

Business license fees hike eyed

By Kathryn Almy
Correspondent

The LaGrange Park Village Board is considering a recommendation to raise business license fees, since those fees have not changed since 1957.

Building inspector George Kolar introduced the recommendation at the Village Board's regular work session March 24. The proposal calls for doubling business license fees from \$25 to \$50, increasing other licensing and inspection fees, and placing a 10 percent penalty if fees are not paid by January 31, plus an additional \$5 late charge each month after that.

The board will also look into having separate licenses for restaurants and other food purveyors, with the extra revenues to be used to pay for the periodic inspection the village is required to make of such businesses.

Because business licenses for the year were just issued, the board will take its time looking into the options, and the issue will be on the agenda at future work sessions. Village Manager Tim Schuenke said the final decision does not have to be made until December, just before new licenses come out. "We'll fine-tune it and come up with specific recommendations," he said.

The village issues about 400 licenses per year, which generate some \$10,000 annu-

(See Fees, Page 2)

Fees

(Continued from Page 1)

ally. Business license fees are not a major source of revenue; their main purpose is to monitor business operation in the village.

In other business, the village is also reconsidering its criteria for approving stop signs. Current traffic control guidelines contain eight criteria that are more specific than the four criteria required by the state of Illinois.

In the interest of making more objective decisions, the board is considering changing or rewriting one criterion relating to citizen concern and input. Recent decisions have focused solely on subjective opinion and have not taken

into account other, more objective criteria. The board wishes to continue to encourage citizen input, but within more uniform standards for making final decisions.

A half-block segment of Brewster Avenue between Stone and Brainard avenues will be annexed from LaGrange.

The only two residences on this strip of Brewster are in LaGrange Park, and as the village has taken responsibility for maintaining and plowing the street, annexation seemed logical.

LaGrange has agreed to de-annex the strip of Brewster. In a similar action several years ago, the village annexed a portion of Brewster between Spring and Stone from LaGrange.