

City of Fox Lake
Committee of the Whole Synopsis
January 19, 2022

The January 19, 2022 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, at 6:58 p.m., following the special council meeting. Those in attendance were Alderpersons Dan Ault, Marcy Benz, Dennis Linke, John Mund and Darrell Pollesch present. Peter Hartzheim was absent. Also attending were Police Chief Jim Rohr, City DPW Superintendent Gene Huettner, Utilities Superintendent Bradley Ruenger, City Attorney Mike Devitt, Librarian Erin Anders, City Treasurer Krystal McCauley, City Administrator Kelly Crombie and City Clerk Jenny Quirk.

In the audience were Bruce Harned, Ben Buchda, Jason Laue, Mike Schanke and Jennifer Maleck.

Public Works:

Water/sewer utilities:

Fire/Police:

City Administrator:

Crombie provided a City Administrator Report to the council.

Crombie shared an update on the Meagher property purchase. He also shared with council a copy of the updated closing statement and answered their questions.

Crombie provided a spreadsheet to the council, that was prepared by the treasurer, showing an example of a 9% sewer rate increase in regard to different amounts of usage and services. He noted that the 9% increase came from the 2013 three-year plan that was put into place to raise the sewer rates, but the 2015 rate increase was rescinded on due to some cost savings that happened at the wastewater treatment plant. Now 6 years later a rate increase needs to be addressed. The auditors anticipate that the sewer fund will be running negative at some point this year, which is a concern. After considerable discussion the council felt it would a safer plan to try and implement an 8% increase over a two-year time frame of 5% the first year and 3% the second year. This would allow the citizens and businesses time to adjust to the needed change and then reevaluate. The Mayor would like this to be voted on at the February council meeting.

Crombie shared a current copy of the sewer lateral ordinance. He stated that it is not very clear as to who is responsible for the portion of the lateral that is in the right of way. He would like it to be written so that it would be clear for staff and residents to interpret. The additional concern is whether or not the city would want private contractors opening the roadway. Ruenger stated that whenever there is a project done on the city infrastructure the city has picked up from the connection on the main to basically where the curb stop is for the water. Then they televise from there to see if the other needs to be replaced. We do that so we know that lateral is good from the main to the property line. The Mayor and Council agree that this ordinance should be clarified. The mayor would like the city administrator and the city attorney to discuss this further and bring additional information to the March committee of the whole meeting.

Building & Parks:

License & Finance:

Personnel:

Library:

The Library Board did not meet, so there were no minutes to share with the council.

Audit & Review:

Cemetery, recycling & transfer station:

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.