

**City of Fox Lake**  
**Committee of the Whole Synopsis**  
**March 15, 2017**

The March 15, 2017 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, following the special council meeting. Those in attendance were alderpersons John Mund, Dan Ault, Dennis Linke, Peter Hartzheim, and Tom Jahnke. Absent: Robert Jenswold. Also attending were city clerk Susan Hollnagel, administrator Dean Perlick, utilities superintendent Brad Ruenger, public works superintendent Gene Huettner, and police chief Jim Rohr.

In the audience were Richard Quirk and Kevin Haugen of WBEV.

**Name new street**

The Mayor asked the alderpersons what they wanted to name the new street going in by the Leroy Meats property. The clerk suggested continuing Linden Lane along the north side of the property and just name the street along the east side of the property. Hartzheim said he was in favor of Brower as he was the first person to settle in the area. The consensus of the council was to go with Brower.

**Seasonal help**

The Mayor asked if last summer's seasonal help will be back this summer. Ruenger said his summer employee will not be coming back as he has received a summer internship. Huettner said both of his summer employees should be back. The Mayor asked Perlick to prepare an ad for summer help and get it in the paper as soon as possible. The Mayor reminded them that seasonal employees must take their drug test before starting work.

**Proposed Trenton Street housing project**

Perlick passed out an e-mail that former city administrator Gary Rogers had received from city engineer, Jason Laue, with regards to extending sanitary sewer to the vacant lot owned by Charles DeGroot, located between Ann Street and the walking trail. He said the lot would need a lift station and grinder pump to connect to the manhole to the east. He said the estimated cost is \$70,000 with a 17-18 year cost recovery through taxes. Mund asked if there would be more than one apartment building constructed. The Mayor said DeGroot stated he would construct one building and once that is filled, he would construct the next one. Mund asked if there were

grants available for low income housing. The Mayor said this would not be low income. He asked DeGroot if he would split the sanitary sewer costs and he said DeGroot said no. Hartzheim and Jahnke said the cost of the sewer and the payback, would not be worthwhile for the city. Ault said if DeGroot would guarantee construction of two buildings to start with or split the cost of the sewer 50/50, then maybe the Council would reconsider. The Mayor said he will talk with DeGroot this week.

## **Sledding Hill**

Hartzheim said he had initially thought a sledding hill could be on the Crocker Street park but that won't work. He said the city will be getting a lot of dirt from the street projects and thought the city could use some of the dirt to build a sledding hill. He said he has looked at the property behind the aquatic center to dump the dirt, grade and seed it. The Mayor asked what about the city's liability. Hartzheim said it would be covered under the city's current liability policy. The Mayor asked the building and parks committee, Jahnke, Linke and Hartzheim, to meet to get everything together and report back at the April committee meeting.

## **Library minutes**

The Mayor asked Ault if the library board got their questions answered about the audit's cost. Ault said yes and it has to do with where funds are invested.

## **Cemetery headstones**

Huettner stated he would be getting the Burke guys, in April, to help clean up the cemetery before mowing starts and would ask the supervisor to look at what we can do with the headstones. Hartzheim said he would volunteer his time to help with the headstones. Mund asked if the city needs to get permission from the headstone owners. The Mayor said most of the ones that need to be leveled/repared probably don't have any family left to contact. Hartzheim said he had talked with a guy who does this and he said they dig in a gravel base, lay the broken headstone on the gravel, place a frame around the stone and then put concrete around it to. He said the stone is set flush with the ground so it is easier to mow.

## **Cemetery caretaker**

Huettner said two application had been picked up for cemetery caretaker, with the deadline of Friday, March 24.

## **Administrator's update**

Perlick passed out a project update from city engineer, Jason Laue, regarding street and economic development projects. Perlick said Third Street bids will be opened tomorrow and a bid tabulation will be prepared. He said Mill Road specs will be done next week and bid advertisement will be March 20 and 27.

Perlick said with the Karavan expansion project they have hit a glitch. He said there is a gas line that runs through the property. Perlick said Alliant Energy is checking the depth of the line. Ault asked if Alliant needed an easement. Huettner said Alliant already has one. Perlick said if the gas line needs to go deeper, the estimated cost of doing that is \$40,000 and Alliant doesn't pay for it.

Perlick said U.S. Cellular is expecting to have their permit approved by the end of April and begin construction in June.

Perlick said they have been in contact with Paul Studtman, who owns the property west of the Hoekstra property, to see if he would be developing any of his residential lots. Perlick said Studtman plans to develop the three lots closest to Hoekstra's property and may do two more lots if the water and sewer can be extended down Linden Lane. Perlick said the RDA has discussed this but has not done anything with him. The Mayor said he had met with Studtman and told him the city would be interested in working with him on the water and sewer but would need an agreement, with him, that would he would be constructing the homes in a timely manner.

Perlick said he and the Mayor had gone to see Global Tech Environmental Corporation, located in Columbus, which recycles batteries and electronics. He said Global Tech is interested in purchasing the old Kolpin's building. He said Global Tech representatives were at the last RDA meeting and explained what their business does. He said the two owners run/work the business but are looking to expand to a larger building. Perlick said there is another party, who would be interested in leasing a part of the building if Global buys the old Kolpin building. The Mayor said they were able to tour Global's Columbus site and it was a pretty clean operation, with nothing stored/setting outside. Perlick said it is not a noisy business. The Mayor said Global liked the Kolpin building because it has three loading docks. He said Global has been in business three years and has doubled their business.

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was closed at 7:24 p.m.