

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

53 South La Grange Road
Lower Level Conference Room
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, January 30, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

An Executive Committee Workshop of the Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange was held on Monday, January 30, 2006 and called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Village Hall.

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

ABSENT: Trustee Cremieux

OTHERS: Robert Milne, Village Clerk
Robert Pilipiszyn, Village Manager
Sharon Peterson, Assistant Village Manager
Lou Cipparrone, Finance Director
Ken Watkins, Director of Public Works
Mike Bojovic, Utilities Superintendent
Chris Dosselman, Office Manager
Tom Heuer, Village Engineer
Ken Knutson, The Doings Newspaper

President Asperger explained that the budget is a planning tool for the next five years. This evening's discussion of capital projects will be followed by upcoming closed session discussion of personnel matters and culminates with a review of operational expenses on the first Saturday in March. President Asperger requested Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn to elaborate on this evening's agenda.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn outlined points of interest for the Committee, explaining the monetary history of numerous capital projects previously performed throughout the Village while maximizing the use of alternate revenue sources. At the conclusion of FY 2007-08, Village Manager Pilipiszyn advised the Village Board that over 90% of the Village's residential streets in La Grange will have benefited from drainage improvements and a new asphalt surface.

Proposed Capital Projects for 2006 are estimated at \$1.8 million and for 2007 \$3.1 million. It is also proposed that Fiscal Year 2006-07 be a planning year to fund projects which include a street condition survey and a six-year sewer televising study. The data collected from these planning studies will be used to maintain the Village's streets on an appropriate schedule and to systematically program reconstruction of street segments, in conjunction with the replacement of aging water and sewer utilities. In keeping with this planning effort, staff is eager for direction from the committee for a conceptual proposal to undertake a long term, relief sewer initiative.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn requested Village Engineer Tom Heuer to make the presentation.

II. CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL – MAPLE AREA RELIEF SEWER (MARS) AND OGDEN AVENUE RELIEF SEWER (OARS)

Maple Area Relief Sewer (MARS)

Mr. Heuer supplied detailed diagrams of the Village's streets and presented extensive historical data on the Village's sewer system by identifying various drainage districts. Explaining sewer system fundamentals, Mr. Heuer noted the difference and interrelationship between storm sewers, sanitary sewers, combination sewers, relief sewers and the Deep Tunnel System. Mr. Heuer explained various facets of required pipe size as related to the need for drainage. In respect to previous planning, Mr. Heuer noted that because La Grange is "land locked" and does not have a water system in which to discharge, it was necessary to build on the resources of relief sewers including the Deep Tunnel.

The Maple Area Relief Sewer (MARS) project would build upon the existing sewer system which serves the Historic District. The drainage area is considerable and is generally bounded by Burlington Avenue to the north, Bluff Avenue to the east, 47th Street to the south, and Gilbert Avenue to the west. Mr. Heuer explained the logistics regarding depth and how this relief sewer would collect and dispense wet weather flow, allowing dry weather flow to continue its normal flow. Mr. Heuer proceeded to describe how the first stage of MARS could be incorporated into the planned reconstruction of Bluff Avenue. The total cost for this phase of MARS is estimated at \$1.852 million (construction and engineering).

Trustee Wolf inquired at what point would the Village need to replace sewers along Cossitt Avenue and Mr. Heuer stated that the sewer televising study would be a means to determine necessary replacement. President Asperger conferred with Public Works Director Ken Watkins who stated the last sewer televising study occurred circa 1993.

Trustee Livingston inquired why this project should be considered now. Village Manager Pilipiszyn explained that the Bluff Avenue street project presents an opportunity to construct these sewer improvements in the near term, on-going concerns with sewer back-ups into basements and the opportunity to construct sewer improvements in the future during street reconstruction. Mr. Heuer noted poor drainage in the Bluff Avenue project corridor. Trustee Livingston asked if the relief sewer system could be completed in phases rather than block-by-block. Mr. Heuer indicated that the preliminary plan is to construct in three-four block segments at a time. Mr. Pilipiszyn added that the proposed MARS relief project is estimated to cost \$8.3 million over an eight to ten year time frame. Mr. Heuer added that augmentation and improvement followed by maintenance would benefit the area and community.

Trustee Horvath suggested looking at this as an opportunity to create a pedestrian walkway under Maple Avenue at the Indiana Harbor Belt railroad tracks. It was the consensus of the Village Board of Trustees to investigate the feasibility of this idea and seek possible grant sources for funding.

Ogden Avenue Relief Sewer (OARS)

Mr. Heuer reviewed the history of the sewer system in this drainage district which is generally bounded by the Village's corporate limits to the north, La Grange Road to the east, Hillgrove Avenue to the south, and Edgewood Avenue to the west. Village Engineer Heuer noted that the Ogden Avenue Relief Sewer (OARS) project is within state right-of-way and thus will require cooperation from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Staff would like to conduct preliminary engineering in order to have a shelf-ready project when infrastructure coordination and funding opportunities arise.

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Village Manager Pilipiszyn requested direction from the Board regarding their intent to have staff further research the proposed relief sewer concepts.

President Asperger complimented staff on the long-term planning and requested thoughts from the Trustees. Discussion ensued. After several questions of clarification, feedback from the Village Board was very positive.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to: (1) direct staff to analyze the MARS concept further and refine its cost, funding, and schedule; and (2) include the first phase of MARS construction with the upcoming Bluff Avenue street improvement project.

III. CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Office Manager Chris Dosselman presented this item which included a status report of Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2005-06 and Capital Project recommendations for Fiscal Year 2006-07.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn noted that resetting of brick paver panels, to avoid trip hazards, is included in the Capital Projects Fund. President Asperger inquired if this item should be a TIF-funded project. Finance Director Lou Cipparrone indicated that it may be TIF eligible. Trustees Horvath and Wolf expressed their concerns to use TIF funds for this work. President Asperger noted that discussion be continued to the March budget workshop.

With the exception of the Central Business District Paver Project, which was tabled, it was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

IV. WATER FUND

Utilities Superintendent Mike Bojovic presented this item which included a status report of water system improvements for Fiscal Year 2005-06 and recommendations for Fiscal Year 2006-07. It is recommended that the Village absorb the slight increase in water rates.

It was noted that grant funding has enabled the Village to replace the water main on South Gilbert Avenue three years earlier than anticipated and at approximately one-half the projected cost.

Future analysis, identification and recommendation for new water meter reading technology should be undertaken prior to replacement of the old residential water meters beginning in FY 2009-10.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

V. SEWER FUND

Public Works Director Ken Watkins presented this item which included a status report of sewer system improvements for Fiscal Year 2005-06 and recommendations for Fiscal Year 2006-07. Among the recommendations, staff proposed the following:

- a. Sewer rate increase effective May 1, 2006 (year four of a five year rate escalation schedule).

- b. Contribute funds to the cost of MARS expenses should be included with the Bluff Avenue project.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

VI. TIF FUND

Trustee Pann recused himself from the discussion on this issue.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn and Finance Director Cipparrone advised the Village Board that based on previous Village Board TIF workshop discussions, the TIF Fund will include the following capital projects: wayfinding signage; Central Business District beautification; and intersection improvements at La Grange Road and Ogden Avenue.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn recommended an additional project to this list. He proposed the application of Kelmar to the parking structure at an estimated cost of \$300,000. Kelmar is a sealant designed to protect concrete for a period of up to 20 years. This would be in lieu of a conventional sealant which would need to be applied every 1-2 years.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn added that more definitive project costs for the parking structure should be available for review at the Budget Workshop scheduled on March 4, 2006.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee Workshop was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellie Elder
Administrative Secretary

Approved: 02-13-06