

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES TOWN MEETING
Community Center
200 Washington
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, October 23, 2006 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange town meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Asperger. In the absence of Village Clerk Milne, President Asperger conducted the roll call as follows:

PRESENT: Trustees Cremieux, Horvath, Langan, Livingston, Pann and Wolf with President Asperger presiding.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Village Prosecutor John Kenney
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros
Environmental Health / Development Supervisor, Curt Trusner
Building Inspector Rich Urban
Code Enforcement Patrick Boyle
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Public Works Director Ken Watkins
Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic
Public Works Foreman Russell Davenport
Police Lieutenant Vic Arnold
Fire Chief David Fleege
Suburban Life Reporter Joe Sinopoli

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Asperger welcomed all to the second in a series of three Town Meetings being held in various areas of the Village and began by introducing Village officials and staff to the audience. President Asperger explained that there would be a brief business meeting prior to opening the floor for audience comments and questions.

President Asperger stated that the next Plan Commission meeting scheduled on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall will consist of continued discussion of Zoning Code Amendments, with the use of computer models to illustrate proposed building coverage changes and floor area ratio.

The La Grange Business Association's Halloween Walk will be held on Saturday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. at Cossitt School playground and carved pumpkins will be displayed in the Public Plaza adjacent to the parking structure. Hours for trick or treating on October 31 are from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

President Asperger gave detailed information on early and absentee voting as determined by the Cook County Clerk.

The last day for the Farmer's Market will be Thursday, October 26.

With sincere appreciation of his military duty in Iraq, President Asperger noted that La Grange Police Officer Miles Odom has returned and will be honored on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2006 at the Robert E. Coulter Jr., American Legion Post in La Grange.

Lastly, President Asperger announced that the La Grange Police Department is accepting applications for their Police Cadet program and young adults between the ages of 14 and 19 are eligible. An orientation will be held at the La Grange Village Hall on November 15 for newly accepted applicants.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Patricia Gilbert, 40 East Avenue inquired about item 4B, the creation of parking restrictions on the 700 Block of East Elm. Ms. Gilbert indicated a "No Parking" sign had just been posted on East Avenue. Public Works Director Ken Watkins noted that the sign posted on East Avenue was not related to the agenda item and he would contact the County for information on the sign installed on East Avenue.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-06-33) – Central Business District / Creation of Short Term Parking Spaces / Loading Zones
- B. Ordinance (#O-06-34) – Creation of Parking Restrictions / 700 Block of E. Elm Avenue (Elm Avenue between Washington Avenue and East Avenue)
- C. Ordinance (#O-06-35) – Design Review Permit (DRP) #70, 301 West Hillgrove, Jerry Burjan / Burcor Properties

- D. Ordinance (#O-06-36) – Consolidation of Lots, 809 South 6th Avenue, 813 South 6th avenue, 824 South 7th Avenue and 850 South 7th Avenue (La Grange Bible Church)
- E. Purchase – Police Department / Replacement of Uninterruptible Power System (D & B Power Associates Inc., Batavia, Illinois - \$12,673)
- F. Consolidated Voucher 061023 - \$726,214.23
- G. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, October 9, 2006

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

Ayes: Trustees Cremieux, Horvath, Langan, Livingston, Pann, Wolf and President Asperger
Nays: None
Absent: None

Prior to opening the floor to the audience, President Asperger noted numerous accomplishments throughout the Village which included:

- the construction and opening of the parking structure last December
- the construction of the Public Plaza
- reconstruction of Hillgrove Avenue
- record numbers of construction permits for both remodeling and new single family homes
- implementation of voter approved ¼ of 1% sales tax increase for maintenance of the Central Business District
- a special service area within the TIF District for commercial property owners to contribute their fair share to the maintenance of the Central Business District
- refinanced 1998 Streetlight bonds effecting a \$100,000 savings to Village residents
- enhanced e-mail notification to residents who choose to sign up
- optional on-line application for direct debt authorization – water bill payments
- sewer cleaning and televising survey to determine repair and replacement needs
- emergency disaster training
- new state of the art dispatch center
- participating in regional drug investigation leading to numerous arrests
- part-time police officer program
- working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian and traffic safety within the Ogden Avenue and La Grange Road corridors

- new library under construction
- new hospital patient care wing
- new Park District recreation facility

President Asperger indicated that the next Town Meeting on November 27 would include information on emergency services and disaster planning.

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

None

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn explained that weather conditions have delayed the completion of the protective sealant application to the second and third level of the parking structure and thanked residents for their patience. Mr. Pilipiszyn noted that the next Village Board meeting would be at the Village Hall on November 13 and the last of the Village Board Town meetings would be held at Seventh Avenue School on November 27. Mr. Pilipiszyn also noted that Village offices would be closed on Friday, November 10 in observance of Veteran's Day.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Ron Mc Quigg, 218 East Avenue expressed his concerns at not having a community swimming pool. President Asperger explained that previously the Park District presented a referendum to voters to construct a swimming pool, however it was rejected. President Asperger suggested that Mr. Mc Quigg contact the La Grange Park District directly for more information. It was noted that the new swimming pool at the Lyons Township High School South Campus will have community hours.

Ms. Noel, 725 E. Cossitt noted that large trucks have been traveling on Cossitt Avenue through the residential area. Public Works Director Ken Watkins believes the trucks are utilizing this emanate from Brookfield, and caused by weight limit changes in La Grange Park. President Asperger noted that the Village would contact both Brookfield and La Grange Park to seek more information and a solution.

Patricia Topps, 211 E. Elm indicated that large trucks are traveling along Hayes Avenue and drivers are littering. President Asperger responded that the Department of Public Works would follow-up on the matter and suggested that residents attempt to get the license plate number and report the matter to the Police.

Steve Guggenheim, 321 S. Sixth Avenue inquired why the parking structure was partially closed. President Asperger referred to Village Manager Pilipiszyn who indicated that the protective sealant Kelmar being applied is subject to specific weather conditions. Mr. Guggenheim inquired why the sealant was not applied sooner and was informed that the Village Board originally took a conservative approach on cost concerns, however was later advised that the sealant would reduce annual maintenance.

Jim Mc Daniel, 213 Hayes Avenue stated that he heard the Community Center was going to be demolished. President Asperger responded that the Village owns the property and there are no plans to demolish the building.

Leonard Bruce, 230 Sawyer expressed concerns relating to drugs and crime. President Asperger assured Mr. Bruce that the Village is working very hard to eradicate drugs and criminal activity, however community involvement is an important part.

A female resident inquired about the development of condominiums at Elm Avenue and Bluff Avenue and safety issues for pedestrian crossing along the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad at 47th Street and 9th Avenue. President Asperger referred the first question to Patrick Benjamin Community Development Director who indicated that the developer for the condominiums has recently filed a request for an extension. President Asperger explained that there is a long range plan to separate the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad grade crossings at 47th Street and East Avenue. President Asperger noted the Village would investigate pedestrian crossing improvements at 9th Avenue and 47th Street.

Joe Heniff, 30 S. Sixth Avenue inquired where cars will park if Village Parking Lot 2 is developed and President Asperger indicated that staff continues to seek alternate parking solutions should the lot be developed.

Joann who resides on East Avenue inquired if a traffic study was completed for the strip mall along Ogden Avenue and East Avenue and Mr. Benjamin noted that a traffic study was performed and recommendations were incorporated into the plan approvals.

Bri Bill on Sixth Avenue inquired if speed bumps could be placed in the alley between La Grange Road and Sixth Avenue to reduce speeders and President Asperger noted that transportation professionals discourage the use of speed bumps to calm traffic due to questionable effectiveness and safety concerns.

Keith Hollenbeck of the La Grange Bible Church noted that as a church they are attempting to address issues related to youth and drugs and thanked the Board for their support in this community effort.

Dan Colantuono, 344 S. Ninth Avenue inquired about sewer repairs and road construction for Bluff Avenue. Ken Watkins Director of Public Works noted that plans were submitted to the State of Illinois in the Spring and the Village hopes to have a response for funding by next year. He also inquired about a public park on the site of Meadowbrook Manor and was referred to the Park District.

Patricia Topps, 211 E. Elm aired concerns regarding the lack of street lights on Cossitt Avenue east of Bluff Avenue and sand seeping onto the public sidewalk from La Grange Materials. President Asperger noted that staff would look into her concerns.

David Bier inquired about the cumulative effect of sewer drains being constructed in rear yards and its impact on the Village's sewer system. President Asperger explained that the Village is budgeting for sewer replacements as needed. Public Works Director Ken Watkins explained that restrictors ease the amount of water draining into the sewers. President Asperger also noted that the Village is considering a maximum lot coverage standard as part of the Zoning Code review process.

Reverend Debra Williams – Pastor of Davis Memorial Church believes that audience comments made this evening impact the entire community and reiterated her request that the Village Board reactivate the Human Relations Commission to collaborate and interact so that decision making is represented by the entire community.

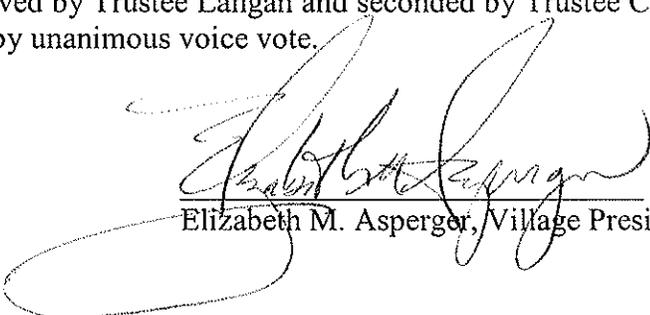
8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

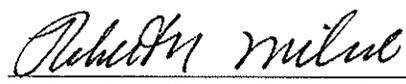
Trustee Cremieux thanked everyone for attending the Town Meeting and that such interaction makes the Village Board more effective.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Langan and seconded by Trustee Cremieux to adjourn. Approved by unanimous voice vote.


Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:


Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk

11/13/06
Approved Date