

MINUTES

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

Monday, March 13, 2006 - 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 7:33 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk Robert Milne, the following were:

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

ABSENT: Trustee Pann

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Sharon Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Village Planner Angela Mesaros
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Public Works Director Ken Watkins
Police Chief Mike Holub
Fire Chief David Fleege
Doings Reporter Ken Knutson

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Proclamation – Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of La Grange

President Asperger read the Proclamation announcing the celebration of the First Congregational Church of La Grange's 125th Anniversary and presented it to church member Jerry Palmer who accepted it on behalf of Pastor Lucas and the congregation.

B. Presentation – Debra Vershelde, Executive Director, Southwest Suburban Center on Aging (Senior Center)

President Asperger introduced Executive Director Debra Vershelde and requested her to comment on citizen inquiries regarding the Senior Center. Ms. Vershelde explained that the Senior Center is not closing, however strategically relocating recreational activities, meal programs and classes in order to more effectively deliver social services to seniors in need of such support.

Ms. Gloria Beasley questioned why the Senior Center is being disrupted and programs being relocated.

President Asperger invited senior residents in attendance to meet with Ms. Vershelde in the lower level conference room to further discuss their concerns.

C. Appointments – Fire Pension Board and Police Pension Board

President Asperger explained that recent changes in Illinois Pension Law dictate a restructuring of the Village's Fire Pension Board. The amended statute requires a board made up of five members be in place by April 17, 2006 with three members of the board elected by the participants of the pension fund and the Village President appointing the other two members. One appointment for the initially constituted board would be for a three year term, and the other for a two year term in order that the appointed members' terms be staggered, thereafter appointments would be for three year terms. President Asperger recommended Fire Chief David Fleege be appointed for an initial term of three years and Finance Director Lou Cipparrone be appointed for an initial term of two years.

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the appointments of Fire Chief David Fleege to serve on the Fire Pension Board for a three year term and Finance Director Lou Cipparrone to serve on the Fire Pension Board for a two year term, seconded by Trustee Cremieux. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

In order to be consistent with the restructuring of the Fire Pension Fund Board, President Asperger recommended that Police Chief Michael Holub be appointed to fill the current vacancy on the Police Pension Board for a two year term.

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the appointment of Police Chief Michael Holub to serve on the Police Pension Board for a two year term, seconded by Trustee Cremieux. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Although Trustee Wolf will be presenting agenda item 5B regarding the non-home rule sales tax, President Asperger wished to clarify for the benefit of the public, that the wording of the referendum ballot question was incomplete and the manner by which it would be addressed. President Asperger explained that in March of 2004 a referendum was approved by the voters for a ¼ of 1% increase for a non-home rule sales tax. It was brought to the Village's attention that the wording on the referendum was incomplete in that it omitted specific reference to the "service occupation tax" component of the sales tax; the language referred only to the "retailer's occupation" component of the tax. After disclosure to the Illinois Department of Revenue, the Village was advised by them to proceed in approving an ordinance necessary to impose the tax and that the Department of Revenue would review the matter administratively.

Continuing with announcements, President Asperger stated that the Board had previously met in a workshop to review the Village budget which is currently available for inspection at the La Grange Public Library and in the Village Clerk's office. President Asperger commended Finance Director Lou Cipparrone and his staff and noted that the Village Manager's budget message would be posted on the Village's website. The public hearing for the proposed budget is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2006 whereby all written and oral comments regarding the budget can be made and considered by the Village Board.

Lastly, President Asperger noted that the Plan Commission would meet Tuesday, March 14 in order to discuss a proposal presented to the Village regarding a Special Use Permit for the nursing home located at 339 S. Ninth Avenue.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Jim Palermo, 216 S. Ashland requested the entire budget be placed on the Village's website. President Asperger indicated that the Board would take Mr. Palermo's request into consideration.

Reverend Debra Williams requested an explanation of the not-for-profit solicitation for Helping Hand Rehabilitation. President Asperger explained that the Village has received a first time request to solicit donations from Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center who provide services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Advance Purchase – Fire Department / Utility Vehicle Replacement – (Anderson Ford of Berwyn, Illinois \$17,608)
- B. Award of Contract – Water System / High Lift Pump Replacement (Municipal Well and Pump of Waupum, Wisconsin \$11,433)

- C. Not-For-Profit Solicitation Permit – Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center
- D. Consolidated Voucher 060227 - \$532,805.33
- E. Consolidated Voucher 060313 - \$635,133.06
- F. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, February 13, 2006

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

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance (#O-06-01) – Variation – Maximum Building Coverage / Timothy and Stephanie Beale, 444 S. 8th Avenue: Referred to Trustee Livingston

Trustee Livingston explained that this new application submitted by the petitioners is to construct an addition which would meet the required setbacks of the Zoning Code but would exceed the maximum building coverage. Trustee Livingston added that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing at which the petitioners presented their application. The motion to recommend that the variation be granted carried by a vote of five ayes and two nays with conditions that no further additions to the principal structure increasing livable areas be considered for the property. The petitioners did not object to the provision, therefore, the ordinance before the Board provides that the provision would be recorded against the property in the Cook County Recorder's office, thereby ensuring that future owners will have knowledge of the provision and be bound by it.

Trustee Horvath expressed his favorable agreement with the compromise the petitioners had made in their application. Trustee Wolf inquired if the variation was just for this particular property and was informed yes.

It was moved by Trustee Livingston to approve the ordinance authorizing the variation, seconded by Trustee Cremieux. Approved by roll call vote.

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

B. Ordinance (#O-06-02) Non-Home Rule Sales Tax: Referred to Trustee Wolf

Trustee Wolf explained that in March of 2004 a referendum was approved by the voters for a ¼ of 1% increase for a non-home rule sales tax. Due to incorrect wording it is now necessary that the ordinance before the Board, which was based on the model drafted by the Illinois Department, be adopted in order to include both the “retailer’s occupation” and “service occupation” components of the tax. Trustee Wolf added that the ordinance must be filed with the State prior to April 1st in order for the tax to be effective July 1, 2006.

It was moved by Trustee Wolf to adopt the ordinance imposing non-home rule municipal retailers’ occupation and non-home rule municipal service occupation taxes, seconded by Trustee Cremieux. Approved by roll call vote.

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

C. Resolution (#R-06-04) – Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Village of La Grange and IAFF Local No. 2338 (Fire Fighters and Fire Lieutenants): Referred to Trustee Cremieux

Trustee Cremieux stated that the collective bargaining agreement with Local No. 2338 of the International Association of Fire Fighters expired on April 30, 2004. Without interest arbitration this new five-year collective bargaining agreement represents a negotiated settlement between the parties. Trustee Cremieux summarized key economic and non-economic items negotiated in the contract being wages; health insurance; sick leave buy back; hours of work / Fair Labor Standards Act or FLSA days; promotions; and duration of contract.

Trustee Cremieux added that the tentative agreement was ratified by the Union on January 19, 2006 and would become effective upon ratification by the Village Board, with the exception of wages which are retroactive to May 1, 2004.

It was moved by Trustee Cremieux to approve the Resolution for ratification of the collective bargaining agreement between the Village of La Grange and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local No. 2338, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by roll call vote.

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

Trustee Livingston commended Fire Chief Fleege and his department along with the administrative staff in working through lengthy and complex issues. Trustee Cremieux concurred.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Pilipiszyn announced that early voting and in-person absentee voting are being conducted at the Village Hall weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with additional hours for in-person absentee voting on Saturday, March 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon for the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday, March 21. Manager Pilipiszyn explained that the new early voting would require voters to supply a driver's license, passport or state identification card and would be conducted through March 16. In-person absentee voting would require voters to declare a reason they would not be able to go to their polling place on election day.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Amy and Paul Parker, 624 S. Stone expressed their dissatisfaction with the Police Department in handling an incident involving their son. They do not feel the Police did an adequate job and failed to supply records. Mrs. Parker recited incidents involving other individuals she spoke to who concur with her interpretations and dissatisfaction with the Police. Mrs. Parker stated hearsay of racial profiling, humiliation, and failure to maintain adequate records.

President Asperger thanked Mr. and Mrs. Parker for advising the Board of their concerns and assured them that the Village is committed to public service. President Asperger noted her belief that the Police had complied with the law regarding the incident. President Asperger acknowledged that the Board would follow-up on customer service issues.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone indicated she had been following the work of the Zoning Review Committee and inquired when the next session would occur and when would it be brought to the Board. President Asperger explained that recommendations for variations are currently being drafted. Village Attorney Burkland stated that a date for the next meeting would be forthcoming. President Asperger noted that the draft document would go back to the advisory committee then to the Plan Commission and possibly in the fall be ready for Village Board consideration.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Closed Session – Personnel Matters

It was moved by Trustee Langan and seconded by Trustee Horvath to convene in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Approved by roll call vote.

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

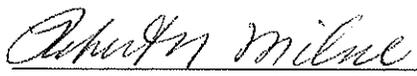
9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

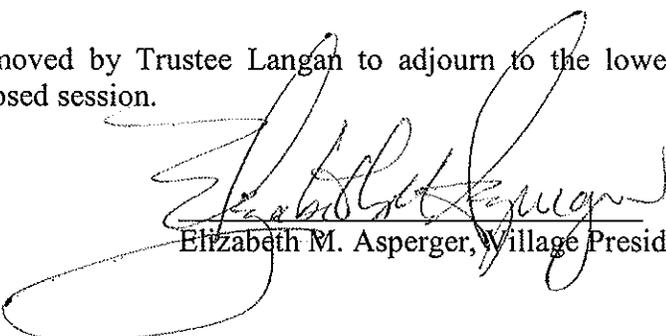
Trustee Cremieux was sympathetic to Mr. and Mrs. Parker however believes the Police Department as a whole is doing a fine job. Trustee Langan concurred.

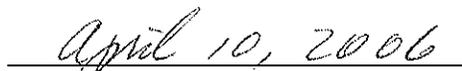
10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn to the lower level conference room for closed session.

ATTEST:


Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk


Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President


Approved Date