

## MINUTES

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

Monday, August 25, 2008 - 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 7:30 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk Robert Milne, the following were present:

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn  
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson  
Village Attorney Mark Burkland  
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin  
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone  
Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic  
Fire Chief David Fleege  
Doings Reporter Jane Michaels  
Chicago Tribune Reporter Joe Ruzich  
Suburban Life Reporter Joe Sinopoli

### 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### A. Proclamation – Community Diversity Group 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Race Unity Rally

President Asperger proclaimed Sunday, September 14, 2008 as Race Unity Day and indicated that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally would be held in the Village Hall Auditorium beginning at 3:00 p.m. President Asperger noted this as an annual event for all to gather and celebrate diversity in the community. Trustee Langan moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by unanimous voice vote. President Asperger invited Linda Eastman of the Community Diversity Group to comment on the item. Ms. Eastman encouraged all to attend and participate in this annual event.

President Asperger announced that the La Grange Business Association will be conducting the "Lounging In La Grange" charity auction on Thursday, September 4. On September 6 and 7 the West End Arts Festival will take place. Residents were reminded to drive safely as school has resumed.

President Asperger explained that immediately following the regular Board meeting, a presentation and the continued discussion of the La Grange Theater would commence.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Rutkowski, 309 S. Kensington Avenue noted his presence and requested permission to speak during the Board's discussion of his item on the agenda. Permission was granted by President Asperger.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance – Variation – Side and Rear Yard Regulations for Accessory Structure / John Edinger and Maria Nidos, 226 S. Ashland (President Asperger noted this item has been removed from the agenda at the applicant's request.)
- B. Authorization to Participate in the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) / Suburban Purchasing Cooperative 2008 Thermoplastic Street Marking Program (\$16,862)
- C. Authorization to Participate in the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) / Suburban Purchasing Cooperative 2008 Crack Sealing Program (\$25,000)
- D. Purchase – Fire Department Vehicle Radio / Intercom Communication Equipment (Miner Electronics Corporation, Joliet, IL - \$16,345)
- E. Consolidated Voucher 080811 (\$580,557.86)
- F. Consolidated Voucher 080825 (\$542,234.91)
- G. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, July 28, 2008

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items B, C, D, E, F, and G of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Kuchler. 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-08-21) – Variation – Maximum Building Coverage / Michael Rutkowski, 309 S. Kensington Avenue: Referred to Trustee Horvath

Trustee Horvath explained that Michael Rutkowski, owner of the property at 309 S. Kensington Avenue, has applied for a variation from maximum building coverage in order to construct a two car garage. Trustee Horvath gave detailed information relating to the request for this variation, noting that on July 17, 2008 the Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on this matter and the motion to recommend that the variation be granted failed with three ayes and two nays, at least four ayes are required to decide in favor of any application. Trustee Horvath noted that two Commissioners were absent.

Reasons on the decision by the Zoning Board of Appeals were identified. Trustee Horvath stated that in accordance with State Statute, the approval of any proposed variation which fails to receive the approval of the 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 Horvath to approve the ordinance granting a zoning variation for construction of a garage at 309 S. Kensington Avenue, seconded by Trustee Palermo.

Michael Rutkowski noted his desire to maintain the historic preservation of their home while improving safer conditions by not having to back cars in and out. Mr. Rutkowski presented the Board with signatures from surrounding neighbors in favor of the variation, adding that the proposed plan would eliminate two existing nonconformities.

Trustee Horvath concurred with the reasoning articulated by the three members of the Zoning Board of Appeals who supported the variation. Also, Trustee Horvath noted the lot size and elimination of non-conformities as additional reasons why he supported this variation.

Trustee Wolf believes that a request to construct a 20 x 20 garage is reasonable and indicated her favorable vote.

Trustee Livingston believes the Zoning Board of Appeals did a good job in sorting out the facts. Trustee Livingston noted his support for the same reasons stated by members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the fact that non-conformities would be remedied.

Trustee Palermo noted his favor.

Trustee Kuchler felt that the request was appropriate for the lot.

Trustee Palermo inquired if applicants are informed of the required number of votes needed for a positive recommendation by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Patrick Benjamin Director of Community Development explained the process by which applicants are advised by the Chair of the Commission.

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 explained the implementation of an upgraded emergency notification system entitled, "CodeRed." The system has the ability to deliver prerecorded telephone notification information messages to notify, inform or instruct residents and businesses on matters of public safety. Mr. Pilipiszyn clearly noted that businesses and residents must register their contact information.

Mr. Pilipiszyn noted the final stages of the Gilbert Avenue Water Main Project and thanked residents for their patience. The Burlington Avenue Water Main Project is expected to begin this week and last approximately one month.

Painting of the Ogden Avenue railroad trestle is also close to completion.

Lastly, the free brush pick-up will begin on Tuesday, September 2 due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 1 at which time Village administrative offices will be closed.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON AGENDA

Kathy Deane, 100 S. Ashland Avenue read an editorial printed in the Doings Newspaper relevant to closed session meetings.

President Asperger feels the editorial was not thorough and stands by her personal comments.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Horvath reminded residents of the beginning of the school year and encouraged safe driving habits.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his favor to host a 5K run in the Village if an organization is thinking about such an event.

Trustee Palermo expressed concerns with the brevity of Closed Session minutes and would like to see more information going forward.

Trustee Langan commented on the number of public meetings held to discuss the theatre proposal and encouraged President Asperger to meet with the editorial board.

Trustee Livingston noted the reason for closed sessions is to protect taxpayers and the public, when sensitive matters need to be discussed, so that others cannot take advantage by the disclosure of such information. He cited similarities to the process of accepting sealed bids. Decisions are made in public. Trustee Livingston emphasized that the Village wants to do it right and will continue to do so in the future.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m. President Asperger announced that a Special Village Board meeting would be held to further discuss the proposed renovation of the La Grange Theatre after which the Board would adjourn.

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Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:

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Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk

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Approved Date