

MINUTES

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

Monday, October 28, 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 (present 7:32 pm)

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
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

Stating that much activity has transpired since the last meeting, President Livingston provided information on a recent public forum organized by the League of Women Voters regarding environmental improvements. President Livingston extended thanks to Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson for moderating the informative event which included several local communities.

During a recent tour of the renovation of the Stone Avenue Train Station, President Livingston expressed his gratitude to Congressman Lipinski for his assistance in federal grant funding for the project.

President Livingston congratulated local restaurants Antonio's on their 25th Anniversary and Palmer Place on their 30th Anniversary.

In announcing the Village's first meeting with the development team for the former YMCA property, President Livingston noted that pre-application communications with the Village have begun and that a complete and public process is yet ahead.

Providing details of a recent 911 call from Lyons Township High School, President Livingston thanked Police Chief Mike Holub and his department for the swift response and professional manner handling this call.

President Livingston indicated that new owners of Vino e birra, John and Maria Hutzler have met with the Liquor Commission and upon its recommendation are seeking approval for a liquor license this evening.

Thanking the La Grange Business Association for affording the Fall Festival, President Livingston encouraged public safety on Halloween.

Lastly, President Livingston noted that a pension workshop would be conducted later this evening.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

A. Ordinance (#O-13-24) – Resubdivision of Lots, 301 South Waiola

B. Ordinance (#O-13-25) – Creating an Additional Class C-2 Liquor License, Zin Man, LLC d/b/a Vino e Birra, 18 W. Burlington Avenue

C. (Moved to Current Business for further discussion.)

D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, October 14, 2013

E. Consolidated Voucher 131028 – (\$467,935.44)

Trustee Palermo requested item 4-C be removed from the Omnibus Agenda and placed under Current Business for further discussion.

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Ordinance (#O-13-26) – Text Amendment – Comprehensive Sign Plan For Commercial Buildings: Referred to Trustee Holder

Trustee Holder provided background information on the Village's sign regulations and restrictions under the current zoning code. Explaining the hindrances related to commercial signage, Trustee Holder noted that the Board previously directed staff and advisory committees to review the matter for consistency within the Village.

Trustee Holder indicated that staff and the Village Attorney met with the Plan Commission and the Design Review Commission at public meetings to consider whether the sign regulations should be amended. Thereafter the Plan Commission requested that staff and the Village Attorney work on an amendment to the Zoning Code with the assistance of the Design Review Commission.

Trustee Holder noted a public hearing was conducted on October 8 at which time the Plan Commission voted in favor to recommend that the Village Board approve the proposed amendment to the Zoning Code regarding commercial building comprehensive sign plans.

Explaining the details of the proposed comprehensive sign plans for commercial buildings, Trustee Holder identified the step by step review process. Trustee Holder added that the proposed amendment does not change any existing sign regulations, but rather adds a new section for comprehensive sign plans.

Trustee Holder moved to approve the proposed amendment to the Zoning Code, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee McCarty expressed his thanks to the Plan Commission, Design Review Commission and staff for their efficiency and effectiveness in handling this matter. Trustee McCarty feels this is an excellent solution to a very difficult problem and it allows the Design Review Commission to have an active role.

Trustee Langan concurs that it is a unique solution and complimented the commissions for working together to resolve a difficult issue.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None
Absent: None

4-C. Request to Purchase – Public Works Department / Equipment Replacement (3) F250 Pick-Up Trucks (Removed from Omnibus for further discussion.)

Trustee Palermo explained that the Village budget provides for the replacement of seven pieces of equipment utilized by the Public Works Department. Describing the items, Trustee Palermo noted that staff is of the opinion that three of the seven have exceeded their useful life and need to be replaced. They are a 2003 Ford F250 pick-up truck; a 2002 Ford F250 pick-up truck with crew cab; and a 2002 Ford F250 pick-up truck with lift gate. Trustee Palermo elaborated on the deterioration of the vehicles and the mechanics evaluation for repairs.

Trustee Palermo summarized the total replacement cost of each vehicle, estimated trade-in value, adding that each fall below allocated budgeted amounts.

For discussion purposes, Trustee Palermo moved to approve the request to purchase three Ford F250 pick-up trucks, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Palermo noted that safety and efficiencies of the vehicles to be replaced was not annotated in the report. Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham responded that safety is factored into the reliability and demands on the equipment.

Trustee Holder inquired what is considered the useful life of the vehicles and Mr. Gillingham responded seven years. Trustee Holder noted that the three vehicles have well exceeded that time frame and commended staff on utilizing cost effective means through the State of Illinois cooperative purchasing program.

Acknowledging staff for the level of detail provided in the report, Trustee Langan expressed his support for this purchase.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Pension Workshop

President Livingston noted the financial infrastructure of Village government, like that of roads and public safety, is a priority for the Village Board. Indicating that a solid financial infrastructure includes the responsible management of our pensions,

President Livingston advised that the Board would soon assemble to prepare a budget for next year and planning forward to the next five years.

President Livingston stated that the Village's pension liability, although challenging, must be responsibly met to ensure long term fiscal stability for La Grange. Opening the floor for Board discussion throughout this pension workshop, President Livingston requested Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn to provide an overview.

Mr. Pilipiszyn began by announcing that Mr. Todd Schroeder of Lauterbach & Amen, LLP was hired by both Police and Fire pension boards as their new actuary. Mr. Pilipiszyn is hopeful that the workshop will provide the Village Board with a better understanding of the valuation changes employed by Mr. Schroeder and for the Village Board to provide direction as to amounts that should be levied to meet pension funding obligations. Mr. Pilipiszyn introduced the Village's Finance Director Lou Cipparrone to present a summary of staff recommendations regarding the pension levies.

Mr. Cipparrone outlined staff recommendations based on the professional guidance provided by the new independent actuary engaged by the Police and Fire Pension Fund Boards. Mr. Cipparrone explained that if the Village Board continues to fund the pension levies at a level which utilizes: the entry age normal actuarial cost method; a funding target level of 100; a 5-year smoothed market method of recognizing gains and losses; an interest rate assumption of 7.0%; and the Lauterbach & Amen 2012 mortality table, staff is recommending that the Village Board fund a combined levy of \$2,070,503, which is an increase of approximately \$345,000 or 20.1% from the pension fund levies currently budgeted in FY 2014-15.

Adding that the overall property tax levy is scheduled to be reviewed on November 11 and formally adopted on December 9, Mr. Cipparrone provided budgetary information on how this increase in pension funding might be met as well as cautions due to the uncertainties surrounding state shared revenues and the unpredictable impacts of the Affordable Health Care Act. Mr. Cipparrone introduced Actuary Todd Schroeder who has been engaged by both of the Village's pension funds.

Mr. Schroeder noted that Lauterbach & Amen, LLP completed an assumption study on mortality, termination, retirement, and disability rates to take a fresh look at changes in demographics which may affect future funding. Adding that pensions are required to be 100% funded by the year 2040, Mr. Schroeder offered to answer any questions the Board may have.

Numerous queries were presented to Mr. Schroeder and considerable debate and discussion ensued amongst the Village Board of Trustees which included mortality rates; actuarial assumptions; current funding status; achievement of the 100% funding status; funding ratio for police and fire; comparison within the private sector; and viable pension benefit contributions versus pension retirement or disability payments. Trustees inquired if other municipalities are facing similar issues and Mr. Schroeder

responded affirmatively. Trustees asked if past contributions were inadequate. Mr. Schroeder responded that pension funding obligations have been inherited.

Noting the seriousness of pension funding, President Livingston remarked that while the proposed levies represent a 20% increase over budget, improving economic conditions and the proposed utility tax increase will help to off-set the Village's increased pension obligations. President Livingston and Village Trustees expressed thanks to Mr. Schroeder for his thorough report and open discussion.

President Livingston inquired if the Village Manager had additional announcements. Mr. Pilipiszyn noted that Village offices would be closed on November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day, however the Village Board will conduct its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Auditorium.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Orlando Coryell, 115 S. Spring expressed concerns relevant to the tax rate as it is reflected on his tax bill. His comments were duly noted by President Livingston.

Don Johnston, 240 S. La Grange Road expressed concerns with the placement of AT&T U Verse cabinets. President Livingston indicated that the Village shares his concerns and is working to resolve them.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

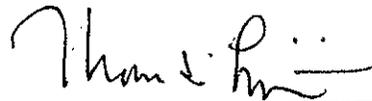
Trustee Langan congratulated Palmer Place on their anniversary celebration and thanked Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham for his assistance in resolving a neighborhood gas main repair.

Trustee Kuchler thanked the La Grange Business Association for providing the annual Halloween Walk. Trustee Kuchler expressed safety concerns at the Stone Avenue Train station while it is being renovated.

Referencing the recent Lyons Township High School incident, Trustee Holder complimented the excellent method of communication and feels a service resource officer would be appropriate at the school.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 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

H:\eelder\ellie\Minutes\VB102813.doc

Approved Date: November 11, 2013