

## MINUTES

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

Monday, December 12, 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 7:31 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  
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone  
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin  
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham  
Fire Chief William Bryzgalski  
Police Chief Mike Holub

### 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Asperger expressed heartfelt sympathies to the family of former Village Manager Marlies Perthel at her passing. President Asperger stated that Mrs. Perthel had served as Director of Building and Zoning from 1989 to 1993 and Village Manager from 1993 to 2004 when she retired. Noting her numerous contributions to the growth and redevelopment of La Grange, President Asperger indicated that flags at Village buildings will be flown at half-staff in remembrance of Mrs. Perthel's public service.

President Asperger congratulated all involved in the successful Hometown Holiday Walk sponsored by the La Grange Business Association. President Asperger added that the Village was able to save approximately \$12,000 by leaving the holiday lights up year round.

The Village's Water Department received a \$1,000 cashier's check from an anonymous donor who requested the funds be utilized to help those residents in arrears of their water bill payments. President Asperger noted that five water billing accounts were identified

by staff as meeting the intentions of the anonymous donor and each account would be credited \$200. The five accounts will also receive correspondence advising them of the anonymous donation.

President Asperger mentioned similar good will offered by Chimera Comics who recently identified a valuable comic for an individual who found it stored in an attic.

President Asperger announced that the community will warmly welcome wounded Marine Lance Corporal Joshua Misiewicz as he returns home for Christmas.

Announcing that the next regularly scheduled Village Board meeting on Monday, December 26, 2011 would be canceled, President Asperger added the first meeting in the New Year would be held on Monday, January 9, 2012.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Request to Purchase Fire Department Apparatus – Ferrara Custom Ember MVP Fire Rescue Pumper
- B. Ordinances (#O-11-25 & #O-11-26) – Amendments to the Village Code Governing Auxiliary Police Officers and Part-Time Police Officers
- C. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Special Meeting Friday, November 4, 2011 and Saturday, November 5, 2011
- D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Monday, November 14, 2011
- E. Consolidated Voucher 111128 – (\$462,707.97)
- F. Consolidated Voucher 111212 – (\$881,392.59)

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

President Asperger acknowledged representatives from the La Grange Public Library who are in attendance.

President Asperger expressed gratitude for the volunteer efforts of the La Grange Fire Department staff in their extensive research to obtain the most cost effective price for the rescue pumper.

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Ordinance (#O-11-27) Abatement of 2011 Tax Levy / 2005 Street Light Refunding Bonds: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak explained the history of the Residential Streetlight Program noting the Village Board's approval to issue alternate revenue bonds in 1998 to complete the program. Due to more favorable interest rates in 2005, the Village adopted an ordinance authorizing the refunding of the remaining outstanding bonds, thereby saving the Village approximately \$100,000 in interest over the remaining life of the issue which matures on December 1, 2017. Trustee Nowak added that the Series 2005 bond issue is a general obligation, alternate revenue source issue, backed by the full faith and credit of the Village. Revenues derived from the collection of utility taxes are pledged to pay the principal and interest expenditures related to this issue. Because sufficient revenues from the utility tax are available within the General Fund, it is appropriate to abate this portion of the tax levy.

It was moved by Trustee Nowak to approve the Ordinance abating taxes levied for 2011 with respect to the \$2,785,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Alternate Revenue Source, Series 2005, in the amount of \$300,305, seconded by Trustee Langan. Approved by roll call vote.

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

B. Resolution – Levying a Tax for Library Operating Purposes: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak explained that the La Grange Library Board of Trustees 2011 tax levy request for operating purposes is \$2,007,690 which is a 2.47% increase over last year's tax levy. This is the allowable increase under the Property Tax Limitation Act equal to the increase of the Village tax levy request. Because the La Grange Library this a "municipal library" rather than a separate "public library district" it must levy property taxes as part of the Village of La Grange tax levy.

Members of the La Grange Public Library were in attendance to answer any questions.

It was moved by Trustee Nowak to accept La Grange Public Library Resolution approved by the Library Board, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Horvath indicated his intent to vote no as he feels the Village should limit the increase to new growth.

Approved by a 4 to 2 roll call vote.

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

C. Ordinance (#O-11-28) 2011 Property Tax Levy for Village Operations: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak explained that the preliminary 2011 property tax levy was reviewed and discussed in detail at the November 14, 2011 Village Board meeting and since the tax levy did not exceed Truth in Taxation requirements it was not necessary to hold a public hearing to adopt the final levy.

The final tax levy includes an increase of 2.47%, exclusive of debt service, over the prior year's tax extension. The increase reflects the allowable increase under the Property Tax Limitation Act of 1.5% (Consumer Price Index) as of December 2010.

Trustee Nowak noted that on average, a home with an estimated market value of \$400,000 would only incur an annual increase of \$14.36 from the Village levy and \$4.79 from the Library levy.

Although a Special Service Area levy is filed with Cook County to fund on-going maintenance of the Central Business District, it is not subject to Truth in Taxation requirements. By ordinance the Special Service Area levy is to be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index utilized as part of the Property Tax Limitation Act. Trustee Nowak noted the 2011 Special Service Area levy of \$61,244 reflects an increase of 1.5% over last year's levy of \$60,339.

It was moved by Trustee Nowak to adopt the ordinance requesting a 2011 property tax levy of \$8,053,985, exclusive of debt service, which is a 2.47% increase from the 2010 levy, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Horvath reiterated his comments and consistent message that the levy should be limited to new growth. Trustee Horvath does not believe the pension funds are calculated accurately.

Trustee Palermo concurred with Trustee Horvath and will also vote nay on the proposed tax levy ordinance. Trustee Palermo also expressed concerns with the pension levy and feels the need to utilize mortality assumptions closer to those being used throughout the country.

Trustee Langan noted his support for the levy. Trustee Langan requested clarification on the issues identified as he did not see the correlation between comments suggesting increased funding for pensions and a decision which would result in less revenue to the Village to fund those increased expenses. Trustees Horvath and Palermo foresee problems with pension funding in the future, and therefore feel the need to reduce personnel costs and reallocate monies within the budget at this time. Trustee Langan responded that the Village has already reduced personnel expenses and budgets conservatively.

Trustee Kuchler noted upcoming budget discussions to review funding issues. Trustee Kuchler will vote in favor of the proposed tax levy ordinance as presented.

Trustee Holder noted his support for the proposed property tax levy ordinance, explaining that the Village, as well as other organizations, have implemented cost containment measures, and provided several examples. Trustee Holder feels there is a reality to be considered and noted staff's skills to continue to deliver services with reduced funding.

Trustee Nowak also noted his support for the proposed property tax levy ordinance, as employees have sacrificed and continue to maintain the best of services. Trustee Nowak does not believe the levy is unreasonable.

Approved by a 4 to 2 roll call vote.

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

President Asperger expressed her concurrence with Trustee Nowak and Holder's comments which reflected and summarized well the Village's core values as discussed by the Village Board of Trustees at the Strategic Planning Session.

## 6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn noted that Allied Waste refuse collection service will take place one day later than regularly scheduled during the holidays. Allied will also pick-up Christmas trees from the parkway as part of the regular refuse beginning on December 27 through January 13.

Mr. Pilipiszyn stated that Village offices would be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 in observance of the holiday, however a full compliment of public safety personnel will be on call.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Mark Wohlberg, 39 S. Waiola believes that future consideration of a refuse disposal contract should maintain the current pay as you go volume based refuse option and hoped the Board would discount refuse companies need to make everyone pay the same.

President Asperger thanked Mr. Wohlberg for his comments and noted that Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson is reviewing the request for proposals received regarding the refuse contract.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Langan encouraged residents to shop locally.

Trustee Kuchler thanked Mr. Wohlberg for his comments and noted the Board takes seriously the importance of residents input on this matter. Trustee Kuchler extended a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

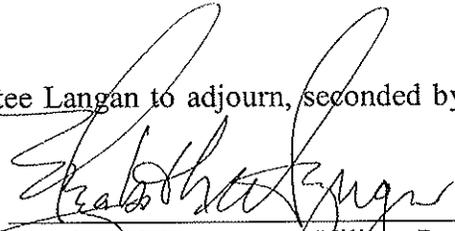
Trustee Holder noted his thanks to Fire Chief Bryzgalski and staff in their diligent efforts to obtain the most cost-effective price for the rescue pumper.

Trustee Horvath concurred that Fire Department staff had greatly researched their request to purchase the rescue pumper. Trustee Horvath noted that although he may disagree on matters, his ideas are focused on cost containment for the Village. Trustee Horvath wished everyone a Merry Christmas and encouraged all to shop locally.

President Asperger wished everyone the happiest of holidays.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Holder. Motion approved by voice vote.

  
Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST

  
Thomas Morsch, Village Clerk

Approved Date: January 23, 2012