

## MINUTES

### **LA GRANGE 2020 TASK FORCE**

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

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

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

A meeting of the La Grange 2020 Task Force was held on November 20, 2013 in the Auditorium of the Village Hall at 53 South La Grange Road, La Grange, IL, beginning at 7:08 p.m.

Present and Constituting a Quorum: Chairperson Diane Gormely-Barnes, Jim Arnold, Laura Blentlinger, David Bucaro, Michael Cameron, Margaret Carlson, Ken Eastman, Clayton Edwards, Michelle Halm, Elyse Hoffenberg, Jimmy Janevski, Bill Johnson, Katie Justak, Michael Kotynek, Meg LeFaivre, Bridget Lacey, Karrie Lange, John Lorenzen, Ellen MacEntee, Caitlin Malloy-Marcon, Suzie Mosher, Mark Nelson, Steve Palmer, John Pappas, Mark Reich, Russ Riberto, Sherry L. Robinson, Lisa Sagami, Elizabeth Stiles, Jeremy Strayer, Ray Swiatek, Glenn Wentink, David Wilkinson, Rebecca Wimbush.

Absent: John Boehms, Ellen Brewin, Julie Bunnell, Karen Deane, Richard Holly, Wayne Kardatzke, Anthony Lewandowski, Mark A. Lies II, Scott McPherson, David Schwartz, Laura Tussing, Lester Williams.

Also Present: Village Clerk John Burns, Trustee Bill Holder, Trustee Jim Palermo, Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn, Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Finance Director Lou Cipparrone, Fire Chief Bill Bryzgalski, and Police Chief Mike Holub.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings on September 18, 2013 and October 16, 2013 were presented for approval. Michael Kotynek made a motion which was seconded by Elizabeth Stiles to accept the minutes as presented from September 18, 2013. Margaret Carlson made a motion which was seconded by Rebecca Wimbush to accept the minutes as presented from October 16, 2013.

### **III. OPENING REMARKS**

Chairperson Diane Gormely-Barnes welcomed task force members and introduced the Fire Chief and Police Chief, both of which will be providing presentations on the topic of public safety. At the conclusion of the presentations, task force members will be asked to participate in a small group discussion.

### **IV. PUBLIC SAFETY - PRESENTATION**

Fire Chief Bryzgalski provided an overview of the history, operations and equipment of the Fire Department. The Department averages 2,000 calls for service per year which includes fires and fire alarm responses; emergency medical calls / accidents; hazardous materials responses; technical rescue responses; gas leaks; storm related / power lines down; and patient assist / well-being checks.

The Fire Department has 19 total personnel which operate within three, twenty-four hour shifts consisting of six members each. The Fire Department has been operating with less personnel as a result of cost-containment measures.

Chief Bryzgalski explained how the Fire Department responds to a fire, which includes automatic aid from neighboring jurisdictions. For an extra alarm fire or other significant emergency, the Fire Department can request a “box alarm” which provides additional resources to the Village from other municipalities.

Police Chief Holub provided an overview of the operations of the Police Department which also includes emergency and non-emergency dispatching. The Police Department handles an average of 15,000 – 18,000 calls for service each year, with traffic control / accidents being the top activity.

The Department has twenty-eight authorized full time officer positions which operate over three shifts. The day and afternoon shifts operate with one supervisor, three officers and two dispatchers. The midnight shift operates with one supervisor, two officers and one dispatcher. Staffing is supplemented by five part-time officers. The Police Department also has ten auxiliary (non-sworn and unpaid) officers that are utilized for traffic control and other services. Two full-time parking enforcement officers are also employed as are thirteen crossing guards.

Chief Holub provided statistical information regarding the types of common Police Department activities and the average time that each call takes to perform. Chief Holub noted that while our responses to emergency calls are very good, some self-directed activities (such as issuing traffic citations) have declined as a result of less personnel availability due to cost-containment measures.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Task Force members asked several questions regarding 1) the standards used to compare La Grange to other communities; 2) mutual aid provisions in the Police Department; 3) crime trends; 4) auxiliary officer

tasks; 5) staffing needs, 6) traffic citation decreases; and 6) future trends. Village staff provided responses as appropriate.

Chief Bryzgalski provided a presentation regarding potential opportunities for future consolidation or shared services with adjacent municipalities. The Chief noted that the Villages of La Grange, La Grange Park and Western Springs have been studying the consolidation or sharing of public safety services. As a first phase in the study process, a compatibility study was performed which identified that the three communities had characteristics which could support consideration of a shared or consolidated services model, most notably with dispatching services.

The three communities agreed to study the consolidation of dispatching services as phase two of the process. The study, which is anticipated to be completed by year end, will provide a blueprint which will assist the Villages in planning for the potential consolidation of dispatch services. The study will also provide recommendations regarding anticipated new technologies and enhanced service opportunities.

## **V. DISCUSSION**

Chairperson Gormely-Barnes referred to the handout which included questions for small group discussion. Each small group was asked to identify what they believe are the recurring and / or occasional public safety topics of interest (emergency and non-emergency) mentioned by their neighbors and informal networks; what additional public safety initiatives they would like to see implemented by the Village if there were no limiting financial considerations; whether or not they would be willing to support a tax / fee increase to fund additional services identified; and any concerns that they may have regarding the planning efforts to facilitate shared public safety services.

The results of these discussions are attached.

Chairperson Gormely-Barnes thanked the Task Force members for their input and indicated that the subject of the next meeting on December 18, 2013 will be Village Finances.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to come before the La Grange 2020 Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Andrianna Peterson  
Assistant Village Manager