

## MINUTES

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

Monday, June 10, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.

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

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Livingston. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk John Burns, the following were present:

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn  
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson  
Village Attorney Betsy Gates  
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone  
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin  
Assistant Community Development Director and Planner Angela Mesaros  
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham  
Fire Chief William Bryzgalski  
Police Chief Michael Holub

President Livingston requested Clerk Burns lead the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston expressed his thanks to the Village Board, commission chairs, staff and others for meeting with him and offering their comments. Although there may not always be unanimous agreement, President Livingston noted his pledge to operate within a culture of respect and professionalism. President Livingston expressed his desire to take a fact-based approach among competing priorities so that the right decisions are made for La Grange. Moving forward, President Livingston enumerated several areas of focus beginning with the establishment of a citizen task force (working title La Grange 2020) to examine near term issues including parking; beautification; festivals and cultural activities; and La Grange's brand status.

Other areas of focus include development of the YMCA site, work with the Village Board on pensions and reserves, and address aging infrastructure and public safety resources. Finally, President Livingston hopes to initiate a day of public service to strengthen the Village. He provided his email address for open communication with the public.

President Livingston highlighted agenda items for Trustee assignments and Liquor Commission appointments, explaining that the Liquor Commission previously met to consider an application for Kama Bistro which will be introduced at a future Board meeting. Also highlighting the importance of open communication with local legislators and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), President Livingston noted the Village's strong concerns related to the intersection at 47<sup>th</sup> Street and East Avenue in reference to the resolution on this evening's agenda.

President Livingston extended thanks to all involved in the planning of the successful Pet Parade along with the beautification enhancements provided by the Garden Club. President Livingston recognized the NAACP's recent celebration; the Pillars organization for their outreach; and the Robert E. Coulter Post of the American Legion for their Memorial Day and Flag Day services.

President Livingston announced the beginning improvements to the Lot 13 parking lot and provided details to residents. President Livingston provided the summer meeting schedule for the Village Board and concluded by noting that the Village's pension boards are beginning a Request for Proposal process for a new actuary.

#### A. Re-Appointments – Liquor Commission

President Livingston requested approval to re-appoint Trustee Langan and Trustee Kuchler to serve on the Liquor Commission. It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the re-appointments, seconded by Trustee Holder. Motion approved by voice vote.

#### B. Trustee Assignments

President Livingston explained that in addition to their regular duties, Village Trustees are also assigned the responsibility for presenting items at Village Board meetings and serve as liaisons between the Village Board and its various advisory boards and commissions. The responsibilities for Board Presentation as assigned by President Livingston are:

Community Relations	-	Trustee Kuchler
Economic Development	-	Trustee Nowak
Finance	-	Trustee McCarty
Intergovernmental Relations	-	Village President
Planning and Zoning	-	Trustee Holder
Public Safety	-	Trustee Langan

Public Works

-

Trustee Palermo

Liaison assignments as assigned by President Livingston are Community and Economic Development Commission, Trustee Nowak; Design Review Commission, Trustee Palermo; Environmental Quality Control Commission, Trustee Langan; Plan Commission, Trustee Kuchler and McCarty; and Zoning Board of Appeals, Trustee Holder.

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the Trustee assignments, seconded by Trustee Holder. Motion approved by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Matthew Barrette, 513 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue expressed his thanks to President Livingston for sending a clear message to IDOT of the Village's concerns regarding improvements to the 47<sup>th</sup> Street and East Avenue intersection. Mr. Barrett urged the Board to approve the Resolution on this evening's agenda indicating his concerns for public safety and opposition to any grade separation at the intersection.

Charlie Brown, 503 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue encouraged the Board to be pro-active with IDOT by approving the resolution.

John Pappas, 504 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue favors notifying IDOT of the Village's opposition to an overpass so practical improvements can be made at this intersection.

Don Johnston, 240 S. La Grange Road expressed concerns that IDOT anticipates an increase in the flow of traffic. Logistically, Mr. Johnson does not feel there is good reason to improve the intersection and is not in favor of increased truck traffic.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

Trustee Palermo requested that item 4-A of the Omnibus Agenda be placed under Current Business for further discussion.

- A. (Moved to Current Business for further discussion)
- B. Award of Contract – 2013 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program
- C. Ordinance (#O-13-18) Prevailing Wage Rates for 2013
- D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, May 13, 2013
- E. Consolidated Voucher 130527 – (\$852,901.32)
- F. Consolidated Voucher 130610 – (\$818,800.20)

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

Trustee Holder inquired if a resident could pay the full amount of a sidewalk replacement if he prefers not to be placed on a waiting list for the 50/50 sidewalk replacement program. Although it has not been the Village's practice, Director of Public Works Ryan Gillingham responded it could be considered.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Special Event – 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown La Grange Art & Craft Fair: Referred to Trustee Holder

Trustee Holder noted that the Village has received a request from the La Grange Business Association to hold the Annual Art and Craft Fair on Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, 2013. The location utilized for the past few years was found to be favorable and is being requested again this year however it will again be necessary for the Board to approve various road closures.

It was moved by Trustee Holder to approve the closure of Harris Avenue west of La Grange Road to Ashland Avenue and Madison Avenue from Harris south to just north of the Madison Avenue entrance to the parking lot 8 located at Harris and Madison Avenues and the closure of Village Parking Lots 3 and 4 on each side of the Senior Center on July 13 and 14, 2013 for the La Grange Art and Craft Fair, seconded by Trustee Langan. Motion approved by voice vote.

B. Ordinance – Variations – Second Floor Business Wall Signs at Former Borders Building, 1 North La Grange Road/Mid-America Asset Management: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak provided detailed information related to an application received from the owners of 1 North La Grange Road the former Borders building for a comprehensive variation for second floor signage as the building now houses multiple tenants. Although the tenants have been allowed to have temporary banners while the application is being processed, Trustee Nowak noted that currently wall signs are not permitted for second floor users in any zoning district. Staff researched sign regulations in other municipalities for comparison and determined size limitations and strict guidelines for the location of signs on the building. The Zoning Board of Appeals was provided with relevant background information, exhibits of what is allowed by current code and illustrations provided by the petitioner. The

Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on May 16, 2013 and a majority voted to recommend that the variations be granted with specific conditions. The Commissioner opposed to the variations indicated that the appearance of second floor signs does not fit the character for La Grange. For discussion purposes Trustee Nowak moved to approve the variations subject to standards and limitations on the signs as to number, size and location, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Holder noted changes in the marketplace affecting commercial businesses. He is not in favor of window signs on the second floor. Trustee Holder likes the proposed wall signs and believes that it should be considered as a new standard for all commercial buildings in La Grange.

As the liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Trustee Palermo attended the meeting and noted how members of the Zoning Board of Appeals struggled with the topic. Trustee Palermo is not in favor of this item and feels that it would be appropriate for the Plan Commission or Design Review Commission to examine the issue.

Trustee Langan expressed concerns with this item noting he is not in favor of second floor signs and would prefer to see a universal business sign for the building.

Trustee McCarty shares concerns with this item and believes the commercial businesses would derive greater exposure through marketing rather than building signage.

President Livingston inquired about timing on this issue and Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin responded by introducing Patty Mahoney, representative of Mid America Asset Management. Ms. Mahoney provided background information and would like to accommodate the two new commercial tenants with signage as soon as possible.

President Livingston requested the Village Attorney to provide clarification on process. Village Attorney Betsy Gates noted that the options available to the Village Board would be to vote on the item as presented; amend the motion to continue the item for a future meeting; or amend the motion to remand the item back to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Discussion ensued among the Trustees.

Trustee Nowak moved to amend the motion to continue the item to a future meeting with direction to staff to develop an appropriate process and involvement by advisory commissions to examine the issues as discussed by the Board, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Absent: None

- C. Resolution (#R-13-12) – Preliminary Comments to the Illinois Department of Transportation Regarding the 47<sup>th</sup> Street and East Avenue Phase I Intersection Study: Referred to President Livingston

President Livingston requested Clerk Burns to read the Resolution after which Trustee Langan moved to approve the Resolution providing preliminary comments to the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding the 47<sup>th</sup> Street and East Avenue Phase I intersection study, seconded by Trustee Holder.

President Livingston noted the importance of providing preliminary comments to the Illinois Department of Transportation during the planning stages of the potential changes to the intersection to ensure open communication for the entire Village and neighboring communities while addressing public safety as a priority.

As there are numerous concerns regarding this intersection, Trustee Langan wants to be sure that everyone's voice is heard and is supportive of the resolution.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his appreciation for the residents who previously spoke this evening and embraces the strongly worded and well written resolution.

Trustee Nowak is also supportive of the resolution. He indicated that modern technology, such as Facebook, can be a tool in facilitating discussions on issues like it has on this matter.

Trustee Palermo added his favor for the resolution and noted that the Village Board has been active in examining traffic calming strategies within the entire 47<sup>th</sup> Street corridor.

Trustee McCarty is supportive of the resolution. If there was an issue where the Village needed to be careful and exercise self-interest, it should be this one.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

President Livingston requested that the resolution be transmitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation as well as local legislators.

- 4.-A Resolution (#R-13-11) – Stone Avenue Train Station Renovation Project – Cancellation of a Revised Invitation to Bid and Direction to Staff to Reject All Bids (Removed from Omnibus for further discussion.)

Trustee Palermo provided information on available federal and grant funding for the renovation of the Stone Avenue train station. Trustee Palermo explained that staff working with Legat Architects and Metra finalized the necessary documents which were approved by the Village Board in September of 2011. Metra gave notice to proceed in January 2012 whereby project plans, specifications and contract documents were prepared and approved by Metra in November 2012. Trustee Palermo added that six bids were received and opened in December 2012.

As all six bids exceeded the project budget and architect's construction estimate the Village Board directed staff to reject all bids and revise the scope of the project to bring the revised cost estimate within budget and rebid the project.

Trustee Palermo proceeded to explain that on May 7, 2013 four bids were received on the revised project documents. Although the two low bids were generally within budget parameters they did not meet the requirements for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). Trustee Palermo added that Federal procurement regulations require the Village to award a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder or cancel the bidding process and reject all bids.

Staff and Metra concur that it is in the Village's best interest to once again reject all of the bids.

It was moved by Trustee Palermo to approve the Resolution providing for notice of the cancellation of the invitation to bid and directing staff to reject all bids, seconded by Trustee Langan

Trustee Palermo inquired as to changes made to the project since January and Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson provided the detailed changes to reduce cost. Trustee Palermo inquired about cost for consulting fees for the project revisions and Ms. Peterson responded that revisions were part of the original contract and no extra costs are incurred. Trustee Palermo asked if bidders were debriefed as to the new scope of revisions and Ms. Peterson responded affirmatively. Trustee Palermo inquired if the first set of bids were DBE compliant and Ms. Peterson noted that they were so over budget that DBE compliance was not of general concern.

Trustee McCarty inquired about items to adjust or eliminate for future bidding. Ms. Peterson noted economics and cost of construction materials as being a determinant to the project.

President Livingston inquired as to timing. Ms. Peterson noted the importance to move forward as this is grant funded. It is anticipated to have a contract for the Board's consideration in early Fall.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn supplied information regarding the scheduled Burlington Northern Santa Fe track maintenance work at the Ashland Avenue railroad crossing and traffic detours. Mr. Pilipiszyn added that La Grange Road will also see traffic delays due to La Grange Park's water main replacement project.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Steve Palmer, 1010 41<sup>st</sup> Street on behalf of the Pets and Pals Charities expressed his gratitude to the Village Board for their support and thanked all involved in the recent Pet Parade.

Tim Kelpsas, 67 N. Brainard previously on the Park District Board thanked the Village Board for their support related to Gordon Park improvements. As newly elected Library Trustee and public liaison, Mr. Kelpsas requested individuals interested in future planning for the Library to contact him.

Orlando Coryell, 115 S. Spring expressed his concerns related to the Village's water meter replacement program and disapproval of the Village's electric aggregation program. Mr. Coryell indicated he chose to opt out of the electric aggregation program but does not feel his request was honored. President Livingston noted that staff would review this matter.

Jeff Cogelja, 231 S. Ashland Avenue, spoke to the Village Board regarding his previous and continued pursuit to amend the Village Code of Ordinances to allow raising of backyard hens. President Livingston noted Mr. Cogelja's comments.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

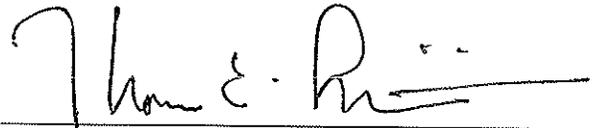
Trustee Nowak echoed support for the Pillars organization and their social services offered to the community.

Trustee Kuchler expressed thanks to all who helped make the Pet Parade a successful event.

Trustee Palermo congratulated the Leadershop for their successful 5k run and to students who participated in the Relay for Life to benefit cancer research.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:38 p.m. Trustee Langan moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Holder. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: July 8, 2013