

MINUTES

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

Monday, February 24, 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 7:31 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 Mark Burkland
Community Development Director, Patrick Benjamin
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 was saddened to announce the passing of former Village Clerk Robert N. Milne. President Livingston stated that Bob Milne had served as Village Clerk from 1993 to 2011 when he retired. Noting his numerous contributions and involvement in the community, President Livingston requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Robert Milne.

President Livingston welcomed Boy Scouts Andy Schramka and Neil Doherty who are seeking to earn their Citizenship Badge.

President Livingston invited the public to attend the upcoming budget workshop on Saturday, March 8 as well as the regular Village Board meeting on Monday, March 10.

Lastly, President Livingston announced that the regularly scheduled Village Board meeting on March 24 would be canceled.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Contract – Group Health and Life Insurance Renewal
- B. Ordinance (#O-14-05) Disposal of Surplus Property / Miscellaneous Personal Property
- C. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Special Meeting, Monday, February 3, 2014
- D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday February 10, 2014
- E. Consolidated Voucher 140224 – (\$651,267.76)

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

Trustee Palermo noted his prior request to have staff explore incentives to encourage employees to seek health insurance coverage from their spouse. Village Manager Pilipiszyn noted there was no Board consensus or direction to explore this further. Trustee Palermo feels this is worthy of consideration.

Trustee Holder inquired how this could be accomplished. Trustee Palermo responded that a monetary stipend could be provided to employees who seek health insurance coverage from their spouse.

Trustee Langan indicated that certain things cannot be judged by monetary value and it is important to offer benefits that attract and maintain high quality employees.

Trustee McCarty concurred with Trustee Langan noting that the trend among companies is to increase the cost of spousal coverage, so the benefit is not as great as it may have been in the past.

Trustee Kuchler feels this option could be offered as an employee option and should not be considered as a penalty.

Trustee Nowak indicated this is not an uncommon practice and noted his support for additional research. Trustee Nowak commended staff on its diligence in managing health insurance expenses and negotiating rates in a competitive market.

Trustee Holder commented on staff's due diligence to maintain health insurance expenses and inquired how the Village compares to other companies. Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson responded that the Village's insurance broker, who also services the private sector, reviews market conditions and has indicated that the Village's renewal is very competitive.

Trustee Langan feels the group health insurance renewal is reasonable and will support it.

Acknowledging some interest by the Village Board in the concept, President Livingston asked staff to look into the matter.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Engineering Services Agreement – KLOA - Traffic Engineering Study at Ogden and Locust Avenues: Referred to Trustee Palermo

Trustee Palermo provided detailed information related to the intersection at Ogden Avenue and La Grange Road; the Illinois Department of Transportation's planned safety improvement project at this intersection; and the signalization and stakeholder coordination. Adding that a developer of the property owned by the YMCA has proposed improvements to the area, Trustee Palermo explained the proposed redevelopment project. In context to the development of the area pedestrian safety and access remain critical components.

Trustee Palermo noted that staff recommends pursuing the signalization of Locust and Ogden Avenues and explained the difficulty in the process of funding, obtaining approvals and constructing improvements due to multiple stakeholders. Trustee Palermo added that the Illinois Department of Transportation has recommended that a first step towards pursuing signalization of the intersection would be to complete a traffic engineering study supporting the warrants for a traffic signal.

Trustee Palermo indicated that staff requested a proposal from KLOA to complete a traffic impact study with a traffic signal warrant analysis. KLOA proposes to complete the traffic engineering study in two phases for an amount not to exceed \$16,750. Trustee Palermo noted that KLOA anticipates completion of the first phase

in several weeks and the second phase of the work is contingent upon IDOT's review and approval process.

Trustee Palermo moved to approve a task order issued under the master task order agreement with KLOA to perform a traffic engineering study at Ogden and Locust Avenues in an amount not to exceed \$16,750, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Trustee Holder referenced a previous analysis performed on this intersection. Village Manager Pilipiszyn explained that while more than several years old, there is useful content in the previous study and the consultant's fees reflect building upon that existing information.

Referencing that IDOT has stated this intersection is one of the worst performing intersections in terms of accident severity and frequency Trustee Palermo inquired as to the context for such a determination. Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham responded his understanding that the determination was based on data collected by IDOT on a state-wide basis.

Trustee McCarty requested clarification regarding the difference in cost for each phase. Mr. Gillingham responded that the second phase is contingent upon IDOT's review and approval process. Trustee McCarty inquired about possible grants to fund this study. Mr. Gillingham responded that any federal and state grant opportunities available will be utilized.

President Livingston noted he has already engaged in a conversation on the matter with the Village's state legislators.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

President Livingston summarized his rationale and recommendation to staff to have the proposed Village budget reflect the enactment of a 1.0% Food and Beverage Tax. Referencing the Village Board's prior discussions, a Food and Beverage Tax was preferred over an increase in the Utility Tax. President Livingston emphasized the importance of financial planning and responsible budgeting.

President Livingston added that the business community has been consulted and their concerns for an offset to parking costs have been noted. Affirming his support for the 1.0% Food and Beverage Tax, President Livingston opened the floor for discussion.

Trustee Holder emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate reserves. Trustee Holder is in favor of the Food and Beverage Tax as a balance between both non-residents and residents and is preferred as an alternative to burdening just residents with a Utility Tax. Trustee Holder also supports the benefits of a school resource officer.

Trustee Palermo is not ready to support a Food and Beverage Tax and feels there are other ways to increase revenues. Trustee Palermo reiterated his suggestions to place a referendum on the ballot to increase the Village's non-home rule sales tax; utilize an established regional dispatch center; and seek comparative financial information.

President Livingston noted the practical limitations with the referendum suggestion made by Trustee Palermo back in December. President Livingston added that he met with Village staff earlier today to review the benchmark information and asked them to prepare a memo which explains Sikich's methodology.

Trustee Kuchler indicated he would not be in attendance at the upcoming budget workshop however expressed his support of the Food and Beverage Tax. Trustee Kuchler noted the need for pension funding, his support for a student resource officer and his favor in allowing employees of the Central Business District to incur reduced or free parking.

Trustee Langan will also support the 1.0% Food and Beverage Tax. Acknowledging the need to address public safety as a priority, Trustee Langan also supports a school resource officer. Trustee Langan confirmed the need to increase reserves to prepare for the unexpected costs such as those incurred by severe weather conditions.

Trustee Nowak will reluctantly support the Food and Beverage Tax but expressed his concerns relating to where the funds will be allocated. Trustee Nowak firmly believes the funds should be utilized for infrastructure improvements.

Trustee McCarty noted his support of the tax and the number of options available to the Village Board.

President Livingston acknowledged the Board's discussion and noted the 1.0% Food and Beverage Tax would be included in the proposed budget document. President Livingston commented that the Board continues to maintain a conservative direction for future planning.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Langan honored former Village Clerk Bob Milne for his public service and sense of humor.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: March 10, 2014