

MINUTES

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

Monday, March 10, 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, McCarty, and Palermo

ABSENT: Trustees Holder, Langan and Nowak

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Assistant Community Development Director & Planner Angela Mesaros
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
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. Clerk Burns indicated that Girl Scout Leaders Caroline Dillon, Heather Hennessy, and Cara Pietrzak are in attendance with Girl Scouts Jamie Buckler, Ellie Chambers, Megan Dillon, Catie Ganzel, Maxine Gurney, Brianna Hall, Emma Haugsnes, Abby Hennessy, Evelyn Itturalde, Sophie Lucina, Olivia Martinez, Lauren Pena, Devon Pietrzak, Lydia Vulich, and Ainsley Unknis from Troop 58127 who will lead the audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston thanked Cossitt School 5th grade Girl Scouts from Troop 58127 for their participation this evening.

President Livingston acknowledged Village Trustees for their thoughtful discussion at the budget workshop previously conducted on Saturday, March 8, 2014. Advising that the budget is available on the Village's website, President Livingston indicated items

annotated with a green dot throughout the budget document have an energy efficiency and /or environmental awareness component.

President Livingston stated that the next La Grange 2020 Task Force meeting will be held on March 19 at which time the task force will continue to synthesize the information gathered thus far in preparation for their report on June 9.

President Livingston provided his twitter address as a means for social media communication.

Indicating that services for combined dispatch continue to be reviewed, President Livingston noted that additional information would be provided in April or May.

Lastly President Livingston announced this year's annual Spring clean-up days will be held the week of April 7 on resident's normal collection day.

A. Report Concerning Homelessness and Support Services in La Grange

Addressing a large audience, President Livingston indicated he would provide information on the recent study the Village has undertaken regarding homelessness in La Grange and the impact which overnight shelters and daytime counseling services provided to homeless individuals has on the Village. As concerns have arisen regarding public safety, President Livingston explained that his report would consist of two parts, the first being information provided by the organizations engaged in assisting the homeless and second the conclusions reached and five initiatives the Village and others will take to balance the administration of services and sensitivity to neighborhood impacts.

President Livingston provided the history and detailed synopsis of the services, programs, resources, locations offered to homeless individuals by the BEDS organization. In addition to coordinating an emergency overnight shelter program among seven area churches, President Livingston noted that BEDS Plus hosts a daytime counseling program at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church for not only its homeless clients but also to clients at risk of losing their current form of housing. The day program operates year round. President Livingston added that BEDS Plus administrators maintain open communications with the La Grange Police Department. Providing statistics on the increased number of clients served in recent years as well as information from meeting directly with affected residents, President Livingston noted that the BEDS Plus daytime program appears to be the source of concern.

President Livingston proceeded to provide information related to the La Grange Public Library including statistics from the La Grange Police Department related to homelessness issues, library policies and rules of conduct for patrons, and how those rules are enforced.

Summarizing the Village's interpretation of the issues and communications between law enforcement professionals, library staff, Village residents and those involved in the BEDS programs, President Livingston stated his general findings and conclusions. Based on his general conclusions, President Livingston announced the creation of five initiatives: establishment of a new police officer patrol beat concentrating on the Village's downtown, Library, Cossitt School grounds and nearby shelter areas during peak call months until school starts; effective immediately police incident reports involving homeless persons will be directed to the Police Chief for accounting and analysis separate from other incidences; the Village will actively collaborate with BEDS to diversify its service locations, particularly the daytime program to ease concentration and impacts in particular areas; BEDS has volunteered to limit the number of clients it sees each day; and that these initiatives will be evaluated and a status report will be provided to the community at a regular meeting of the Village Board in October.

President Livingston invited comments from the audience.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Caroline and Mark Dillon, 240 S. Catherine expressed numerous concerns related to the homeless clients and services afforded them. Mr. and Mrs. Dillon detailed information regarding signed petitions and freedom of information requests to bring awareness of their public safety concerns to the Village. Noting an increase in the number of homeless clients and expansion of the daytime services offered in the past few years, Mr. and Mrs. Dillon described events that occurred within the Village to document their concerns for public safety. Mr. and Mrs. Dillon requested that a deadline be set for a transition in location of the day program, residents be made aware of clients denied social services programs and that additional enforcement be executed. Clarifying that they are not objecting to the help offered to homeless individuals, but rather as concerned parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dillon are worried about a sense of diminished safety.

Tina Rounds, Executive Director of BEDS Plus detailed the services provided by the non-for-profit organization which utilizes local churches to facilitate such services. Ms. Rounds emphasized the need for these services to the homeless and their cooperative plan to work together for positive solutions. Adding that BEDS Plus works closely with the Police Department to maintain public safety and operate within the law. Ms. Rounds noted their volunteer services are thoughtful and operate responsibly.

Randy Valenta noted his years of service to the BEDS programs offered at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Mr. Valenta indicated the Village is a diverse community. He added his appreciation to the Village's thoughtful and careful approach in addressing this matter.

Kasey Madden, 400 Seventh Avenue expressed her favor in the services provided by the BEDS programs. Indicating the help provided to numerous homeless children, Ms. Madden noted the importance of this agency.

Two children spoke in favor of the church and its programs within to help the homeless.

Mary Carol Dockerty, agrees that everyone wants to assist the homeless. Ms. Dockerty believes the issue is to evaluate the inappropriate use of the library as a shelter and provide other resources for homeless individuals.

Jennifer Enriques, 840 S. Kensington indicated the importance of the services provided to the homeless.

Mark Rudzinski, 225 S. Stone noted that La Grange is an open community and although there are issues and disagreements, he is encouraged by the report and information provided.

Tony Kassel, 706 S. Ashland has volunteered for the BEDS program. Mr. Kassel noted the need to move forward together to help those less fortunate.

Ms. Hyde noted the need to discuss safety in and around Cossitt School and the library.

Jeff and Sue Kimberling, 209 S. Catherine appreciate this evenings open discussion and added their concerns with the location of the day services to the homeless.

John and Anna Bavone, 220 S. Catherine indicated they have had negative experiences related to the homeless in and around the library and do not feel the day programs offered to the homeless should be in a residential area.

Mimi Meagher, 100th block of 8th Avenue expressed concerns relating to the safety of her children when visiting the library.

Marcy Mc Kay supports the services offered to the homeless men, women and children and is hopeful that everyone can work together for a solution.

Howard Hammond, 100th block of South Catherine is supportive of the BEDS Plus programs and thought it would be a good idea for the neighbors to help with relocating the day program to a more appropriate location.

President Livingston thanked all for their thoughtful discussion and comments and indicated that data will be monitored and future updates will be provided.

Trustee Kuchler added his thanks to church and organizational leaders in attendance as well as residents. Acknowledging the very informative report provided by President Livingston, Trustee Kuchler encouraged anyone with safety concerns to contact the Police Department.

Trustee Palermo concurred with Trustee Kuchler. Noting his interest in statistical data, Trustee Palermo favors monitoring data to provide future reports regarding the homeless and services offered.

Trustee McCarty also thanked the audience for their involvement in the community, and that there is no right or wrong way to start a conversation.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-14-06) Special Use/Site Plan Approval to Allow a Yoga Studio, in the C-1 Central Commercial District, Level Y Yoga, LLC, d/b/a Core Power Yoga, 1 S. La Grange Road (2nd Floor)
- B. Ordinance (#O-14-07) – Disposal of Surplus Property / Miscellaneous Personal Property
- C. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, February 24, 2014
- D. Consolidated Voucher 140310 – (\$733,806.70)

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

President Livingston inquired if Village Manager Pilipiszyn had any matters to report on. Mr. Pilipiszyn reiterated the dates for the annual Spring Clean-Up Days in La Grange advising the audience to check the Village's website for detailed information.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Palermo thanked Floyd's Barber Shop and the La Grange Firefighters for their participation in the upcoming St. Baldrick's day to support children's cancer research.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:02 p.m. Trustee Palermo moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Kuchler.
Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: April 14, 2014