

## **Village of La Grange Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting**

Date: Monday, April 13, 2009

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Village Hall Auditorium

Minutes of the Meeting

### 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 13, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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 Asperger. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk Robert Milne, the following were:

**PRESENT:** Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, Palermo and Wolf with President Asperger presiding.

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS:** Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn  
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson  
Village Attorney Mark Burkland  
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin  
Assistant Community Development Dir. / Planner Angela Mesaros  
Village Engineer Tom Heuer  
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone  
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham  
Police Chief Mike Holub  
Fire Chief David Fleege

President Asperger explained that there would be a public hearing prior to the regular Village Board meeting this evening.

#### 2. PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2009-10 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget: Referred to President Asperger

President Asperger 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 Asperger 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 2009-10 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget. There being none, President Asperger inquired of Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn if any written comments had been received and was informed no.

At 7:35 p.m. with no additional oral or written comments the public hearing was closed.

At 7:36 p.m. the Village Board meeting was convened, with the same Village Officials as the Public Hearing being in attendance.

### 3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### A. Proclamation – Arbor Day in La Grange, Friday April 24, 2009

President Asperger stated that the Village of La Grange has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 26th consecutive year and proclaimed April 24, 2009 as Arbor Day. President Asperger invited the public to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a tree at the Seventh Avenue Elementary School. It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the Proclamation recognizing Arbor Day, seconded by Trustee Palermo. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### B. Proclamation – 46th anniversary, La Grange Area Branch of the NAACP

President Asperger proclaimed congratulations to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for their 46 years of service to the community and surrounding area. President Asperger invited the public to contact NAACP members for more information on their upcoming Freedom Banquet. It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the Proclamation recognizing the 46th Anniversary Celebration of the La Grange Area Branch of the NAACP, seconded by Trustee Palermo. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### C. Resolution of Appreciation – Retirement of Fire Captain Greg Michalek

President Asperger recited a Resolution of Appreciation for retired Fire Captain Greg Michalek and on behalf of the entire Village Board expressed sincere gratitude and deepest appreciation for his many years of public service. It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Fire Captain Greg Michalek, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

President Asperger welcomed Kelly Kuchler who is seeking to learn more of the workings of Village government.

President Asperger announced that the Village has been informed by the Illinois Department of Transportation that the Federal Highway Administration has granted its approval and authorized them to process \$3.2 million in federal transportation funds on

a reimbursable basis for the Village's Central Business District parking structure. Special recognition was extended to retired Congressman William Lipinski and Congressman Daniel Lipinski for their legislative efforts in seeking these funds. Trustee Langan acknowledged staff for their efforts in this matter.

Acknowledgements were extended to Caribou Coffee in La Grange for their recent support to help raise funds for a family in need.

President Asperger announced that Jackson Square Mall in La Grange has been ranked first in a list of Chicago area antique malls in the March 2009 issue of Chicago Magazine.

Acknowledgements were extended to Pastor Debra Williams for her efforts in organizing the La Grange Ministerium Ecumenical Service which was conducted on Friday, April 10.

President Asperger briefly noted some of the ominous or consent agenda items. Those being the creation of a class C-1 liquor license to be issued to The Applewood Smokehouse; engagement of a consultant to revamp the Village's website; street resurfacing projects for Bluff Avenue and in the Central Business District; Federal Stimulus funds for street resurfacing of Burlington Avenue.

The Village has also administratively extended the date for the Planned Unit Development for the redevelopment of the YMCA property.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Tim Trompeter, 318 S. Ashland noted his availability for question relative to the variation request.

Jack and Laura Thomas, 311 S. 6th Avenue expressed their desire to maintain the historic preservation of their home and hoped the Board would approve their request for the variations.

Pastor Debra Williams on behalf of the NAACP extended her thanks to the Board and staff for their meaningful support.

#### 5. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

A. Ordinance (#O-09-06) – Creating an Additional Class C-1 Liquor License, Armani Ventures, Inc., 8 W. Burlington Avenue (Applewood Smokehouse)

B. Budget Amendments (#R-09-06) – Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2009

C. Ordinance (#O-09-07 Variation – Partial Abatement of 2008 Tax Levy / Special Service Area No. 7: Central Business District Maintenance

- D. Retainer Agreements – To Fund Final TIF Operational Expenditures (Kane, McKenna and Holland & Knight LLP)
- E. Contract – Group Health and Life Insurance Renewal
- F. Resolution (#R-09-07) – Accepting Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Funds, Justice Assistance Grant Program
- G. Advance Purchase – Police Department Squads ( Anderson Ford, Berwyn, Illinois - \$132,632.28)
- H. Purchase – Portable Speed Display Boards ( All Traffic Solutions, State College, Pennsylvania - \$20,240)
- I. Professional Services Agreement – Website Development (CivicPlus \$22,450)
- J. Professional Services Agreement – Supplemental Engineering Services (Baxter & Woodman, Crystal Lake, Illinois)
- K. Agreement – Bluff Avenue Reconstruction Project / Stage II – Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation, Engineering Services Agreement and MFT Resolution
- L. MFT Resolution & Engineering Services Agreement – Central Business District Street Resurfacing Project
- M. MFT Resolution & Engineering Services Agreement – Burlington Avenue Resurfacing project
- N. Resolution (#R-09-08) – Burlington Avenue Resurfacing Project / American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding approval
- O. Purchase – Public Works Department / Replacement Backhoe Loader (McCann Industries, Bolingbrook, Illinois \$56,155)
- P. Purchase – Public Works Department / Replacement Front End Loader (Martin Implement, Orland Park, Illinois \$69,442)
- Q. Ordinance (#O-09-08) Disposal of Surplus Property (Bicycles)
- R. Ordinance (#O-09-09) Disposal of Surplus Property (Vehicles)
- S. For-Profit Solicitation – Energy Marketing Service
- T. Consolidated Voucher 090323 (\$603,154.66)
- U. Consolidated Voucher 090413 (\$690,388.62)

V. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, March 9, 2009

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, and V of the Omnibus, seconded by Trustee Horvath.

Trustee Horvath commented on the lengthy process by which the new website development firm was chosen and thanked staff for their efforts.

Trustee Palermo discussed the lack of a budget amendment for the previous purchase of an administrative vehicle for public works and Finance Director Cipparrone noted that a budget amendment was not necessary as the purchase did not exceed the fund total. Trustee Palermo inquired about the advance purchase of squad cars and Police Chief Holub noted the need to order in advance of the deadline to maintain a twenty-four month replacement cycle.

Pastor Williams inquired if the community of faith places of worship could be listed on the Village website.

Omnibus items approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston Palermo, Wolf and President Asperger

Nays: None

Absent: None

## 6. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Ordinance (#O-09-10) – Variation – Maximum Gross Floor Area and height of a Detached Garage / Laura and Jack Thomas, 311 S. 6th Avenue: Referred to Trustee Horvath

Trustee Horvath explained that Jack and Laura Thomas, owners of the property at 311 S. 6th Avenue, have applied for a variation from maximum floor area and height in order to construct a three car garage. Trustee Horvath gave detailed information relating to the request for this variation, noting that on March 19, 2009 the Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on this matter and the motion to recommend that the variation be granted failed with three ayes and three nays, at least four ayes are required to decide in favor of any application. Trustee Horvath noted that one commissioner was absent.

Reasons on the decision by the Zoning Board of Appeals were identified. Trustee Horvath stated that in accordance with State Statute, the approval of any proposed variation which fails to receive the approval of the Board of Appeals will not be passed except by the favorable vote of two-thirds majority vote by roll call of all Trustees (four out of six Trustees) currently holding office.

It was moved by Trustee Horvath to approve the ordinance granting a variation for maximum gross floor area and height of a detached garage at 311 S. 6th Avenue, seconded by Trustee Wolf.

Trustee Langan commented on the unique physical condition and lot size for this variation and Village Attorney Burkland noted the importance in remembering that there are two separate variation requests and elaborated on the aspects of the matter.

Trustee Wolf noted her favor of the variations. Trustee Horvath concurred.

Trustee Palermo expressed his favor and suggested review of zoning code changes in the future.

Trustee Kuchler concurred that a precedent be set to allow for larger garages and expressed his favor of this variation.

Trustee Livingston noted his favor and agreed with the need to review code.

Trustee Langan noted that recent zoning code changes were established for new construction and new zoning code amendments should consider historic preservation and renovation.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston Palermo, and Wolf

Nays: None

Absent: None

**B. Resolution (#R-09-09) – Approving the FY 2009-10 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget: Referred to Trustee Kuchler**

Trustee Kuchler noted that this item has evolved over several workshops which were conducted over the last six months and a public hearing which was conducted earlier this evening to accept any oral or written public comments. Trustee Kuchler indicated this five-year budget is used as a guideline for financial, administrative and operational purposes.

Trustee Kuchler added that capital expenditures of approximately \$4.7 million are budgeted in FY 2009-10 which consists of \$2.7 million in street resurfacing and reconstruction; \$800,000 for the renovation of the Stone Avenue train station; \$440,000 for water and sewer improvements; \$294,000 for street light replacement program debt service; and over \$300,000 for miscellaneous public improvements and maintenance.

Trustee Kuchler noted that although the State's economic forecast anticipates flat or continued negative growth, the Village continues to observe conservative financial

management practices to lessen the burden of property taxes on La Grange residents and businesses.

The Village has recently learned that the \$3.2 federal grant for the public parking structure has been authorized for payment which will further augment TIF fund reserves for re-distribution. Trustee Kuchler added that Village staff continues to aggressively compete for funds being made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to adopt the Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Livingston noted the importance of this document and publicly expressed his thanks to Congressman Lipinski for his assistance in receiving federal funding grants.

Trustee Horvath concurred.

Trustee Palermo expressed thanks to Finance Director Cipparrone and Assistant Finance Director Munizza for their financial management. Trustee Palermo feels that a more conservative approach on pensions is needed.

President Asperger complimented staff on comprehensive financial planning for the Village.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston Palermo, and Wolf

Nays: None

Absent: None

C. Ordinance (#O-09-11) – Water Rate Increase: Referred to Trustee Kuchler

Trustee Kuchler explained that the scheduled increases in water are due to water rates charged by the City of Chicago which became effective January 1, 2008. Trustee Kuchler stated that the Village has absorbed previous water rate increases passed along by McCook, however due to aging infrastructure and to maintain adequate water fund reserves, the Village can no longer absorb the additional cost and initiated a 10% water rate increase for three years which began on May 1, 2008. This increase, effective May 1, 2009, will be the second increase of the three year cycle. The estimated increase in cost to homeowners is approximately \$50 annually.

It was moved by Trustee Kuchler to approve the ordinance for a water rate increase, seconded by Trustee Langan. Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, Palermo, and Wolf

Nays: None

Absent: None

D. Ordinance (#O-09-12) – Early Distribution of Surplus TIF Funds: Referred to Trustee Livingston

Trustee Livingston explained that the Village Board previously directed staff to effect the early distribution of surplus TIF Funds in recognition of the current economic conditions affecting local taxing bodies within the TIF District. A financial analysis of the TIF Fund determined that an early distribution of surplus funds in the amount of \$1.75 million were available for distribution on or after May 1, 2009. Trustee Livingston individualized percentages and estimated amounts that would be distributed by Cook County to each tax agency.

Trustee Livingston added that a second and final distribution of surplus TIF funds is anticipated at the end of 2009 after existing TIF debt has been retired.

It was moved by Trustee Livingston to approve the ordinance declaring a TIF surplus and distribution in an amount of \$1.75 million on or after May 1, 2009, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, Palermo, and Wolf

Nays: None

Absent: None

## 7. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Pilipiszyn reminded residents of the free monthly brush pick-up on the first Monday of each month. Manager Pilipiszyn added that the Department of Public Works will begin its annual Hydrant Flushing in May and explained the importance of this process.

The Illinois Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting in the Village Hall Auditorium on April 22 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. regarding the Indiana Harbor Railroad and advised the public to contact Assistant Village Manager Peterson for more information.

The West Cook County Solid Waste Agency will conduct an electronics collection event on April 24 and 25. Lyons Township High School will conduct a computer recycling event on May 9. Manager Pilipiszyn gave detailed information on both events.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Jeannine McLaughlin, 242 S. Peck extended her thanks to those newly elected officials for their service to the community. Ms. McLaughlin asked to be advised of any outcome with the Zoning Board of Appeals in defining historical homes.

Eleanore Wood, 217 S. La Grange Road expressed concerns with approved variances that may cause flooding in surrounding areas. Ms. Wood requested follow-up to be sure

that variances are in compliance.

Kurt Hoigard, 345 S. 6th Avenue expressed his agreement with the Board's desire to consider amending the zoning code for historic renovation or restoration of older homes with detached garages.

#### 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### 10. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Horvath offered congratulations to Trustee Livingston on the birth of his daughter.

Trustee Kuchler noted that sewer and drainage issues are important concerns and the Board continues to seek solutions. Trustee Kuchler thanked his daughter Kelly for attending the meeting.

President Asperger noted that the Village Board meeting scheduled for Monday, April 27 will be to recognize the members who represent various boards and commissions. The next regular business meeting will be May 11.

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 p.m. it moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Horvath. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approved: 05/11/09