

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, February 3, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Trustees Holder, Kuchler, McCarty, Nowak and Palermo with President Livingston presiding.

ABSENT: Trustee Langan

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn  
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson  
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone  
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham  
Fire Chief Bill Bryzgalski

President Livingston stated that tonight's special meeting is an on-going step in the Village's budget development process with a specific examination of the Village's capital needs and priorities. The Capital Projects Fund budget relies on a revenue enhancement to continue with the Village's active schedule of capital improvements. The budget development process is a balancing act between competing priorities and limited resources.

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 2013-14 and Capital Project recommendations for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

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

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Several members of the Village Board inquired about the cost and scope of sewer improvements in the drainage basin south of 47<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Gillingham responded by explaining the basis of the significant cost estimate, a potential engineering solution, and that discussions are on-going with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Cook County and other stakeholders.

Several members of the Village Board inquired about traffic and pedestrian safety improvements adjacent to the YMCA property as part of the proposed redevelopment project, and securing State funding through the pending IDOT study. President Livingston and staff responded with brief updates.

President Livingston invited Board discussion in response to a citizen initiated petition for adding sidewalks on the 700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, after having requested a brief report from Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn as to how the petition came to be. President Livingston noted that the impact on budget operations was not as significant as compared to other capital projects. A couple of residents who were in attendance spoke to the need for installing sidewalks on their block. Trustee Palermo inquired about homeowner signatures. Village Manager Pilipiszyn responded that the petition is accepted at face value, that the process to establish a Special Service Area will more accurately determine ownership, and explained the importance of property ownership as it relates to the sixty-day waiting period during which objections could be filed in opposition to the Special Service Area. Ms. Lange, 710 S. 12<sup>th</sup> confirmed that only property owners signed the petition.

Trustee Palermo asked for clarification regarding the timeliness of replacing trees damaged by the Emerald Ash Borer, and Mr. Gillingham responded.

Trustee McCarty inquired about how information gathered from sewer televising is used. Mr. Gillingham explained that as part of the televising process, the sewers are subjected to a heavy duty cleaning which is an important maintenance activity to optimize pipe capacity and flow. Thereafter, video recordings are made and used to determine whether the sewer main is in good condition, requires repairs or should be lined. President Livingston noted the Village's significant commitment to sewer lining in a couple of fiscal years when funds have accumulated and become available.

Trustee Nowak inquired about unforeseen challenges with the recently completed segment of MARS and challenges anticipated with crossing La Grange Road. Mr. Gillingham responded that no unforeseen challenges were encountered but rather the known difficulty with boring through dense and shallow rock, which required new techniques and special attention. Preliminary options for crossing La Grange Road have been identified – tunneling, open trench (full street closure), partial open trench (one-half street closure at a time). President Livingston expressed appreciation to residents for their patience with the MARS sewer project this year and apologized for having been subjected to the inconveniences of construction dust, noise, drilling activity and project duration. Trustee McCarty commented on the unique arrangement of using the large vacant lot on Bluff Avenue as a construction staging area.

Trustee Kuchler expressed his on-going concern that signalizing the intersection of 47<sup>th</sup> Street and East Avenue will not improve safety within the 47<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and will result in cut-through traffic from northbound East Avenue onto westbound 50<sup>th</sup> Street.

In reviewing staff recommendations, several members of the Village Board commented on the funding sources and scope of the reconstruction of Edgewood Avenue.

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

At the conclusion of its review of capital projects, it was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations and to include the installation of sidewalks on the 700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Capital Projects Fund as a budgeted item.

### III. WATER FUND

Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham presented this item which included a status report of water system improvements for Fiscal Year 2013-14 and recommendations for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

Considerable discussion ensued. Matters discussed included the following: how changes in weather influence water main breaks, the ability to estimate the rate of water loss when water mainbreaks occur, water accountability (pumped versus billed), the need for continued detection activities to contain water loss, fluctuations in water purchases from one year to the next, projected water rate increases in future fiscal years, and why the Village does not immediately pass through rate increases from the Village of McCook. President Livingston noted the importance of upgrading the Village's water pumping station.

A separate discussion ensued regarding the proposal to purchase a GIS system to map the Villages' underground utilities. It was the consensus of the Village Board to set the matter aside for continued discussion at a later date, subject to additional information on use, cost, and so on.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations, except as otherwise noted above.

### IV. SEWER FUND

Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham presented this item which included a status report of sewer system improvements for Fiscal Year 2013-14 as well recommendations for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of overtime in this budget and corresponding cost allocations to this Fund.

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 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: February 24, 2014

Robert J. Pilipiszyn  
Village Manager