

**City of Fox Lake**  
**Committee of the Whole Synopsis**  
**February 16, 2022**

The February 16, 2022 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, at 6:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Alderpersons Dan Ault, Marcy Benz, Peter Hartzheim, Dennis Linke, John Mund and Darrell Pollesch present. Also attending were City Attorney Mike Devitt, Librarian Erin Anders, City Administrator Kelly Crombie and City Clerk Jenny Quirk.

In the audience was Mary Perkins.

**Public Works:**

**Water/sewer utilities:**

**Fire/Police:**

**City Administrator:**

Crombie provided a City Administrator Report to the council. He noted we did get the street sweeper on Monday.

Crombie shared an update on the Meagher property purchase and annexation of the territory into the City. The City now officially owns this land and next we will be working on annexing it. At this time the City is working with MSA to survey the property. Right now the City will only be focusing on the annexing of the land purchased from the Meaghers and will possibly look at the town islands at a later date. Following the annexation process the land will be moved into the RDA's name.

In regard to the sewer lateral discussion Crombie felt we would be best to table this until DPW and Utilities could be present to weigh in to the discussion. They are currently dealing with a watermain break. Crombie did share however that after speaking with the DOT he does feel the portion under the right of way should be City responsibility. The DOT will not allow a private contractor to dig in the right of way along the state highway which runs through the city. Council felt that the sewer lateral and water mains should follow the same rule. This will be discussed further at the next council meeting.

Municipal debt restructuring discussion. Currently the City has 9 loans with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands totaling \$3,037,415. Crombie and McCauley spoke earlier with Ehlers regarding refinancing this debt. Ehlers provided 3 scenarios: 1- repaying just the roughly \$3 million debt to the Board of Commissioner. 2- Repay the \$3 million debt to the Board of Commissioner plus the \$1.5 million Meagher loan to ERGO Bank. This would keep the Meagher debt as general obligation long term which would keep our debt capacity high. 3- A roughly \$3 million Redevelopment Authority bond which would refinance the \$1.2 million ERGO Bank loan that the RDA has for TIF 3 (LeRoy Meats Development) plus the new \$1.5 million ERGO Bank loan for the Meagher property. The council was interested in moving forward with looking into a refinancing option. This will be discussed further next month.

2022 YMCA-Pool discussion. Crombie shared that there are no proposed changes to the actual contract between the City and the YMCA for this year. However, the city needs to decide on which of the 3 options we would like to use for the payment of staff. The council discussed the options and said we could also compare with the other local pools that are run privately. This will be discussed further next month.

**Building & Parks:****License & Finance:****Personnel:****Library:**

Anders shared the February 1, 2022 Library Board minutes. She also stated they have passed their annual report and she has submitted all of the cross border and Dodge County payments for payment in 2023. She noted that the County will be paying our library a 100% reimbursement. Anders also shared that they have moved money in their investments. They will be going from 4 accounts down to 3 because one was not paying out dividends anymore. Mund asked about the library discussing obtaining a movie license. Anders explained that the library would like to start to show movies as an event. The license would need to be held according to where they will be shown. There has been discussion of holding the movies at City Hall in the community center to allow for more room. Anders is still looking for additional information on the movie license. Anders shared her recent experience at the capital speaking with the state representatives.

**Audit & Review:****Cemetery, recycling & transfer station:****Closed Session:**

Motion by Linke, seconded by Hartzheim at 7:08 pm to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session specifically to discuss negotiating a business expansion to Fox Lake. Vote in favor: Ault, Benz, Hartzheim, Linke, Mund and Pollesch. Motion carried.