

MINUTES

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

Monday, November 14, 2011 - 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 Thomas Morsch, the following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Nowak, and Palermo

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic
Fire Chief Bill Bryzgalski
Police Chief Mike Holub

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Asperger began by taking a moment to reflect on the October 27 home invasion and horrific murder of Kelli O'Laughlin of Indian Head Park. Sincerest expressions of sympathy and support were directed to her family. Emphasizing the regional efforts of law enforcement in the investigation and arrest including the La Grange Police Department, President Asperger requested Police Chief Mike Holub to provide additional background. Chief Holub noted the systematic and thorough efforts of the task force and investigative officers who worked diligently to identify and apprehend the offender. Chief Holub advised residents ways to be vigilant in their practices to deter burglaries and criminal activities.

The Village Board met on Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5 in a strategic planning session. President Asperger noted reaffirmation of the Village's guiding principal to preserve and enhance the quality of life in La Grange. Future discussions and budget development will provide direction to staff.

President Asperger advised the audience of a community concert to be held on Tuesday, November 15 at St. Cletus Church to honor and pay tribute to those who serve the community and nation.

Providing information on the new shop-local campaign, President Asperger encouraged residents to participate in the shopping events being offered.

Village offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, however, a full complement of public safety personnel will be on call. President Asperger announced that the Lacey family is once again hosting a Thanksgiving feast for those in need.

Lastly, President Asperger reminded residents that the La Grange Business Association would hold their annual Holiday Walk on Saturday, December 3 and encouraged everyone to enjoy the numerous festivities.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

John Carroll who resides on Sunset Avenue is not in favor of the proposed ordinance which would add stop signs in the Maple Avenue corridor. He is comfortable with the way things are.

Tim Brzeczek who resides in the 200 block of Edgewood Avenue believes more stop sign enforcement is necessary.

Sean Sullivan who resides on Peck Avenue believes this is a safety issue. Mr. Sullivan feels current stop signs should remain and additional stop signs are needed.

Phil Stamatakos, 230 Blackstone feels these are special circumstances and there is a need for additional stop signs. Mr. Stamatakos encourages the Board to vote affirmatively.

Greg Teegen who resides on the 400 block of Peck Avenue supports the ordinance for additional stop signs.

President Asperger thanked the audience for their thoughtful comments and noted this item would be discussed further prior to a vote.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Request to Purchase – Third Party Interface Application to Firehouse Software
- B. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Monday, October 24, 2011
- C. Consolidated Voucher 111411 (\$1,447,438.16)

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, and C of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Nowak.

Motion approved by roll call vote:

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Langan, Kuchler, Nowak, and Palermo
Nays: None
Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. La Grange Business Association / 2011 Holiday Walk – Request for Village Sponsorship: Referred to Trustee Holder

Trustee Holder explained that the December 3, 2011 Holiday Walk has always been a positive reflection of the Village of La Grange and brings shoppers into the community. This is the 20th annual event and the La Grange Business Association is requesting the Village co-sponsor the event in an amount not to exceed \$12,000. Trustee Holder added that the Village's position of sponsorship is marketing the event, which includes newspaper advertisements, posters and the production and mailing of the booklet which lists the activities for the evening.

Trustee Holder listed the conditions outlined in the sponsorship policy and noted that approval would include compliance to those conditions. Trustee Holder noted that La Grange Business Association representatives are in attendance to answer any questions on this year's event.

La Grange Business Association Executive Director, Nancy Cummings indicated her availability if there were questions, and thanked the Board for their support.

As the Village begins its preliminary budgeting process, Trustee Holder referenced the La Grange Business Associations written request for an increase in the sponsorship amount for next years Holiday Walk.

It was moved by Trustee Holder to support the Holiday Walk's cost of advertising and marketing for 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$12,000, with the conditions as outlined in the Village's sponsorship policy, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Nowak, and Palermo
Nays: None
Absent: None

- B. Ordinance – Creation of a Two-Way Stop Intersections at Maple Avenue and Leitch Avenue / Maple Avenue and Sunset Avenue, and Four-Way Stop Intersections at Goodman Avenue and Leitch Avenue / Goodman Avenue and Edgewood Avenue: Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler annotated the details involved in staff's analysis to consider the placement of stop signs on Maple Avenue and Goodman Avenue as they intersect with Leitch, Edgewood and Sunset, thereby creating a four-way stop at each of those intersections. Trustee Kuchler added that the placement of those stop signs at those locations did not meet the warrants in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD), however it was noticed that within the neighborhood, several long segments on both Goodman Avenue and Maple Avenue did not have any stop signs in the east / west direction.

Trustee Kuchler indicated that past practices of the Village has called for the placement of stop signs within neighborhood block segments in an alternating pattern between east-west and north-south streets. Trustee Kuchler elaborated on the reasoning surrounding the past practices.

Explaining that this item was previously discussed at the October 24, 2011 Village Board meeting, Trustee Kuchler stated additional clarification was requested by the Board. Staff has since prepared three visual options and is recommending option two.

For discussion purposes, Trustee Kuchler moved to approve an ordinance amending the appropriate chapter of the Village Code that Maple Avenue and Leitch Avenue; Maple Avenue and Sunset Avenue shall be two-way stop intersections; and Goodman Avenue and Leitch Avenue; and Goodman Avenue and Edgewood Avenue shall be four-way stop intersections, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Kuchler continues to believe that the Village should have a stop sign plan, however feels that option two as recommended by staff is the most favorable.

Trustee Horvath agrees that safety is the core objective along with education and enforcement. Trustee Horvath expressed his support for option two however, agrees that there is a need for a consistent Village wide policy.

Trustee Nowak concurred with comments on public safety and a citizen comment that residential streets should not function as a cut-through route. He will support option two.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Nowak, and Palermo
Nays: None
Absent: None

- C. Preliminary Review of the Proposed 2011 Property Tax Levy Request: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak stated that this is a preliminary review of the proposed 2011 property tax levy request and explained that the Truth in Taxation Law requires a preliminary review of the proposed tax levy at least 20 days prior to its adoption. If the aggregate levy is more than 5% greater than the preceding year's extension, exclusive of debt service, the Village must hold a public hearing before adopting the proposed property tax levy. Since the proposed Truth in Taxation levy request, excluding debt service, shows a total increase of 2.47% over the prior years' extension, the Village of La Grange is not required to hold a public hearing regarding the 2011 property tax levy. Trustee Nowak indicated the Property Tax Limitation Act limits the increase in property tax extensions, exclusive of debt service and new property growth to 5% or the percent increase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) whichever is less. The CPI for the 2011 tax levy determined as of December 2010 was 1.5%.

Trustee Nowak presented information on the General Fund Levy; Pension Levies; and the Special Service Area Levy. Noting the pension fund workshop conducted in October, Trustee Nowak indicated the Police and Fire pension levies reflect the annual required contributions based upon independent actuarial valuations of each fund for the year ending April 30, 2011.

Trustee Nowak added that the La Grange Public Library is a municipal library not a library district therefore, the library levy is a part of the Village levy. The Library's tax levy request represents an increase of 2.47% over the 2010 property tax levy extension.

At this time the Village is announcing the 2011 preliminary tax levy and the ordinance adopting the 2011 tax levy will be presented at the December 12th Village Board meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Nowak that the Village Board approve the Resolution announcing the estimated 2011 tax levy of \$8,053,958, exclusive of debt service, which is a 2.47% increase from the 2010 tax levy, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Horvath proposes adopting a levy that is equal to last years amount except for new growth, and thus not raise taxes.

Trustee Holder noted staffs continued cost containment and inquired where future reductions could be had.

Trustee Horvath suggested increased employee health care contributions and extending the useful life of Village vehicles.

Trustee Kuchler agrees that not raising taxes is a good idea. However, as staff has done a good job with const containment, further expense reductions will not be without consequences.

Trustee Horvath does not believe it is unreasonable to hold the line on taxes with additional cost cutting efforts.

Trustee Langan supports adopting the levy as presented. Trustee Langan reminded the Village Board about discussions from the Strategic Planning Session including the uncertain economic outlook and reduced state and local revenues.

Trustee Nowak concurs with Trustee Langan. Trustee Nowak referenced upcoming budget discussions and feels opportunities for cost containment can be accomplished with conservative budgeting.

President Asperger reminded the Board that this is only to announce the levy and adopting it will be presented for their consideration in December.

Trustee Holder noted his support of the levy as presented and does not believe the minimal amount of increase to residents is a burden.

Trustee Kuchler noted increased expenditures and decreased revenues continue to challenge budgeting and pension funding.

Trustee Horvath continues to feel the importance of not increasing the levy at this time and working through the budgeting process for solutions.

President Asperger indicated in our economic reality there are numerous unknowns and the Board is challenged to look at each line item during the budgeting process.

The motion was approved by voice vote (4 ayes – 2 nays).

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn thanked the Board for recognizing the management team's efforts to contain costs and shared sacrifice by employees.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

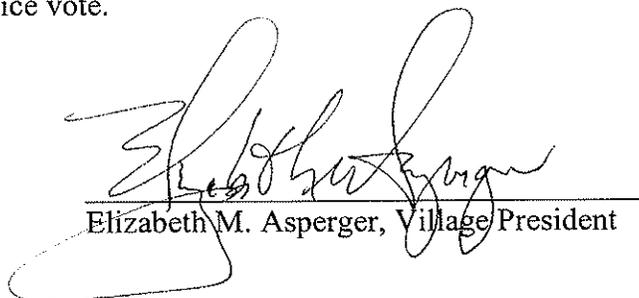
Trustee Nowak complimented the La Grange Police Department for their commitment and around the clock investigative efforts to apprehend the person charged with the recent burglary and murder.

Trustee Horvath echoed Trustee Nowak's compliments to staff. Trustee Horvath provided information on an upcoming benefit fundraiser for Marine Lance Corporal Josh Misiewicz who was seriously injured while serving in Afghanistan.

Trustee Langan complimented Village Manager and senior staff on the informative discussion during the recent strategic planning session.

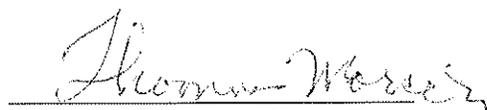
10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Motion approved by voice vote.



Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:



Thomas Morsch, Village Clerk

Approved Date: December 12, 2011