

City of Fox Lake
Committee of the Whole Synopsis
September 20, 2017

The September 20, 2017 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers. Those in attendance were alderpersons John Mund, Dan Ault, Dennis Linke, Peter Hartzheim and Robert Jenswold. Absent: Tom Jahnke. Also attending were city attorney Steve Hannan, city administrator Dean Perlick, public works superintendent Gene Huettner, librarian Paula Torgeson, police chief Jim Rohr and city clerk Susan Hollnagel.

In the audience were Michael Gelhausen, Kathy Jenswold, Ann Buchda-Uhrman, Jan Okrasinski, Lori Schultz, Melissa Peltier, Fire Chief Aaron Paul and Richard Quirk.

Long range plan-library

Appearing before the Council was Michael Gelhausen to give them the final report on the long range services plan for the library. He said the plan had been adopted by the library board. He said he started the project in April 2017 meeting with the library board, library staff, Friends of the Library and the Mayor. Gelhausen said he asked them what they like about the library and what changes they would make. He said generally, everyone liked the library, its' staff, the selection, free internet and access to e-books. He said like most small town libraries, the issue is getting information out to know what is going on at the library. He said the primary focus will be on communicating with all Fox Lake area residents. Gelhausen said the library would start with a Facebook account and maybe expand to a newsletter, or monthly calendar, with information going out to elementary school students.

Gelhausen said he looked at the library's programming and materials. He said Torgeson will look at the staff's job description and library policies. He said this, along with keeping the Facebook page current, will take about 5 hours per week. He said he also looked at capital improvements (freshen up interior, new lights, elevator) and the current facility, (build new, add on, revamp basement for access). He suggested a community committee be created to look at the next five (5) years and do a needs assessment of the building. The Mayor thanked Gelhausen for his presentation.

Third Street/Mill Road update

Huettner updated the Council on the Third Street project. He said he did a walk through and the silt fence and stakes have been removed. He said Mill Road is expected to be graded on Friday, with paving on Monday. Hartzheim said he talked with Krause Excavating and they

put down more dirt, grass seed and fertilizer and said he saw one of the residents going over the seeding, with his mower set quite low, which blew the new dirt, seed and fertilizer all over. The Mayor said he had been down the street and the grass looks real good.

Lock boxes

Appearing before the Council was Fire Chief Aaron Paul, requesting an ordinance be created covering lock boxes. Paul said this is a box on the outside of a building that would have a key/keys in it that would allow the fire department to enter the building, without breaking down the door or a window. He said the fire department would have a key to the lock boxes. Rohr asked if all the lock boxes would be keyed the same. Paul said yes, one key would service all lock boxes. Hartzheim said Beaver Dam has been using this for quite a few years. Rohr asked if the police department would have a key to access the box. Paul said the police department would have to get permission and access to a key from me. Rohr said his concerns were with places like Bethesda Homes, Anchor Community, etc., when they need to get in in a hurry. He said he understood the fire chief's concern about the accountability for the lock box key. Paul said he would like to see this as mandatory for businesses, which could be included in the ordinance. Mund asked how long businesses would be given to get this set up. Paul said he would give everyone a year to get it done.

Pool committee update

Hartzheim gave the Council an update on the pool committee, stating they have met two times and it is going well. He said slide brackets were taken off and taken to Fox Manufacturing to get new brackets made. He said they will be meeting with Chris Neuman and go over what is needed for the slide and pump. Hartzheim said Neuman is aware the city will not be installing a new slide but making repairs to the current one. The Mayor thanked Hartzheim for working on this project.

Crocker Street park

Linke said they had met with a park equipment representative but have not heard anything back from them. He said he had talked with Jim Clark about the Scouts constructing a gaga ball pit. The Mayor said there are things we can make and ask for volunteers to help. Paul said the gaga ball pits are made up of angle iron and wood and are easy to build. Hartzheim said prices for pre-made playground equipment starts at \$16,000-. The Mayor said if they get a price for materials, he and his wife would cover the cost.

Mill Road annexation

Hannan said the city needed a survey, which included the legal description, of that portion of Mill Road the Town of Fox Lake asked to have annexed to the city. He said he had talked with Perlick and they agreed to contact city engineer, Jason Laue, to do a survey of that portion of the road. Hannan said an ordinance is needed for the annexation and it is relatively easy. The Mayor said he would contact Town of Fox Lake chairman Tom Wissing to see if they would share the cost of the road survey.

Dodge County library

The clerk stated we have approved the “request for exemption from Dodge County library tax, per §43.64(2)(b)”, in the past, as we expend an amount equal to what Dodge County would have to apply.

Torgeson said she would like the library to be on the list to get a lock box. Paul said as a public building, the library would be required to have a lock box. Torgeson said the library board would be meeting to put deadlines on the items in the long range service plan.

Activities in cemetery

Linke said he had been asked about what goes on with Halloween in the cemetery and said he had more misinformation than information. Ann Buchda-Uhrman said the ghost walk was added to the Spooktacular because Quade Real Estate would not be sponsoring the fun run in the morning. She said she did a ghost walk in Galena and it was very respectful. She said they were trying to raise funds to fix the stones. She said she honestly didn't know the cemetery had hours it was open.

Mund said he was reading the ordinances on the cemetery and it says the headstones must be set by a monument company and not the city. He asked if we repair the damaged headstones, are we violating our own ordinances. Hannan said you are repairing, not replacing the monuments. Melissa Peltier said she had spoken with two monument companies and they have agreed to send two guys, free of charge, to help with repairing the monuments.

The Mayor asked Buchda-Uhrman in 2018 to bring information to the Council regarding activities in the cemetery. Rohr said in the city's ordinance, approval to be in the cemetery, after hours, could be given by the caretaker or the cemetery, transfer station and recycling committee. He said he talked with the caretaker and he said it was okay.

Cemetery policy-hours

The clerk said she would like to have cemetery policies changed to reflect the hours the cemetery is open, as listed in the city ordinance. Mund asked if signs are needed. The Mayor said it may not be a bad idea to put signs up saying when the cemetery is open.

Updates-Leroy Meats, Subway, cell tower and Karavan trailers

Perlick stated the Leroy Meats groundbreaking was a success with good coverage. He said the building's foundation is going in. He said the wild game processing was granted a variance to install a sign five feet off of the road right of way. Perlick said Subway would not be starting until spring. The Mayor said he had talked with Subway and by the time they get their state permits, it would be too late to start.

Perlick said the cell tower is erected and they are paying the monthly rent to the city. Hartzheim asked when the tower would be operational. Perlick said he didn't know.

Perlick said the Karavan project is proceeding quickly, with a portion of the storage yard already in use.

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was closed at 7:26 p.m.