**Village of LaGrange Committee of the Whole Minutes**

**Record of Proceedings**

**May 8, 2025, 6:45 p.m.**

The Committee of the Whole meeting started at 6:45 p.m. The following council members were present: Flynn, Price, Gregory, Karpinski, Honer, and Smith.

Smith presented a landscape drawing prepared by 2 potential Eagle Scouts. The plans include low-maintenance plants in 4 landscape beds. The estimated cost of $2,700 includes weed block and river rock (to be picked up from the hardware store by village personnel). The Village need to provide a staging area and 2 yards of top soil. Homer-Miller suggested that 1 of the landscape beds be designated as the Mayor Strauss memorial garden, which council supported. Two of the landscape beds should be completed before Memorial Day weekend when the Village and Township will celebrate the sesquicentennial and bicentennial. Based on the estimate provided and the Village providing top soil, the total estimated cost of the project is $3,000.

The next topic of discussion was the municipal income tax. Currently, a Village resident who works in another community can receive a 100% income tax credit. That means that the resident may pay zero dollars in income tax to the Village. Options provided by the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) were shared with council for their consideration. Some felt that an income tax rate increase and/or a levy should be considered or a combination of an income tax rate increase and an adjustment to the credit. Further discussion is needed.

The final topic of conversation was water meters. Our engineer told Gates that a bid package could cost $29,000 to $40,000. They suggested to cut down on costs that we determine if AMI or cellular is preferred. Gates spoke with an employee of Wellington Village who worked on their request for pricing (RFP). He suggested we put out an RFP for AMI and cellular then hire an engineer to analyze the data and determine the best option for our village. The estimated cost for the engineer would be $10,000. The Wellington contact suggested the vendors pull a sampling of meters at 30 years old, 25 years old, 20 years old, etc., to see how accurately their aging meters read. They were reading at 30 to 50% of the water flow rate. He estimated that it would take 1 to 2 months to compile the RFP. He is willing to help us. Homer-Miller commented that it likely would be necessary to upgrade our Neptune software due to the timing of the bid, the current software becoming obsolete in October 2025, etc.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Curt Karpinski, Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer

 Council President Pro Tempore