

Village of La Grange Park
Finance Committee Meeting
March 13, 2012

A Finance Committee Meeting of the Village of La Grange Park, Illinois was held in the Conference Room of the La Grange Park Municipal Building on March 13, 2011.

Chairman Patricia Rocco called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. She asked Village Clerk Seidel to call the roll.

Committee Members in attendance were:

Trustees:

Scott Mesick
Marshall Seeder
Patricia Rocco

Also in Attendance were:

Village President:	Jim Discipio
Village Manager:	Julia Cedillo
Village Finance Director:	Pierre Garesche
Village Clerk:	Amanda Seidel

Clerk Seidel informed Chairman Rocco a quorum was present.

Chairman Rocco moved to the next item of business which was approval of minutes from April 12, 2011 & October 11, 2011. There was no discussion and the motion to approve the minutes from April 12, 2011 & October 11, 2011 was made by Trustee Mesick and seconded by Trustee Seeder and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The next item on the Agenda was Public Participation. There were no citizens present at the Finance Committee Meeting.

Chairman Rocco moved on to review of the Budget. The Committee started going through the budget page by page with questions being answered and clarified by Village Manager Cedillo and Finance Director Garesche.

Questions started on page 6 Table 1. A question was raised on Minus Interfund Transfers, it was clarified that this is done to ensure no transfer is counted twice. A question was asked about what we were doing in regards to the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, the budget shows a -40.4% change. It was clarified that within the MFT Fund through the capital program by Governor Quinn a few payments of approximately \$57,000 have been sent to the Village. 2 out of 5 payments have been received and the additional 3 payments have not been budgeted. It was also pointed out that purchase of salt was removed from MFT and added to the General Fund Budget, \$40,000 in the General Fund, this was done to save in Engineering Fees. It was pointed out that the MFT accrues reserves more quickly from repairs and this is a cost saving measure.

The Committee moved on to page 7 Table 2. A question was asked about the 58.5% change in the Water Fund Distribution. It was clarified that this is due to the water main on S La Grange Road

replacement, also the Army Core of Engineer Grant should offset the numbers by \$500,000. It was also clarified that the Capital Projects Fund is at 149% change due to Beach Ave and the Public Works Garage.

The Committee moved to General Fund Revenues on Page 17. There were questions and clarifications on Senior Citizens Licenses, Garage Permits and what is included as Miscellaneous Permits. It was clarified that permits for Fire Alarms, Health and Elevators are some categories that fall in the misc. category; Village Manager Cedillo said she will look into this. A question was raised on New Construction Permits, it was clarified that the \$25,000 budgeted is an educated estimate due to how very volatile the numbers can be. A question was asked about operational expenses instead of capital outlay. An example was used that the Village has received money after large storms, which can not be planned on. It was asked if our gross receipts will be less. It was clarified that our tax is based on usage approximately 5% off gross receipts have transitioned to usage; the villages rate is based on utilization.

Village Manger Cedillo mentioned that we are not maximizing on taxes and the village could increase utility tax in regards to electricity. There was a concern that since aggregation was brought up first that there could be a negative perception from residents. It could be confusing to residents if they are being told they are saving with Municipal Aggregation but then the village increases utility taxes. It was clarified that residents would still be saving on the supply side of the commodity so the commodity side would decrease and a tax will increase due to usage. Village Manger Cedillo pointed out that the Village needs more revenue, it was determined by the committee that this issue of utility tax will be revisited after the budget is approved. It was mentioned that taxes are already maximized for Nicor and Telecommunications. There has been a decline in the telecommunications tax which is a common trend seen by communities possibly due to the decline of landline phones.

It was asked if the Village will see an increase in the State Income Tax. It was mentioned that this trend can be discussed with IML.

There were some questions on legal clarifications. It was also asked about the possibility of looking into and reevaluating permit fees and the example of the Villages cost in regards to Nazareth. It was clarified that the zoning fee of \$700 usually covers court reporter, documents and public notices. It was asked if the Village has the authority to have developers pay the fees, this question will be asked to Attorney Keating.

A clarification was made about the building department which encompasses code enforcement and building inspectors. Another question was raised regarding Janitorial Services.

The Committee moved on to General Fund Revenues on Page 18. It was clarified that Property Damage reimbursements are, for example when someone hits a village street lamp. It was clarified that things such as employee's reimbursing for cell phone usage, selling Centennial Books and the sale of vehicle or equipment can fall into the Miscellaneous Income category. A comment was made on Curbside Recycling, It was mentioned that some villages add administrative fees to there recycling bin fees.

The Committee moved on to Administration Department Page 20. It was clarified that Overtime Pay is increased due to Andy Bagley picking up slack when there is a gap of employees. It was mentioned that this should somewhat be alleviated with the help of the current unpaid Village Intern. A question was asked about miscellaneous services. A question was also asked about legal fees and clarification of retainer services from the Village Attorney.

The Committee left off at page 25-Police Department. A question was asked about the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. It was clarified that the law has changed with calculating pension. It was also clarified that this is the first time the Village has had three options and the Village is in no position to change there past practice.

Two additional meetings were scheduled for the Finance Committee. Thursday, March 22nd at 6pm and March 27th at 6pm.

Since there was no further business to be brought before the Finance Committee that evening, Chairman Rocco said she would entertain a motion to adjourn. Trustee Mesick brought a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Seeder.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda G. Seidel
Village Clerk