

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Village Hall Auditorium
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, April 9, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange public hearing and 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: Trustees Holder, Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Nowak, and Palermo with President Asperger presiding.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Assistant Community Development Dir. / Planner Angela Mesaros
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Police Sergeant Andy Peters
Fire Chief Bill Bryzgalski

President Asperger explained that there would be a public hearing prior to the regular Village Board meeting this evening.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2012-13 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget:
Referred to President Asperger

President Asperger indicated that notice of this Public Hearing had been posted and published according to State Statute and that the budget document has been available for inspection at the Village Hall and the La Grange Public Library as well as posted on the Village website. President Asperger noted the public hearing represents the conclusion of the process by which public input has been solicited throughout the development of the budget document and asked if anyone in the audience had any oral or written comments or questions on the FY 2012-13

Operating and Capital Improvements Budget. There being none, President Asperger inquired of Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn if any written comments had been received and was informed none.

At 7:35 p.m. with no additional oral or written comments Trustee Langan motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Nowak and approved by voice vote. The regular Village Board meeting was convened, with the same Village Officials as the Public Hearing being in attendance.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Proclamation – Arbor Day in La Grange, Friday, April 27, 2012

President Asperger stated that the Village of La Grange has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 29th consecutive year and proclaimed April 27, 2012 as Arbor Day. President Asperger invited the public to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a tree at St. John's Lutheran School.

President Asperger noted that a Liquor Commission meeting was held earlier this evening to consider an application presented by Woow Sushi Japanese Restaurant and a new owner for Vino e Birra. The Liquor Commission's unanimous recommendation will be presented to the Board for approval at the April 23, 2012 meeting.

President Asperger recognized members of Girl Scout Junior Troop #58-288 from La Grange Highlands Elementary School who are working to achieve their legacy badge which includes local government.

Recognizing Finance Director Lou Cipparrone and Assistant Finance Director Joe Munizza on their performance in preparing the Village's financial statements, President Asperger announced that the Village has received the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" for the Village's fiscal year ending April 30, 2011. This marks the sixteenth consecutive year that the Village has received this recognition.

Congratulations were extended to Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic on receiving the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2012 Community Award for Public Service.

Lastly, President Asperger provided information for residents interested in becoming members of the Citizens Council.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Bergschneider, 920 S. Spring Avenue expressed his support for the ordinance to amend the parking restrictions on the 900 Block of S. Spring Avenue, however does not feel that staff has been consistent with the process by which the request was evaluated.

Harlan Hirt, 421 S. Spring Avenue as a member of the Environmental Quality Control Commission (EQCC) expressed his support of the solid waste contract and continuance of the volume based program. Mr. Hirt noted that when the EQCC previously researched this matter they were advised that the volume based program was obsolete.

Mark Wohlberg, 39 S. Waiola urged the Board to adopt the volume based solid waste contract and expressed his thanks to Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson for constant communication on this item.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone Avenue also expressed her support of the volume based solid waste contract, however encouraged additional and alternative methods of recycling. Ms. Naseef noted the need for recycling during special events.

5. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

Trustee Kuchler requested item 5-D be removed from the Omnibus Agenda and placed under Current Business for further discussion.

- A. Ordinance (#O-12-08) – Creating an Additional Class A-1 Liquor License, GSG Eatery's Corp. d/b/a Fireside Wood Fired Pizza & Café, 18 W. Harris Avenue
- B. Ordinance (#O-12-09) – Amendment to Parking Restrictions / 900 Block of S. Spring Avenue
- C. Budget Amendments (#R-12-02) – Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2012
- D. (Moved to Current Business for further discussion.)
- E. Material Purchase – Public Works / 2012 Spring Tree Planting Program & Resolution (#R-12-03) – Public Works / Suburban Tree Consortium
- F. Ordinance (#O-12-10) – Disposal of Surplus Property
- G. Consolidated Voucher 120326 (\$463,907.88)
- H. Consolidated Voucher 120409 (\$543,392.58)
- I. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Special Meeting, Saturday, March 10, 2012 – Budget Workshop

J. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting,
Monday, March 12, 2012

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

6. CURRENT BUSINESS

5-D. Contract – Group Health and Life Insurance Renewal (Removed from Omnibus for further discussion.)

Trustee Kuchler gave a synopsis of the Village's history in providing health insurance coverage as a benefit to full-time employees. Explaining the diligent and effective managing of health insurance expenses and the various plans offered, Trustee Kuchler reported that for the renewal period beginning May 1, 2012 the Village through its broker was able to negotiate a rate freeze with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. Trustee Kuchler also provided information on the Village's group life insurance which because of continued good claims history has negotiated a two-year agreement with Fort Dearborn Life with a 24% decrease in premiums.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to approve the contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for group health insurance and Fort Dearborn for group life insurance, effective May 2012, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his support of the contract, however explained his reason to remove the item from the Omnibus vote was to bring the item to the Board as a policy matter for future discussion. Trustee Kuchler feels that consideration should be given to a cafeteria plan to equalize the cost difference that the Village pays for single and family coverage.

Trustee Horvath concurs with Trustee Kuchler and feels that continued analysis and adjustments be made in the future.

Trustee Palermo also concurs and feels the Board should decide the plan design and that the Village should explore incentives to encourage employees to seek coverage from their spouse.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

A. Ordinance (#O-12-11 & #O-12-12) – Amending Certain Building Permit Fees: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak provided detailed information on the various permit fees to ensure that charges are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the costs of services provided. Currently the building permit fee structure is based on a percentage of the cost amount of the job. Explaining that the minimum fees were last revised in 2008, Trustee Nowak indicated that staff researched other municipalities and the marketplace. To simplify the process, staff is recommending consideration of a cost system based on square footage of the construction project in order to more accurately and fairly account for the associated building permit fees.

Trustee Nowak elaborated on residential new construction; interior remodel and addition permits; minimum permit fees for electrical, mechanical and plumbing; commercial permits; and various other permit fees.

Village Attorney Burkland noted that it is necessary to first adopt an ordinance amending the Code adopting the new method by which building permit fees are calculated, and second adopt an ordinance amending the fee schedule for various building permits.

Trustee Nowak moved to approve the ordinance amending the Code regarding the method by which building permit fees are calculated, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Horvath agrees with the simplicity in the structure, however is not in favor of raising costs because of the marketplace. Trustee Horvath is not clear where these cost increases are coming from that need to be recovered.

Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin indicated that inspectional staff has researched the necessity of the new fee structure as compared to the marketplace. He also stated that the new fee method addresses current problems with under estimated valuations. The costs to be recovered is the level of service the Village provides with multiple inspections which current revenues do not cover due to undervalued permits. The new system would be simpler and more equitable.

Trustee Langan noted his conversations with architects and homeowners regarding this item and both are receptive. Trustee Langan added that base fees have not been revised since 1993.

Trustee Kuchler concurred with Trustee Horvath's comments and inquired about additional costs to residents. Mr. Benjamin does not believe any further adjustments would be needed.

Trustee Nowak inquired how the square foot fee was derived and Building Inspector Bob Klinker responded.

Trustee Horvath believes there is a necessity in knowing the details as to what is driving the cost to raise building permit fees. Mr. Benjamin advised that the Village did not perform an analysis to a level of detail beyond what is outlined in the board report.

Trustee Holder feels the current analysis is sufficient.

Approved by a 5 to 1 roll call vote.

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

Trustee Nowak moved to approve the ordinance amending the fee schedule for various building permits, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Approved by a 5 to 1 roll call vote.

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

B. Ordinance – Amendment to the Village's Municipal Utility Taxes: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak explained that the Village's current five-year financial plan identifies the need for a 1% increase in the utility taxes. The utility tax includes electricity, natural gas and telecommunications. Trustee Nowak added that the 1% utility tax increase is critical for the Village to meet operating expenditures.

Trustee Nowak stated that the 1% increase in the local telecommunications tax was previously approved separately in order to have the enabling ordinance on file with the Illinois Department of Revenue pursuant to statutory requirements and deadlines.

It was moved by Trustee Langan to adopt the ordinance implementing a 1% increase on the remaining utility taxes for natural gas and electricity, effective July 1, 2012, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Trustee Palermo stated he would be voting no on this item as he believes that a referendum question should be placed on the upcoming November ballot regarding alternative electricity providers. Trustee Palermo feels alternative electricity providers offer substantial savings which could be used by residents to offset proposed revenue increases.

Trustee Nowak stated he would be voting no on this item as he is against a tax that does not support the rebuilding of infrastructure and it has been proposed in a year with other tax and fee increases.

Trustee Kuchler objected to how this tax increase was characterized as a user fee in the board report, when no direct services are being provided by the Village. He also noted his concerns with ever-increasing property tax levies. Trustee Kuchler continued with stating his objection to increased water rates to pay for the cost of purchasing new water meters. He believes that the salary allocations in the Water Fund should be revised and transferred back to the General Fund. He said that increasing taxes is not the best solution for addressing operating expenses, and that he would be voting against this item.

Trustee Horvath stated he would be voting no on this item as he concurs with Trustee Nowak and believes an amusement tax would be beneficial to increase revenues.

Trustee Langan stated he would be voting yes on this item. Trustee Langan does not favor further cuts in personnel or services. He added that it was not the time to re-visit salary allocations.

Trustee Holder concurs with Trustee Langan. Trustee Holder noted that he would be voting in favor of this item because it would support operations and infrastructure; it has been programmed in the Village's five year financial plan for the past several years; and the amount of the increase is relatively small.

President Asperger noted that it appears that this tax increase will be defeated making it necessary to table the adoption of the budget this evening. President Asperger referenced for the Board that without approval of this item, the Village will incur deficit spending by approximately \$150,000 per year; reserves would be further eroded; and services cut.

President Asperger remarked that the purpose of this increase is to stabilize the Village's finances, after cost-containment measures have been

implemented. She shared that the entire Village Board is concerned with raising taxes. However, the Village is now at a point that it needs the additional revenue to support services. She recognized the Village Board for its thorough discussion and that it will now have to make cuts in services and to be prepared to communicate that to residents.

Trustee Horvath continues to believe that there are other areas in the budget to cut spending without impacting services.

Failed by a 4 to 2 roll call vote.

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

- C. Resolution – Approving the FY 2012-13 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget: Referred to Trustee Holder

It was moved by Trustee Langan to table the Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget until April 23, 2012, seconded by Trustee Palermo

Approved by voice vote.

- D. Award of Contract – Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services:
Referred to Trustee Holder

Trustee Holder explained that the current contract for solid waste collection and disposal services expires on April 30, 2012. Trustee Holder noted that the Village's Environmental Quality Control Commission (EQCC) evaluated several options for refuse collection services and presented its findings to the Village Board in September 2011.

Trustee Holder indicated that competitive proposals were solicited seeking contractors to provide pricing related to various program options including the Village's current volume-based program. Detailing the process in analyzing the comparison of program options and competitive nature of the proposals, Trustee Holder noted staff's recommendation to award the contract to Allied Waste.

After negotiation sessions with Allied Waste, the Village's volume-based system, will remain intact. Trustee Holder explained the new and enhanced toter options for refuse and recycling in order to provide residents options that best fit their household needs. Trustee Holder reiterated the sticker rates for the five-year contract which will expire on April 30, 2017 and continuance of the Spring Clean-up program.

It was moved by Trustee Holder to approve a five-year contract for solid waste collection and disposal services with Allied Waste; and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Village, seconded by Trustee Horvath.

Trustee Horvath noted his approval of the contract and that this was a great example of how residents, an advisory commission and staff can collaborate.

Trustee Kuchler appreciates the perseverance of staff and the EQCC. Trustee Kuchler expressed his disappointment with the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency's assessment and advice concerning the volume-based option.

Trustee Nowak concurred his approval and compliments to those who worked on obtaining what residents want.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

None

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Jeff Cogelja, 321 S. Ashland Avenue provided information on the advantages of having hens and requested the Board to change the Village Code to allow for backyard hens.

President Asperger noted that the Board has also received opposition to this request and referenced both the pros and cons of this subject. Staff reviewed the request and provided that to the Village Board, along with a neighbor's objection. As she has not received any comments from the Village Board on the matter thus far, President Asperger invited the Board to do so to determine if there is a consensus opinion to consider the matter or not, and if legal analysis should be performed by the Village Attorney. It appears that more comparative information is required before such a decision can be made.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler noted his invitation to Mr. Cogelja to speak at the meeting and encouraged residents to contact the Village to provide community input.

Trustee Palermo indicated that he has concerns. He would like more information relative to other Village regulations, and where the matter has been taken up in other communities and where rejected and why. He would favor sending this to the Plan Commission for review.

Trustee Holder also expressed concerns with the proposal. He shared his personal experience with growing up on a farm with chickens. He does not believe La Grange is the proper environment for backyard hens.

Trustee Horvath noted he is undecided at this time and would like to investigate the matter further. Trustee Horvath paid congratulations to Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic on his public service award. Trustee Horvath also agrees with Mr. Bergschneider for consistent public policy implementation. Lastly, Trustee Horvath expressed his thanks to the contributions of the EQCC for their part in the determination of the Village's solid waste contract and the residents who attended tonight's meeting and spoke on the matter.

Trustee Nowak concurs with Trustee Holder and is skeptical about allowing backyard hens.

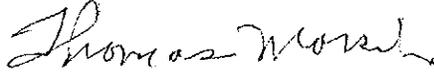
Trustee Langan would not be in favor of backyard hens and does not believe it befits the community.

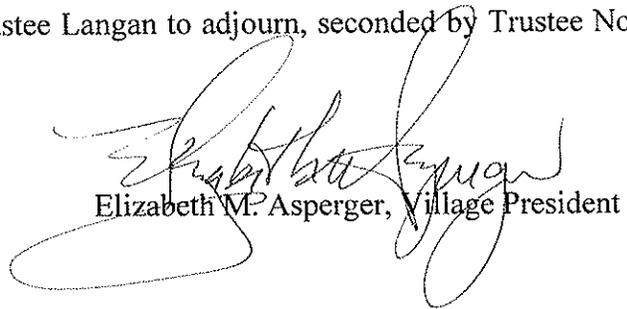
President Asperger invited residents to comment on this matter and will consider the trustee input rendered this evening and attempt to identify consensus direction.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 p.m. it moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Nowak. Approved by voice vote.

ATTEST:


Thomas Morsch, Village Clerk


Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

Approved Date: April 23, 2012