

MINUTES

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

Monday, November 11, 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 (present 7:32 pm), Kuchler, McCarty, Nowak and Palermo

ABSENT: Trustee Langan

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic
Fire Chief William Bryzgalski
Police Chief Michael Holub

President Livingston requested Village Clerk John Burns announce who will be leading the Pledge of Allegiance this evening. Introducing Boy Scout Brendan McDonnell, Clerk Burns indicated that Brendan is seeking to earn his Citizen's Badge and requested everyone please stand as Brendan led the recitation.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston expressed gratitude to Veterans and the Robert E. Coulter Jr. American Legion for remembrance of those men and women who served our country.

Providing an update on the November 4, 2013 quarry blast, President Livingston expressed his determination to gather the facts as to what happened and to do so in a timely manner. Towards that end, he has met with two senior executives from Hanson Material Service, communicated with the mayors of McCook and Countryside, and has contacted state and federal officials for assistance. President Livingston noted the

Village's active role in keeping residents informed via Code Red alerts and website postings.

President Livingston expressed thanks to Congressman Lipinski and Attorney General Madigan for their cooperation in reviewing the facts of this blast. Assuring residents of ongoing efforts to pursue the details of the event and to address significant public safety concerns, President Livingston provided the quarry complaint hot line and encouraged residents to continue to monitor the Village's website for updates.

President Livingston noted that the next La Grange 2020 Task Force meeting would be held on November 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. and will include discussion on public safety.

Lastly President Livingston announced that the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad will be performing maintenance on the 47th Street railroad crossing and advised residents of alternate routes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-13-27) – Design Review Permit (DRP) #84, 803-807 West Hillgrove, TB Meyers, LLC (Timothy Myers)
- B. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, October 28, 2013
- C. Consolidated Voucher 131111 – (\$1,436,423.29)

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. La Grange Business Association / 2013 Hometown Holiday / Request for Village Sponsorship: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak explained that the December 7, 2013 Hometown Holiday Walk has always been a positive reflection of the Village of La Grange and brings shoppers

into the community. This is the 22nd annual event and the La Grange Business Association is requesting the Village co-sponsor the event in an amount not to exceed \$12,000. Trustee Nowak added that the Village's position of sponsorship is marketing the event, which includes newspaper advertisements, posters and the production and mailing of the booklet which lists the activities for the evening.

Trustee Nowak listed the conditions outlined in the sponsorship policy and noted that approval would include compliance to those conditions. Trustee Nowak noted that La Grange Business Association representatives are in attendance to answer any questions on this year's event.

It was moved by Trustee Nowak to support the Hometown Holiday Walk's cost of advertising and marketing for 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$12,000, with the conditions as outlined in the Village's sponsorship policy, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

B. Preliminary review of the Proposed 2013 Property Tax Levy Request (#R-13-17):
Referred to Trustee McCarty

Trustee McCarty began by noting that the property tax levy is a key element in the annual Village budget. Providing information on the percentage of property tax allocated to the Village, Trustee McCarty noted that the Village has been nationally recognized for its municipal budgeting process which focuses on the overall good for Village residents.

Trustee McCarty stated that this is a preliminary review of the proposed 2013 property tax levy request and explained that the Truth in Taxation Law requires a preliminary review of the proposed tax levy at least 20 days prior to its adoption. If the aggregate levy is more than 5% greater than the preceding year's extension, exclusive of debt service, the Village must hold a public hearing before adopting the proposed property tax levy. Since the proposed Truth in Taxation levy request, excluding debt service shows a total increase of 2.97% over the prior years' extension, the Village of La Grange is not required to hold a public hearing regarding the 2013 property tax levy. Trustee McCarty indicated the property Tax Limitation Act limits the increase in property tax extensions, exclusive of debt service and new property growth to 5% or the percent increase of the National Consumer Price Index (CPI) whichever is less. The CPI for the 2013 tax levy determined as of December 2012 was 1.7%

Trustee McCarty presented information on the General Fund levy; Pension levies; and the Special Service Area levy. Trustee McCarty indicated the Police and Fire pension levies reflect the annual required contributions based upon independent actuarial valuations of each fund for the year ended April 30, 2013. Adding that the Village has received letters from both the Police and Fire Pension Fund Boards to levy funds based upon the independent actuarial valuations, Trustee McCarty stated that to date the Village has never failed to levy for the full amount requested.

Trustee McCarty added that the La Grange Public Library is a municipal library not a library district therefore the library levy is a part of the Village levy. The Library's tax levy request represents an increase of 2.97% over the 2012 property tax levy extension.

Indicating that the Village is announcing the 2013 preliminary tax levy, Trustee McCarty stated that the ordinance adopting the 2013 tax levy will be presented at the upcoming December 9, 2013 Village Board meeting.

It was moved by Trustee McCarty that the Village Board approve the Resolution announcing the estimated 2013 tax levy of \$8,542,751, exclusive of debt service, which is a 2.97% increase from the 2012 tax levy, seconded by Trustee Nowak.

Expressing his favor of staff's cost containment measures, Trustee Kuchler noted his support of this tax levy increase, however expressed concerns about other fee increases, and that his support for the property tax levy does not mean support of fee increases which are being considered.

Trustee Holder also congratulated staff on their fourth year of cost containment and prudent efforts to maximize financial stability.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

None

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Orlando Coryell, 115 S. Spring provided numerous comments relevant to the police and fire pension funds. Mr. Coryell feels the need to reduce the burden on tax payers and suggested outsourcing police and fire services. Mr. Coryell provided the Village Clerk with retirement charts which he prepared. His comments were duly noted by President Livingston.

Bridget Erickson, 725 S. 11th Avenue expressed concerns with wild life and feral cats. Ms. Erickson noted public health issues and her frustration in meeting with area residents to discourage feeding wildlife. President Livingston indicated that staff will look into this issue.

Charles, 702 Lincoln expressed concerns related to the quarry blast; pension funding; and tax increases. President Livingston noted his concerns and addressed them accordingly.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

President Livingston thanked Boy Scout Brendan McDonnell for his interest in Village government and noted he was the first participant in leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at a Village Board meeting.

Trustee Nowak added his thanks to Brendan McDonnell for his participation.

Village Clerk Burns encouraged the audience to remember those who have gallantly served our Country.

Trustee Kuchler added his thanks to Veterans' for their service.

In response to citizen comments on pension funding, Trustee Palermo emphasized the need to increasingly contribute more money toward the Village's police and fire pension funds.

Identifying the importance of communication and working together to resolve issues, Trustee McCarty thanked Ms. Erickson for advising the Board of her concerns.

Trustee Holder clarified that both the Police and Fire Pension Boards are administered by appointed members and operate independently. The Village Board of Trustees role is to provide funding to meet future obligations.

Trustee Palermo added clarification that it is important to understand that local pension boards do not set the rate for benefits. Those are set at the State level therefore the need for State legislation and pension reform.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m. Trustee Holder moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Palermo. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

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Approved Date: December 9, 2013