

City of Fox Lake
Committee of the Whole Synopsis
February 20, 2019

The February 20, 2019 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, following the special council meeting. Those in attendance were alderpersons Dan Ault, Dennis Linke, Peter Hartzheim and Don Zilewicz. Absent: John Mund and Robert Jenswold. Also attending were city attorney Mike Devitt, city administrator Dean Perlick, police chief Jim Rohr, public works superintendent Gene Huettner, librarian Erin Anders and city clerk Susan Hollnagel.

In the audience was Ken Thomas of the Daily Citizen.

Downtown snow removal

Perlick asked what the policy is for snow removal in the downtown area. He said if the business pushes the snow out in the first day, the city can come through and pick it up. But what if they don't get it out until the second day and the city has to make an extra trip to pick it up, does the city charge the business for it. Rohr said if residents don't do their sidewalks and the city crew has to go out and do it, the resident is charged for the snow removal. Hartzheim said if the city has to come back, with the loader and truck, the charge should be substantially more than what we charge residents for sidewalk snow removal. Zilewicz asked if this has been a problem. Huettner said lately there's not enough time in between storms. Zilewicz said the guys are doing a great job. Ault said, for example, if the bank pushes their snow out after the street has been cleaned, they should be charged for the snow removal by the city. The Mayor suggested if they have to go back a second time, it would be Huettner's discretion on whether to charge for the removal. Ault asked about residential sidewalks that don't get cleaned after the 24 hours. Rohr said he has looked at a lot of sidewalks and most have been shoveled but not salted. Hartzheim was concerned with those residents who don't shovel their sidewalks at all. Huettner said we don't have the resources to get to all of them. The Mayor said if this becomes a headache, we'll revisit the matter. Ault thanked Huettner for letting him pull his semi in the garage to get the ice off of it.

Declaring a snow emergency

Perlick said places close when a snow emergency is declared and asked if the city needed a policy to declare a snow emergency. He said there is no parking on the streets from 2 am to 6 am, from December 1 to April 1 and with a snow emergency, there could be no parking on the streets until the emergency is over and the streets are cleared. Hartzheim said Rohr and Huettner should decide. Perlick said the City of Waupun's policy is if they get 2" or more of

snow, it triggers a snow emergency. Linke said there are those who park on the street, who don't clean up the snow around their vehicle after the plow goes through. Rohr said he told Huettner to plow them in and he issues them tickets.

Police union contract

The Mayor asked to table the police union contract as they will be meeting with the union representative tomorrow.

Community Center leftover equipment

Hartzheim said there are about 100 plates and a small organ leftover from the online sale. He asked if Huettner and Ruenger had any more stuff, they could put it into another listing for the online auction. The Mayor asked to put this on for the March committee meeting to see what we have. Devitt said city ordinance says this can be done on a quarterly basis.

Pool fund raising

Hartzheim said he had met with the pool committee and they will be having a brat/burger fry fundraiser at Leroy Meats, on Saturday, May 25, from 10 am to 3 pm. He said it is the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. He said they will not be doing the breakfast as a fundraiser this year, as there are not a lot of volunteers on the committee. The Mayor said they will also be holding a silent auction and are looking for donations for that.

Municipal Court office

The Mayor said they are changing offices around and the small conference room, by the community center, will become the municipal court office. He said they plan to install a sliding window for access for the public.

Razed houses

The Mayor said two houses have been razed. He said the one on Mill Street has been removed and the contractor will be back in the spring to fill in the hole and seed it. Perlick said they received an update from the Martins that they have poured pads in the basement for support and updated the electrical.

Unlicensed vehicles ord. 456-8

Hartzheim said he would like to have boats, campers, jet skis and outboard motors included under the unlicensed vehicle ordinance. He said it will help to clean up areas. Rohr

said he has been sending out letters to property owners when there appears to be an accumulation of junk on a property. He said he's citing health and safety reasons. The Mayor said it's the same thing with tires piled up. Hartzheim said if we have them all included, under this ordinance, they need to be licensed or get rid of them.

Library minutes

Anders said the Library Board had a special meeting last night to approve the 2018 annual report to the state. She said they have updated the circulation policy and will be reviewing other library policies. Anders said they will be putting together a committee to oversee the library's investments. She said the library is a warming place so she doesn't plan on closing during snow storms. Ault thanked Anders for being so dedicated. Anders said they have placed a timer on the library's Wi-Fi and it is turned off between midnight and 5 a.m.

Emergency closing policy

Perlick said the city doesn't have a policy for closing city hall with regards to inclement weather. He said the clerk gave him some policies from other cities and he reviewed them. He said he wants to keep it simple so if an employee feels the inclement weather creates hazardous traveling conditions for them to get to work, the employee can take time off of work and use their available vacation, sick leave or compensatory time to replace the time missed from work. The Mayor said it is the employee's decision on whether to drive in or not.

Health insurance deductions

Perlick said the copy of the memo regarding employee health insurance deductions says it all. He said that due to an error in his calculations of the required employee contribution, the city paid more than it should have. He said he based his calculation on 87% of the average qualified plan, rather than the actual monthly health insurance premium. Zilewicz said several of the employees had talked to him and said they got a 2% raise because of the high cost of the health insurance but the memo says we're saving \$35,000-. The Mayor said the employees started paying 12% of the insurance premium and the plan was to increase their share up to 20% by 2020. He said there are savings with the change of insurance carrier so they stayed at 13% and gave a 2% raise. Zilewicz said the error was the city's fault and the city is still saving money so why don't we pass that on to the employees. Perlick said the adjustment is being made to reflect what is in the city's personnel policy. He said the adjustment could begin with the March contribution, which is for April insurance coverage. Perlick said the council would not have to approve the change because we're following the personnel policy. The committee consensus was to make the correction with the first pay period in March.

Funeral leave

Perlick said a question arose about using sick leave for family member funerals. He said it lists what is defined as immediate family, (grandparents, foster parents, grandchildren, foster children, aunts, uncles, nieces or nephews of the employee or spouse) and then states “or other relatives of the employee or spouse, residing in the household of the employee.” Perlick said the last comma should be removed. Zilewicz said the coverage is pretty broad and includes lots of people. The Mayor said to put this on the March council agenda.

ID's for council members

Hartzheim asked to hold off on discussing some type of identification for council members until Mund gets back, as this was his concern. The Mayor said it would be placed on the March committee agenda.

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.