

MINUTES

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

Monday, January 27, 2014 - 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 Kuchler, Langan, McCarty, Nowak and Palermo

ABSENT: Trustee Holder

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Community Development Director, Patrick Benjamin
Assistant Community Development Director and Planner, Angela Mesaros
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
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 welcomed Village of La Grange Park President Jim Discipio who was in attendance. President Livingston thanked all who were involved in making the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day march and program a successful event. Adding his thanks to Police Chief Mike Holub for enforcing safety during the march and Trustee McCarty for joining him in the event.

President Livingston noted that on January 15 the La Grange 2020 Task Force met and discussed the presentation provided by Public Works. Their upcoming meeting on February 19 will be an open topic conversation and their final report will be presented in the Spring.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-14-02) – Special Use / Site Plan Approval to Allow a Physical Fitness Facility in the I-1 Light Industrial District, Absolution RDM, LLC, 700 E. Elm Avenue (Suite A)
- B. Request to Purchase – Fire Department / Thermal Imaging Camera
- C. Resolution (#R-14-01) – Authorizing an Amendment to an Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement / Police Department
- D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, January 13, 2014
- E. Consolidated Voucher 140127 – (\$532,645.62)

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance (#O-14-03) - Variation – Maximum Building Coverage, 415 South Park Road: Referred to Trustee McCarty

Trustee McCarty noted the complexity of the variation request and challenges faced by the Zoning Board of Appeals Commissioners. Trustee McCarty indicated that Kevin McKenna the owner of the property at 415 South Park Road has applied for a variation from the maximum building coverage standard in order to build a two-car detached garage. Trustee McCarty provided detailed background information related to the petitioner previously being granted a variation from the minimum required front yard in order to construct a front porch.

Trustee McCarty indicated that a public hearing was conducted on December 19, 2013 whereby after much deliberation, the Zoning Board of Appeals recommended approval of a smaller variation by a six to one vote. The recommendation was conditional upon agreement that the existing front porch would not be enclosed.

It was moved by Trustee McCarty to approve the granting of an ordinance for the construction of a garage at 415 South Park and that the variation be subject to the three conditions noted in the ordinance, seconded by Trustee Palermo.

Trustee McCarty asked if the petitioner was in agreement with the conditions and Mr. McKenna responded affirmatively.

Trustee Palermo expressed his opinions that the petitioner has had to replace his garage due to flooding issues. Trustee Palermo is in favor of the variation however is opposed to having the petitioner sign off on the waiver not to enclose the front porch.

Trustee Langan is in agreement with the Zoning Board of Appeals Commissioners deliberations and concurs with Trustee McCarty that this is a reasonable solution and supports the ordinance as originally presented.

Trustee Nowak inquired about specifics related to garage size and Ms. Mesaros responded. Trustee Nowak concurs with Trustee Palermo to remove the condition affecting the front porch. He also is cognizant of flooding issues in the backyard and that the petitioner should not be penalized for replacing a dilapidated garage. Trustee Nowak supports the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals with the removal of the condition not to enclose the front porch. Trustee Nowak also favors allowing the petitioner a larger garage.

President Livingston noted that the petitioner's flooding issues should be treated as a separate matter and will be discussed at a future time.

Trustee Kuchler inquired if Mr. McKenna is acceptable to signing a covenant not to enclose the front porch.

Kevin McKenna, 415 S. Park noted his reluctance in agreeing to the covenant.

President Livingston asked Village Attorney Burkland if the item could be considered without the covenant. Attorney Burkland advised that there is a motion on the floor which can be amended.

Trustee Langan noted the Board's consistency in addressing a number of variances with conditions not to enclose front porches.

Trustee McCarty commented that realistically the front porch is not intended to be enclosed, he supports the Zoning Board of Appeal's decision, and cautioned the Board on altering the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendations by offering additional garage space.

Trustee Kuchler expressed similar concerns in procedure.

President Livingston indicated the current motion would need to be amended relating to the front porch covenant.

Trustee Palermo expressed his continued support with the amendment and that drainage mitigation could be discussed at a later date.

Trustee Langan favors supporting the motion as originally presented.

It was moved by Trustee Nowak to amend the motion to approve the Ordinance authorizing the variation, that if granted, the petitioner would not be required to sign a covenant preventing the front porch from being enclosed, seconded by Trustee Kuchler. Approved by voice vote.

Attorney Burkland indicated that the original motion has been amended.

Trustee Kuchler inquired how many votes would be required to approve the motion. Village Attorney Mark Burkland responded that four votes were required for passage.

Trustee Palermo inquired if the President would be permitted to vote and Attorney Burkland indicated nay.

It had been moved and seconded to approve the amended ordinance granting a zoning variation for construction of a detached garage at 415 South Park Road. Approved by 4 to 1 roll call vote.

Ayes:	Trustees Kuchler, Nowak, Palermo and McCarty
Nays:	Trustee Langan
Absent:	Trustee Holder

- B. Presentation – AECOM – West Suburban Public Safety Dispatch Consolidation Study Between the Villages of La Grange, La Grange Park, and Western Springs: Referred to President Livingston

President Livingston noted that this item would be presented after the Village Manager's Report.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Pre-Budget Development Workshop – Revenues (Food and Beverage Tax) – Continued Discussion

President Livingston indicated that as the Board moves forward with its budget developing process, it will be considering the possibility of a Food and Beverage Tax and or increase in Utility Tax. As the Village Board carefully considers additional revenue sources in order to maintain public safety, adequate reserves, and pensions over the next several years, President Livingston emphasized the importance of

financial stewardship. President Livingston added that making honest and cost effective decisions for responsible budgeting is a priority.

In continuation of this discussion, President Livingston explained that business owners have been contacted individually and through the La Grange Business Association to provide their comments and opinions regarding a potential Food and Beverage Tax. As senior management is seeking direction, President Livingston opened the floor to Trustees for discussion.

Trustee Langan believes that the Village's on-going cost containment plan is working. He also believes that not addressing revenues to maintain services is a significant issue. Balancing the Food and Beverage Tax between residents and non-residents is preferred to just burdening residents with a Utility Tax. Trustee Langan also supports offering valet service to restaurants.

Trustee Kuchler noted that revenues are a significant issue. Expressing concerns with new taxes and the need to operate within the cost-of-living, Trustee Kuchler feels government is spending more than inflation and that the Village cannot add more programs or services. Trustee Kuchler added his concerns related to valet services and its management, preferring a reduction in license fees and/or waiving the cost of employee parking for businesses.

Trustee Palermo is in agreement that visitors should share in the cost for maintaining the Village's infrastructure and favors a Food and Beverage Tax versus a Utility Tax. Trustee Palermo feels an entertainment tax should also be discussed and considered.

Trustee Nowak will reluctantly support a Food and Beverage Tax as he agrees with President Livingston that public safety needs, a significant increase in pension funding, and building reserves cannot be ignored. Expressing caution to avoid future tax increases, Trustee Nowak wants to maintain reserves for significant improvements to infrastructure.

Trustee McCarty concurs with Trustee Nowak noting that unlike the private sector there are fixed expenses that the Village cannot shed. Trustee McCarty would like the Village to do more to inform residents as to the value of services received. He also indicated support for new income, including development of Village owned parking lots.

Trustee Palermo would like to see more data as to how the Village compares to other municipalities in terms of revenues and expenditures. President Livingston responded that information will be forthcoming as part of budget developing process.

President Livingston summarized the discussion by acknowledging that the Board's preference is to move forward with a Food and Beverage Tax. President Livingston directed staff to provide additional information related to a Food and Beverage Tax

for a 1% increase versus a ½% increase. He also complimented the Village Board for continuing to be careful financial stewards.

B. Pre-Budget Development Workshop – Water Meter Replacement Program – Status Update

Village Manager Pilipiszyn requested Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham to present this item.

Providing detailed background information on the water meter replacement program, Mr. Gillingham noted that based on the first six months of water billing data, accountability has increased 80.6% which is a 3% increase from the prior year. Mr. Gillingham added that further improvements in accountability are expected as the final meters are installed and additional water readings are collected over an entire years billing cycle.

Mr. Gillingham indicated that the new water meters and software system help to identify significant water main breaks, improve customer service, and provide usage information.

Trustee Kuchler inquired if water accountability is what had been anticipated and Mr. Gillingham responded affirmatively to date.

Trustee Palermo inquired what next steps would be required to maintain / further improve water accountability above the 80% threshold. Mr. Gillingham explained that continuation of leak surveys would be appropriate and that water main replacement would be the next step, however, that is a much more expensive option and with variable outcomes.

Trustee Langan feels thus far the water meter replacement program is beneficial.

Trustee Palermo asked when the Board would be provided another update and President Livingston indicated this could be reviewed in another six months or some other appropriate operational milestone.

At approximately 8:50 p.m. President Livingston introduced Mr. Mike Milas and Mr. Tony Wheeler from AECOM who will provide information on the technical study for a comprehensive plan to integrate and implement a combined dispatch center between the Villages of La Grange, La Grange Park, and Western Springs.

Mr. Milas and Mr. Wheeler provided a power point presentation which included a detailed summary of project goals and objectives; current dispatch center analysis; technology feasibility analysis; facility requirements; staffing analysis; cost benefit analysis; funding and implementation recommendations.

President Livingston opened the discussion to the Village Board noting that their questions, comments, and concerns would be collected this evening and shared with the other municipalities.

Trustee McCarty inquired if there were other consortiums in the area and Mr. Milas responded affirmatively. Trustee McCarty inquired if it would be possible for the Village to join one of those centers. Police Chief Holub responded that those in the area do not fit the criteria.

Unclear on geographical criteria, Trustee Palermo inquired if all dispatch centers need to be contiguous and was informed that they commonly are for operational purposes. Trustee Palermo inquired what deters the Village from joining another dispatch center. Chief Holub responded that issues of cost, governance, service levels and operational compatibility are several factors to consider; designing one's own center will allow La Grange, La Grange Park, and Western Springs to determine standards for these factors rather than having them imposed by another agency.

Trustee Nowak expressed disappointment with the study findings that greater cost savings will not be achieved and inquired if joining the Southwest Dispatch Center would be beneficial. Police Chief Holub responded negatively in that it does not meet the needs of the three Villages. Trustee Nowak inquired if Emergency Medical Dispatch was mandatory. Mr. Milas responded that because legislative and regulatory answers differ, Emergency Medical Dispatch is strongly encouraged.

Trustee Kuchler inquired if current dispatchers have emergency medical training and Chief Holub responded that they are not certified and cannot provide medical instructions without certification.

Trustee Palermo feels the need to look at other alternatives before the Village signs off on a new center with its neighbors.

Trustee Nowak concurs with Trustee Palermo.

As the three municipalities have worked well together, Trustee Kuchler does not wish to deter the combined services initiative.

Trustee McCarty requested Chief Holub to share his vision. Chief Holub feels that a combined dispatch center will facilitate the sharing of other public safety services such as police operations.

Trustee Palermo inquired if the three municipalities joined an existing consortium, would that conflict with the Chief's vision. Chief Holub believes it would.

President Livingston thanked all for their discussion, that he will confer with the Chiefs and that he will report back as to conversations to be had with the Village President's of La Grange Park and Western Springs.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

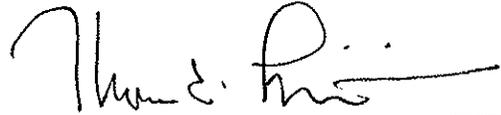
9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Kuchler thanked Police, Fire and Public Works staff for their services during the extreme weather conditions. Trustee Kuchler acknowledged local restaurants for their participation in a recent fund raiser for the local BEDS program.

Trustee McCarty expressed his thanks to residents for enduring and helping others during the extreme cold and snowy conditions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 p.m. Trustee Langan moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Palermo. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: February 10, 2014