

## MINUTES

### VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

53 South La Grange Road  
Lower Level Conference Room  
La Grange, IL 60525

Saturday, March 8, 2014 – 8:00 a.m.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange was held on Saturday, March 8, 2014, and called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the lower level conference room. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk John Burns, the following were present:

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

ABSENT: Trustee Holder and Kuchler

OTHERS: Robert Pilipiszyn, Village Manager  
Andrianna Peterson, Assistant Village Manager  
Lou Cipparrone, Finance Director  
Bill Bryzgalski, Fire Chief  
Mike Holub, Police Chief  
Ryan Gillingham, Director of Public Works  
Patrick Benjamin, Community Development Director  
Joe Munizza, Assistant Finance Director  
Angela Mesaros, Assistant Director of Community Development  
Mike Bojovic, Assistant Director of Public Works

#### II. BUDGET WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

President Livingston opened the meeting by briefly describing the budget development process. He then proceeded to compliment the Village Board for their active participation in the budget development process thus far, and encouraged their input as operational expenditures are reviewed today.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn remarked that over the past four years, the Village has approached the budget as a scarcity plan. This year, however, there are encouraging

signs of recovery and revitalization, not all of which are necessarily financial in nature. Representative examples include renewed and strong market interest in the YMCA property, high watermark sales tax receipts and a promising future as seen through a civic engagement process known as La Grange 2020. The nexus being drawn between these examples and the Village budget is that the budget is in a state of transition and one which is moving in a direction away from scarcity as compared to prior years. Village Manager Pilipiszyn noted that as the Village enters its fifth year of cost containment, the Village Board has also come to the conclusion for the need to enact a revenue enhancement in order to continue to provide core Village services and as well as making targeted investments and reinvestments.

Finally, Village Manager Pilipiszyn noted that the Village budget is a living document. As such, the Village Board will have additional budget management opportunities during the course of the coming year with the anticipated delivery and discussion of several major planning initiatives such as La Grange 2020, the redevelopment of the YMCA, the combined dispatch study, consideration of restructuring proposals for the Police and Fire Departments and an assessment of the cost containment plan, particularly the status of existing vacancies.

### III. REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Finance Director Cipparrone highlighted physical changes to the budget document as a green initiative as well as its reduced file size on the Village's website.

Finance Director Cipparrone distributed an exhibit which detailed the compounding effect of the Village's cost containment plan, resulting in over \$3.8 million in savings to La Grange taxpayers.

Finance Director Cipparrone reported in detail on each General Fund revenue line-item. With five retirements in the Police Department this year, he cautioned the Village Board to anticipate a significant impact to the Police Pension tax levy next year. Trustee Palermo inquired about salary increase assumptions. President Livingston acknowledged Trustee Palermo's concern.

Finance Director Cipparrone informed the Village Board of upwardly-revised revenue projections from the Illinois Municipal League for state-shared revenues. He then distributed an exhibit favorably comparing sales tax rates between La Grange and approximately thirty other comparable communities between Cook and Du Page Counties. President Livingston acknowledged receipt of this information with approval.

Finally, in discussing the Food and Beverage Tax, Finance Director Cipparrone distributed a set of spreadsheets which illustrated different budget impact scenarios between a 50% and 100% reduction in the cost of Central Business District (CBD) employee decals. The loss of revenue to the Parking Fund would have to be offset by a transfer from the General Fund.

It was the recommendation of Village staff to implement a 50% reduction in the monthly cost of CBD employee decals (from \$20 to \$10).

President Livingston described the input which he has received from the business community, their concerns being parking capacity and affordability. As new parking capacity is unlikely, President Livingston felt that a discounted employee parking decal would address affordability for the business community. In his opinion, to not consider this option would invite wider opposition to the proposed Food and Beverage Tax. President Livingston also noted that this arrangement would also incentivize employees to better comply with parking regulations, thus improving the overall management of the Village's parking supply. Discussion ensued concerning this parking management initiative. Village President Livingston thanked the Board for their input. It was the consensus direction of the Village Board to concur with the staff recommendation to amend the preliminary budget to reflect a 50% reduction in the monthly cost of a CBD employee decal.

At this point of the meeting, Department Heads were invited to present their respective departmental budgets to the Village Board for review and comment. Each Department Head was asked to describe budget variations, if any, and to provide a report on progress being made to achieve strategic goals and priorities within their respective areas of responsibility.

#### IV. REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUND BUDGETS

##### 1. Administration

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

##### 2. Legal

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

##### 3. President and Board

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

At this time, Assistant Village Manager Peterson provided the Village Board with a status update concerning the renewal of the Village's electric aggregation program. After the presentation and discussion, it was the consensus direction of the Village Board to authorize the Village President and Village Manager to

renew the Village's contract with First Energy with the most favorable market rates and terms available at the time. The decision is to be made the following week.

4. General Ledger

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

5. Finance

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

6. Community Development

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

7. Police Department

Supportive comments ensued in response to a status update from Chief Holub concerning challenges and actions taken to address staffing issues within the Police Department over the course of the current fiscal year, and future plan for restructuring.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

8. Asset Forfeiture Fund

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

9. Auxiliary Police Fund

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

10. ETSB Fund

Finance Director Cipparrone noted that the transfer to the Equipment Replacement Fund (ERF) was suspended, in anticipation of a combined dispatch arrangement within the next five years.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with the ETSB Board's budget recommendations.

11. Parking Fund

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

12. Fire Department

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

13. Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Fund

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

14. Building and Grounds and Public Works

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed contract for GIS services. It was the consensus of the Village Board to keep this proposed expenditure in the budget, but to schedule a separate discussion of this matter on a future Village Board agenda.

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

15. Water Fund

It was the consensus direction of the Village Board to concur with staff's remaining budget recommendations.

16. Sewer Fund

It was the consensus direction of the Village Board to leave the sewer rate increases as budgeted.

17. Equipment Replacement Fund

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

18. Debt Service Fund

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

19. Police and Fire Pension Funds

It was the consensus of the Village Board to concur with staff's budget recommendations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Village President Livingston thanked the Village Board and management team for their active participation in the process. He complimented the Village Board for contributing to the budget in a positive way. Trustees McCarty and Langan commented favorably on the process as well. Village President Livingston concluded the meeting by summarizing the anticipated agenda docket for the next several months, beginning with budget adoption on April 14, 2014.

The special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: April 14, 2014