

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Monday, January 28, 2013
(immediately following the Regular Village Board Meeting)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange special meeting was called to order at 8:53 p.m. by President Asperger. On roll call, as read by Clerk 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
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham

President Asperger noted that this Capital Projects Workshop is the beginning of the budget process and requested Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn to give an overview. Mr. Pilipiszyn stated that the proposed Capital Projects Fund reflects a small surplus fund balance at the end of the five-year budget period ending in FY 2017-18, which demonstrates the Village's ability to fund identified capital projects over this five-year period. Conversely, it also reflects the impact of fiscal retrenchment over time. Looking out towards that fifth year, the Village Board will need to balance the competing interests of sensitivity to taxpayers on the one hand, and, on the other hand, sufficiently funding capital projects, a strategic priority for the Village Board.

Mr. Pilipiszyn also indicated that due to changing federal spending policies, it is anticipated that there will be fewer grant funding opportunities in the future and that local match requirements will likely increase. As a result of these anticipated changes, there will be an even greater emphasis placed on making funding decisions at the local level for infrastructure improvements.

II. CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham proceeded to present each item under this topic which included a status report of Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2012-13 and Capital Project recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

Throughout Mr. Gillingham's report, general questions were asked by individual members of the Village Board to ascertain a better understanding of project status.

There was general interest in the MARS and OARS relief sewer projects including grant funding and coordinating OARS with planned renovations to Gordon Park by the Park District.

Several members of the Village Board inquired and commented on the status of various traffic and safety improvements contained within the Capital Projects Budget.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his disagreement that signaling the intersection of 47th Street and East Avenue will improve pedestrian safety. Trustee Palermo concurred. President Asperger noted that a process to investigate improvements has been initiated by IDOT and that the Village Board will have an opportunity to discuss this matter further at a later date.

In reviewing staff recommendations, Trustee Kuchler noted that the Village has over the past several years reduced the General Fund transfer to the Capital Projects Fund from \$1.0M per year to \$700,000 per year as a result of the cost-containment plan, and that the Village needs to work to get back to that original funding level. President Asperger remarked about the importance of that comment and asked staff to footnote that thought for future Village Boards.

Trustee Palermo commented on the need to adequately fund pension liabilities. President Asperger responded that this topic was discussed at length at a pre-budget development workshop in November and that the budget is being developed based on consensus direction provided by the Village Board at that time. She added that the budget is a living document and the Village Board will examine such opportunity as it arises whether it be now or in the next five years.

Discussion ensued regarding the replacement of the Village fountain. While the consensus expressed was supportive of improving the fountain design, limited funding sources suggest replacing the fountain feature as it generally was prior to being damaged. President Asperger noted that staff would report back to the Village Board with firmer cost estimates for a cast-iron fountain. In response to a Trustee comment, she noted that soliciting corporate donations would be premature as the Village has not discussed a naming rights policy of Village assets.

Discussion ensued regarding the reconstruction of Village Parking Lot #13 (at the intersection of Burlington Avenue and Brainard Avenues), including plans to relocate commuters during construction (to still be determined) and compliments to staff for acquiring a significant award of grant funds for this project and as a "green infrastructure" improvement.

At the conclusion of its review of capital projects, it was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations, unless modified or directed otherwise as noted above.

III. WATER FUND

Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham presented this item which included a status report of water system improvements for Fiscal Year 2012-13 and recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

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

IV. SEWER FUND

Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham presented this item which included a status report of sewer system improvements for Fiscal Year 2012-13 as well recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

Trustee Kuchler voiced his concern with a proposed series of sewer rate increases. Finance Director Lou Cipparrone reminded the Village Board that a rate increase of 10% for three consecutive years is scheduled to begin with FY 2013-14. This series of increases proposed last year is needed to rebuild sewer reserves largely depleted by the Poplar Place Sewer Improvement Project. Staff estimates that these increases will result in an increase of \$15 per year for each sewer customer.

Trustee Kuchler said he would consider them in the context of other tax or fee increases which may be included in the proposed budget. Trustee Horvath concurred.

Trustee Langan noted for the Village Board that it has been over ten years since the sewer rate was last increased and that by policy, the Village has implemented rate increases on an incremental basis which is easier for tax payers to become accustomed to rather than less frequent, but larger rate increases.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Village Board Capital Projects Workshop was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Pilipiszyn
Village Manager

Approved: February 25, 2013