax levy extension, exclusive of debt service, a public hearing is required in accordance with the Truth in Taxation Act. As the proposed levy for 2008 exceeds five percent due to the levy amount allowed under the property tax cap and projected new growth, a public hearing has been scheduled for this evening. The amount of the Village's proposed property tax increase is 5.47%. This increase was reviewed by the Village Board on November 10, 2008.

III. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE (NO WRITTEN COMMENTS)

No oral or written testimony was received.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:38 p.m. it was moved by President Asperger and seconded by Trustee Langan that the Public hearing adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk Robert Milne, the following were:

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

ABSENT: None

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

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Asperger extended thanks to all involved in the successful Holiday Walk event sponsored by the La Grange Business Association. Special gratitude was given to the Public Works Department. President Asperger encouraged residents to continue to shop in La Grange.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Jack Thomas, 311 S. 6th Avenue as the petitioner for the variation request indicated his presence if the Board had questions.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Award of Contract – Public Works Department / Emergency Equipment Repair / Front End Loader (Patten Tractor \$19,775)
- B. Intergovernmental Agreement – Consortium Testing for Firefighter / Paramedic Applicants Through the College of Du Page
- C. Consolidated Voucher 081208 (\$721,565.43)
- D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Town Meeting, Monday, November 24, 2008

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, and D of the Omnibus, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance (#O-08-29) – Zoning Text Amendment Creating Variation Authority for Maximum Allowable Height of Detached Garages: Referred to Trustee Horvath

Trustee Horvath explained that on October 12, 2008 the Village Board considered the Plan Commission's recommendation for approval of a Text Amendment to the Zoning Code to authorize the creation of a variation for increases in height of detached garages. After much discussion by the Village Board it was determined specific clauses were too restrictive and the Village Board remanded the topic back to the Plan Commission.

Upon direction from the Village Board, the Plan Commission conducted a new public hearing on November 19, 2008 and Commissioners voted on recommendations to strike certain conditions. Trustee Horvath noted that staff concurs with the recommendations of the Plan Commission and the Village Attorney has revised the ordinance to reflect the changes.

Trustee Horvath moved to approve the zoning text amendment, thus creating the authority to review variation applications to increase the maximum height limitations of 19 feet and 15 feet mean height for detached garages, seconded by Trustee Palermo.

Trustee Horvath expressed his belief that the outcome of the revised wording is acceptable.

Trustee Palermo noted his support of the item and believes the Plan Commission thoroughly reviewed the matter.

Trustee Wolf inquired if the vote is just for a text amendment and not the approval of any variation request and President Asperger responded affirmatively.

Trustee Langan believes the overall discussion by the Plan Commission was thorough, however Trustee Langan is not in agreement with striking wall partitions.

Motion approved by a five to one roll call vote.

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

B. Ordinance (#O-08-30) – Abatement of 2008 Tax Levy / 2005 Street Light Refunding Bonds: Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler briefly explained the background of the Residential Streetlight Program noting the Village Board's approval to issue alternate revenue bonds in 1998 to complete the program. Due to more favorable interest rates in 2005, the Village adopted an ordinance authorizing the refunding of the remaining outstanding bonds, thereby saving the Village approximately \$100,000 in interest over the remaining life of the issue which matures on December 1, 2017. Trustee Kuchler added that the Series 2005 bond issue is a general obligation, alternate revenue source issue, backed by the full faith and credit of the Village. Revenues derived from the collection of utility taxes are pledged to pay the principal and interest expenditures related to this issue. Because sufficient revenues from the utility tax are available within the General Fund, it is appropriate to abate this portion of the tax levy.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to approve the Ordinance abating taxes levied for 2008 with respect to the \$2,785,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Alternate Revenue Source, Series 2005, in the amount of \$293,883, seconded by Trustee Langan. Approved by roll call vote.

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

C. Resolution - (Library Resolution No. R-11-A-2008) – Levying a Tax for Library Operating Purposes: Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler explained the La Grange Library Board of Trustee's 2008 tax levy request for operating purposes is \$1,787,056 which is a 5.47% increase over last year's tax levy. This is the allowable increase under the Property Tax Limitation Act and is equal to the increase of the Village tax levy request. Because the La Grange Library is a "municipal library" rather than a separate "public library district" it must levy property taxes as part of the Village of La Grange tax levy.

Trustee Kuchler noted that representatives from the Library are in attendance to answer any questions.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to accept La Grange Public Library Resolution approved by the Library Board, seconded by Trustee Langan. Approved by roll call vote.

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

D. Ordinance (#O-08-31) – 2008 Property Tax Levy for Village Operations: Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler explained that the preliminary 2008 property tax levy was reviewed and discussed in detail at the November 10, 2008 Village Board meeting. It was determined the increase in the levy exceeded the Truth in Taxation requirements and therefore a public hearing was held prior to this meeting. The final tax levy includes an increase of 5.47%, exclusive of debt service, over the prior year's tax extension. The increase reflects the allowable increase under the Property Tax Limitation Act of 4.1% (Consumer Price Index) as of December 2007.

Trustee Kuchler specifically noted that on average, a home with an assessed property value of \$250,000 would incur an annual decrease of \$24.91 from the Village levy and an increase of \$3.81 from the Library levy.

Although a Special Service Area levy is filed with Cook County to fund on-going maintenance of the Central Business District, it is not subject to Truth in Taxation requirements. By ordinance the Special Service Area levy is to be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index utilized as part of the Property Tax Limitation Act. Trustee Kuchler noted the 2008 Special Service Area levy of \$56,985, reflects an increase of 4.1% over last year's levy of \$54,741.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to adopt the ordinance requesting a 2008 property tax levy of \$7,155,844, exclusive of debt service, which is a 5.47% increase from the 2007 levy, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by roll call vote.

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

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn noted that the Village Hall will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24 and December 31 and all day on Thursday, December 25 and January 1 for the holidays. A full compliment of public safety personnel will be available during the holidays and regular office hours will resume on Friday, December 26 and January 2.

The regular meeting of the Village Board scheduled for December 22 has been cancelled and the next regular Village Board meeting will be on January 12, 2009.

Mr. Pilipiszyn indicated that complimentary holiday tree pick-up will commence after December 25 and run through January 8.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Livingston acknowledged Rob Metzger for his dedication and involvement in the Park District and community.

Trustee Horvath extended thanks and holiday wishes to staff and audience.

President Asperger added her sincere thanks and holiday wishes to Board members, staff and audience.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:05 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:

Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk

Approved Date

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