

# MINUTES

## VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

### PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Village Hall Auditorium  
53 South La Grange Road  
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, April 14, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange public hearing and 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: Trustees Holder, Kuchler, Langan, McCarty, Nowak, and Palermo with President Livingston presiding.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn  
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson  
Village Attorney Mark Burkland  
Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros  
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone  
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham  
Police Chief Mike Holub  
Fire Chief Bill Bryzgalski

President Livingston requested Village Clerk John Burns announce who will be leading the pledge of allegiance this evening. Clerk Burns indicated that Scoutmaster John Svoboda is in attendance with Boy Scouts JJ Svoboda, PJ Kurtzner, Ryan Oeste, Tyler Morales, Ivan Vanek, and Ryan Plybon from Troop 66 who will present the flags and lead the audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

#### 2. PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2014-15 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget: Referred to President Livingston

President Livingston explained the budget development process and expressed his thanks to the Village Board of Trustees and Management staff for their efforts in maintaining operational cost containment while moving forward for economic growth. President Livingston indicated that notice of this Public Hearing had been posted and published according to State Statute and that the budget document has been available for inspection at the Village Hall and the La Grange Public Library as well as posted on the Village website. President Livingston noted the public hearing represents the conclusion of the process by which public input has been solicited throughout the development of the budget document and asked if anyone in the audience had any oral or written comments or questions on the FY 2014-15 Operating and Capital Improvements

Budget. There being none, President Livingston inquired of Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn if any written comments had been received and was informed none.

At 7:39 p.m. with no additional oral or written comments President Livingston closed the public hearing. The regular Village Board meeting was convened, with the same Village Officials as the Public Hearing being in attendance.

### 3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston noted that earlier this evening a Liquor Commission hearing was conducted to consider applications from 7-Eleven and Lucca's Pizzeria. Both received unanimous recommendation and will be presented to the Board for consideration on April 28.

Taking pride in the Village's financial stability, President Livingston announced that the Village has been awarded the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

President Livingston announced that the La Grange Business Association is sponsoring a Girl Friend's Getaway special shopping event on Thursday evening May 1. In addition, the summer art project theme is to "Sit and Stay Awhile" as decorated garden benches will be displayed throughout the Village and later auctioned with proceeds donated to various non-profit organizations in La Grange.

Congratulations were expressed to La Grange Hospital for being recognized for its outstanding patient care by an industry rating. President Livingston thanked WGN Radio and TV, WIND radio, and CBS-TV Chicago for the opportunity to amplify the Village of La Grange brand.

Lastly, President Livingston noted the La Grange 2020 Task Force is meeting April 16 to condense their visions and prospectus for the future of the Village.

#### A. Oath of Office – Police Officer Jason Wessendorf

With the recent vacancies in the Police Department created as a result of retirement or disability, the Police Department has been authorized to hire two Police Officers and the La Grange Board of Fire and Police Commissioners have appointed Jason Wessendorf to fill one of the positions of Police Officer effective March 24, 2014. Noting his education and experience, President Livingston requested he step forward and Village Clerk Burns to administer the oath.

#### B. Oath of Office – Police Officer Laura McDermott

With the recent vacancies in the Police Department created as a result of retirement or disability, the Police Department has been authorized to hire two Police Officers and the La Grange Board of Fire and Police Commissioners have appointed Laura McDermott to fill one of the positions of Police Officer effective March 24, 2014. Noting her education and experience, President Livingston requested she step forward and Village Clerk Burns to administer the oath.

#### C. Employee Recognition – 25 Years of Service – Fire Captain Don Gay

President Livingston recognized Fire Captain Don Gay on his achievements and dedicated service to the Village of La Grange for the past 25 years. President Livingston invited Captain Gay forward to receive congratulations from the Village Board.

D. Proclamation – Arbor Day in La Grange, Friday, April 25, 2014

President Livingston stated that the Village of La Grange has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 31 consecutive years and proclaimed April 25, 2014 as Arbor Day. President Livingston invited the public to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a tree at Spring Avenue School. Trustee Langan moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded by Trustees Palermo and Holder. Approved by voice vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Budget Amendments (#R-14-02) – Fiscal year Ending April 30, 2014
- B. Engineering Services Agreement – Sidewalks – 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue-Special Service Area (SSA)
- C. Materials Purchase – Public Works Department / Fire Hydrants
- D. Intergovernmental Agreement (#R-14-03) – Police Department Mutual Aid Agreement (Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System)
- E. Ordinance (#O-14-08) – Disposal of Surplus Property & Forfeited Vehicles
- F. Ordinance (#O-14-09) – Disposal of Surplus Property
- G. Ordinance (#O-14-10) – Disposal of Surplus Property
- H. Consolidated Voucher 140324 (\$926,404.08)
- I. Consolidated Voucher 140414 (\$1,292,299.47)
- J. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Special Meeting, Saturday, March 8, 2014 – Budget Workshop
- K. Minutes of the Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Monday, March 10, 2014

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Referencing the budget amendments, Trustee Holder inquired if data was available to determine if it was cost effective to lengthen the retention of police squad cars versus replacement. Police Chief Holub responded negatively. President Livingston referred this inquiry to Village Manager Pilipiszyn for follow-up.

Trustee Holder inquired if the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant awarded to the Fire Department to hire a full time firefighter/paramedic was for one year and was informed it was for two years.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

## 6. CURRENT BUSINESS

### A. Ordinance (#O-14-11) Proposed Increase in the Village's Water Rate: Referred to Trustee McCarty

Trustee McCarty provided information related to the establishment and use of the Village's Water Fund and noted that the Village receives Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago through the Village of McCook. Trustee McCarty explained that in 2011 the City of Chicago announced water rate increases in the amounts of 25%, 15%, 15% and 15% over a four year period beginning January 1, 2012. In order to continue to fund ongoing operations including the rate increases from Chicago, Trustee McCarty indicated that Village water rate increases are and have been significantly less than the City of Chicago rate increases. Adding that water accountability will continue to be monitored, Trustee McCarty noted that should revenues increase due to improved meter accuracy, future water rate increases could be reduced or eliminated.

Trustee McCarty moved to approve an ordinance increasing existing water rates by 7.5% from \$7.08 per one hundred cubic feet to \$7.62 per one hundred cubic feet, effective May 1, 2014, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Palermo expressed concerns that the replacement of water meters was anticipated to maintain or reduce water rates and believes that a 6.0% increase should be considered for approval until additional data is available on accountability. President Livingston duly noted his concerns.

Trustee Holder inquired if updates were available on water accountability and Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham responded not at this time.

Trustee Langan noted his support for the water rate increase as the replacement of meters has thus far has proved to be cost effective.

President Livingston noted that water accountability will continue to be evaluated.

Approved by a 5 to 1 roll call vote.

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

B. Ordinance (#O-14-12) Proposed Increase in the Village's Sewer Rate: Referred to Trustee McCarty

Referencing the Village's aging infrastructure and corresponding to clean potable water, Trustee McCarty noted the removal of waste requires long term funding for planning adequate maintenance. Adding that sewer fees are the sole source of revenue in the Sewer Fund, rate increases are needed to maintain the cost of operations. In order to provide funding for future projected operations and to rebuild sewer reserves, Trustee McCarty noted staff's recommendation to increase sewer rates by 10% each year for three consecutive years which equates to approximately fifteen dollars for an average household.

Trustee McCarty noted that sewer rates would continue to be monitored on an annual basis and should water accountability be improved through water accountability, possible reductions may be incurred.

Trustee McCarty moved to approve an ordinance increasing existing sewer rates by 10% from \$.80 per one hundred cubic feet to \$.88 per one hundred cubic feet, effective May 1, 2014, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

C. Ordinance (#O-14-13) – Places for Eating (Food & Beverage Tax): Referred to Trustee McCarty

Trustee McCarty explained that less than half of the Village's 13.5 million dollar operations budget is derived from property taxes. As the Village is a non-home-rule municipality by State Statute it has limitations on additional sources of revenue. Trustee McCarty indicated that after a series of budget development workshops and soliciting feedback from local businesses it was the consensus of the Village Board to adopt a 1% Food & Beverage Tax to be effective May 1, 2014.

Trustee McCarty provided statistics whereby other municipalities have adopted this additional revenue rather than increasing sales or other taxes. Trustee McCarty noted that the additional revenue would be utilized for capital improvements, parking management, pensions, public safety, and a school resource officer.

Trustee McCarty moved to adopt a Places for Eating (Food & Beverage) Tax Ordinance, levying a 1% tax on gross receipts of places for eating located within the Village effective May 1, 2015, seconded by Trustee Nowak.

Trustee Kuchler indicated his support for this item, however is concerned that it may be utilized for operations.

Trustee Palermo shares those concerns and feels that parking management and a school resource officer are not the best use of the additional revenue. Trustee Palermo indicated his desire to have all businesses participate or preferably offer a referendum question on the November ballot to seek voter approval of a tax increase.

Trustee Holder expressed his support for the food and beverage tax rather than a tax solely on La Grange residents, citing the Village's ability to maintain operations, meet pension obligations and provide a school resource officer who will also patrol in the central business district.

Trustee McCarty will also support the food and beverage tax as he believes it is a very important first step in being open to new ideas and expanding resources. Trustee McCarty is also open to a referendum seeking voter input on a tax increase.

Trustee Nowak will support the food and beverage tax for additional revenues. Trustee Nowak noted that the Village cannot ignore unforeseen costs incurred by aging infrastructure, extreme winter weather conditions and the Emerald Ash Borer.

Trustee Langan will also support the food and beverage tax and feels this is a better alternative than an increase in the utility tax.

Approved by a 5 to 1 roll call vote.

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

D. Resolution (#R-14-04) – Approving the FY 2014-15 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget: Referred to Trustee McCarty

Trustee McCarty explained the importance of the budget document and noted that the Village has been recognized for its excellence in financial reporting. Trustee McCarty identified the budget development process and workshops advising that the budget is a five year planning tool for financial, administrative and operational purposes.

Trustee McCarty explained that the Village has taken steps to reduce operating and personnel expenses and continues to observe conservative financial management practices, recognizing the downward pressure on its financial means, while being sensitive to financial challenges being experienced by taxpayers, yet at the same time maintaining community vitality.

Trustee McCarty detailed the grants received by the Village for capital improvements and renovations to enhance the community and noted the Village's financial discipline by adhering to its cost containment plan.

It was moved by Trustee McCarty to adopt the Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Palermo expressed concerns relating to pension funding. Indicating that the Village is attempting to catch up on pension funding due to outdated actuarial assumptions, Trustee Palermo does not feel there are adequate funds for retirees.

Trustee Langan noted that the Village is attempting to increase revenues to continue to provide services to the residents.

Trustee Palermo feels the residents should decide on revenue increases through a referendum on the upcoming November ballot.

Trustee Kuchler cautioned against shifting away from the cost containment plan prematurely, and that operating expenses should be capped at the rate of inflation.

Noting the slow economic recovery, Trustee Holder believes individuals want to live in a healthy prosperous community and invest in the future of La Grange.

This being his first involvement in the budget development process, Trustee McCarty recognized the differences yet team effort to finalize the budget. Trustee McCarty is eager to learn of the projections and suggestions being developed by the La Grange 2020 Task Force.

Noting the Board has taken a strong and thoughtful approach to the budget development process, Trustee Langan believes it is a sound budget and will support it.

Approved by a 5 to 1 roll call vote.

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

President Livingston expressed his thanks to the Trustees and management staff for their hard work and professionalism in the budget development process.

## 7. MANAGER'S REPORT

President Livingston inquired if there were a Manager's report and Village Manager Pilipiszyn responded negatively.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Steve Palmer 1010 41<sup>st</sup> Street feels the Boards debate is a positive reflection of their concerns for the future of the community. Mr. Palmer announced that the annual Pet Parade will be on Saturday, May 31 and on behalf of the Pets and Pals Charities, Mr. Palmer encouraged all to attend a fund raiser for the parade at Capri Banquets on Friday, May 2.

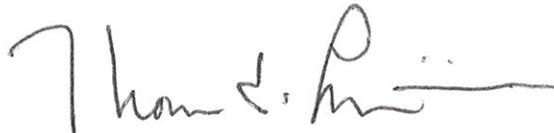
9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Holder expressed his personal gratitude to the Fire Captain Don Gay for his years of service. Trustee Holder also complimented Trustee McCarty with his simplified message relative to the budget adoption.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Palermo. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: April 28, 2014