

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Town Meeting – Community Center
200 Washington Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, November 26, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.

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

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange Regular Town Meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by President Asperger. President Asperger welcomed all to the last in a series of three Town Meetings being held in various areas of the Village. President Asperger requested Village Clerk Thomas Morsch to call the roll and invited Boy Scout Michael O'Connell to come forth and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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
Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic
Fire Chief William Bryzgalski
Police Chief Michael Holub

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Explaining that Town Meetings are held to promote communications between Village officials and residents, President Asperger introduced the Village Board, Village Clerk, Village Manager, Village Attorney and staff.

President Asperger expressed thanks to the Lacey family for once again hosting a Thanksgiving feast for the needy. President Asperger added congratulations to the Rotary Club and Runners Soul for organizing the Run 4 Pie event, also benefiting the needy. Lastly, President Asperger reminded residents that the La Grange Business

Association would hold their annual Holiday Walk on Saturday, December 1 and encouraged everyone to enjoy the numerous festivities planned for the evening.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-12-32) -- Creating an Additional Class A-1 Liquor License, Horvathian LLC, d/b/a Armand's Pizzeria of La Grange, 26 S. La Grange Road
- B. Ordinance (#O-12-33) -- Authorizing an Electricity Aggregation Program Pursuant to the Illinois Power Agency Act
- C. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Monday, November 12, 2012
- D. Consolidated Voucher 121126 -- (\$482,869.42)

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

None

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

None

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

8 TOWN MEETING

Prior to opening the floor to the audience, President Asperger highlighted a number of the Village Board's priority goals and accomplishments. With a challenging economy, President Asperger summarized the data as follows:

- The implementation of a Cost Containment Plan which has resulted in a reduction of expenses in order to stabilize Village finances while maintaining the delivery quality core Village services including capital improvements.
- Economic Development including recognition as the "Top Transit Suburb" of Metropolitan Chicago.
- Development of the West End Business District including renovations to the Stone Avenue train station.
- The YMCA has renewed its interest in building a new facility on its property; re-development of the site is not anticipated for the foreseeable future.
- Issuing general obligation alternate revenue bonds to finance the cost of replacing outdated water meters and upgrade the water pumping station in order to improve water accountability.
- Acceptance of a new engineering plan to resurface neighborhood streets block-by-block based on condition, thereby maximizing tax payer dollars rather than by the previous neighborhood-wide basis.
- The Village is continuing to replace diseased trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

At this time, President Asperger opened the floor to audience for questions, comments or concerns.

Pastor Marcus Washington expressed concerns that there is a vacancy within the rank of Police Lieutenant and that the vacancy is not being filled from the current promotional list, which is expected to expire soon. Pastor Washington also referenced a vacancy in the Fire Department and feels the Village is not operating efficiently without filling these vacancies. President Asperger explained that cost containment efforts to reduce personnel expenses have involved leaving certain positions vacant in several departments and there is no intent to fill any of these vacancies. President Asperger added that despite these vacancies, the Village is able to maintain quality services. Regarding the development of a new eligibility list, President Asperger noted that the current list is due to expire and Village code requires the Board of Fire and Police Commission to develop a new list every three years. President Asperger clarified that although a new list is created it is not the intent to fill positions, just to create the list. Although Pastor Washington's comments are appreciated, President Asperger indicated that the decision not to fill open positions is part of the cost containment program which was initiated to curb budget expenses.

Ms. Brenda Graves, 100 Sawyer noted unsavory conditions and conduct at Sawyer Park. President Asperger encouraged Ms. Graves not to hesitate to call the Police Department and advised her to speak with Police Chief Holub. President Asperger added that the Park District of La Grange also encourages residents to call when observing unacceptable behavior or conditions in any of the parks.

Ms. Mosley, 105 Washington expressed concerns with property maintenance in her neighborhood and inquired if funding was available to help residents maintain their homes. Ms. Mosley noted abrupt and rude response to her calls to the Police Department. President Asperger was in total agreement with Ms. Mosley that customer service be a priority. Encouraging Ms. Mosley to continue to call the Police Department, President Asperger assured her that her complaint would be addressed. Although Village funds are not available to residents for beautification, President Asperger encouraged Ms. Mosley to contact Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin for assistance with property maintenance issues.

Mr. Kevin Simon expressed his thanks and gratitude to the all of the residents and businesses in La Grange for their outpouring support and donations to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy in New York.

Mr. Chester Lacey, inquired why his permit to construct a fence was denied. President Asperger referred Mr. Lacey to Patrick Benjamin for regulations pertaining to Village Code in the issuance of permits. Mr. Lacey also asked if speed bumps could be installed within the alley to slow traffic. President Asperger responded negatively, explaining the drawbacks related to speed bumps and encouraged Mr. Lacey to speak to Police Chief Holub regarding traffic control.

Ms. Thelma Montgomery, noted that vehicles ignore the standard stop sign located at the intersection of Tilden Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and asked if a blinking stop sign could be installed. President Asperger responded that staff would research lighting and signage in the area.

Ms. Regina Mc Clinton, stated that she has noticed more trains stopping on the tracks and asked if anything could be done. President Asperger requested Police Chief Holub and Village Attorney Burkland to comment. Attorney Burkland noted that there are regulations on the length of time a train can remain stopped on a crossing. Police Chief Holub noted he would check with the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad.

Ms. Cox inquired if the Village could support a work force program to help young adults find employment. President Asperger explained that the Village does not have the resources to support a work program and is not in a position to direct private business. President Asperger did encourage young adults to respond to any ads for employment within the community.

Ms. Alice Woodson, 39 Washington expressed concerns with rising costs for water and inquired if the Village could provide consideration for senior citizens. President Asperger explained that increases in water are derived from the City of Chicago. The installation of new water meters and improvements to the pumping station will also cause a slight increase. Although the Village does not offer financial assistance for water consumption, President Asperger noted that anyone having difficulty with water payments contact the Finance Department.

Mr. David May, 400 S. 8th Avenue provided information on numerous items he believes are improvements that may or may not be worthwhile. Among them were:

1. Through the West Central Municipal Conference, plan and coordinate a walking – bicycle path for La Grange, La Grange Park and Countryside.
2. Install sidewalks on 47th Street to East Avenue.
3. Clear snow at intersections so residents can safely walk across.
4. Provide bicycle lockers for rental at train stations.
5. Extend the Metra platform to the east side of La Grange Road to improve handicap accessibility.
6. Expedite PACE buses routing to O'Hare.
7. Provide storm windows for the La Grange Road train station and possibly air conditioning in the summer months.
8. Improved signalization for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad crossing.
9. Limits on the length of trains and obstruction of traffic on the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad.
10. Remove excessive street lighting on Hillgrove and Burlington Avenues and add street lighting in areas where schools are located.
11. Be pro-active with the Illinois Department of Transportation in providing the best design for the CREATE project on 47th Street and East Avenue.
12. Support development of vacant properties in La Grange.
13. Encourage theater owners to rejuvenate the idea to provide for live performances.
14. Consider supporting an extension of State sales tax to retail services for additional revenues.

President Asperger extended appreciation to Mr. May for sharing his suggestions and noted they would be taken into consideration.

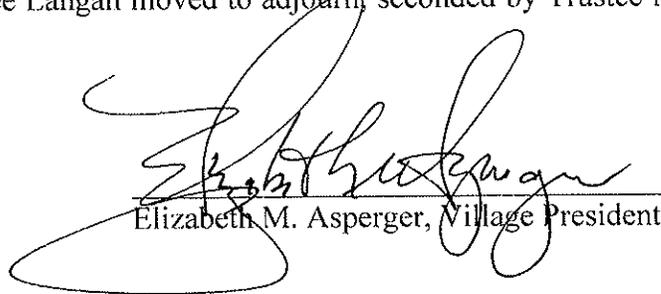
Ms. Lisa Schumacher, 741 S. Catherine Avenue asked President Asperger for her opinion as to the biggest challenges facing the Village. Believing that it is more important to consider the entire Board's opinion rather than her own, President Asperger responded by stating in these difficult times the Village Board examines the budget on an annual basis for responsive financial management; by addressing aging infrastructure the Village Board is committed to capital improvements; and the Village Board is sensitive to economic development through the reinvestment and redevelopment within the Village.

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler thanked area residents for their attendance this evening. Trustee Kuchler added his thanks to the Lacey Hill families for providing Thanksgiving dinner. Lastly, Trustee Kuchler noted his attendance at the Open House for the Community Nurse Association and expressed his gratitude to La Grange Memorial Hospital for providing patient health care to individuals.

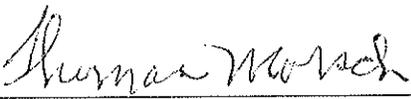
10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:53 p.m. Trustee Langan moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Nowak. Approved by voice vote.



Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:



Thomas Morsch, Village Clerk

Approved Date: December 10, 2012