

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

The March 16, 2022 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, at 6:41 p.m., in the council chambers. In attendance were Alderpersons Dan Ault, Marcy Benz, Peter Hartzheim, John Mund and Darrell Pollesch present. Dennis Linke 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, Becky Bussian, John Small and Richie Quirk.

**Public Works:**

**Water/sewer utilities:**

**Fire/Police:**

Crombie noted that yesterday the Governor announced public safety grants to every police agency in the state. We will receive \$7000. We don't know the parameters yet as to what it can be spent on, but we know it will be coming from the state.

**City Administrator:**

Crombie provided a City Administrator Report to the council. He noted that there was a meeting with Representative Plumer on Tue morning and Plumer stated he was very impressed with the growth of the City of Fox Lake.

Crombie shared an update on the park grant. The Friends of Clausen Park have multiple fund raisers planned for this year. MSA is still working on preparing the draft in hopes to share with us by the end of the month. There has been discussion of what can be taken out of the plan or changed due to being significantly over the \$500,000 budget. Requesting over that amount will lead to additional steps and time. There was additional discussion regarding the new Clausen Park restrooms. The Mayor noted that the porto potties were contracted for the season because there will not be new restrooms prior to the opening of the fishing season. Crombie shared the information that has been gathered to date regarding the new restrooms. A stick built restroom will be approximately \$200,000 and an estimated \$109,000 for a prefab bathroom kit, plus the cost of the plumber and electrician. Originally it was thought that the restrooms could be done for \$60,000. Prices have been all over the place and maybe right now is not the right time to be building the restrooms? We will bring this back later for further discussion.

Crombie provided an update on the Clausen Park Pavilion roof insurance claim. We have received the money from the insurance company, but need to decide if we want to move forward with another flat roof like we had or go to a pitched steel roof? The council felt best about moving forward with a pitched steel roof with the thought that it would last longer and hold up better. This will be voted on at the next council meeting.

Crombie wanted to know how the City tracks money donated for trees that are to be planted in someone's honor and how the trees are tracked? Huettner stated that most of the trees have a rock with a plaque on them to show who they are planted for, but some people did not choose to do that. Hartzheim stated that he thought we were going to have a map that is marked for these trees locations. The Mayor noted that most people reach out to the library to find out historical information and wondered if the librarian would be willing to track these trees. Anders agreed that she would track the donated tree locations. Bussian

asked who was in charge of getting and planting the trees that being planted? The Mayor stated Huettner is the city's forester and is responsible for that.

Crombie shared that he was trying to think of a way to recognize and appreciate the dedicated employees of the City of Fox Lake and had thought of making the 4<sup>th</sup> of July a 4 day holiday this year. Then he and the Mayor realized that it may not work out for all departments. So they suggested the City offer the concept of 1 floating holiday that would need to be used this year, subject to supervisor's approval and could not be carried over or paid out. Hartzheim asked if there was enough money available for this? Crombie explained that this money was already planned into the budget just as scheduled work hours. The council agreed that it was a good idea. This will be voted on at the next council meeting.

Crombie updated the council on the bond post issuance compliance. The city needs to have a policy in place for post issuance compliance and Ehlers is willing to prepare this for us for a fee. This will be voted on at the next council meeting.

Crombie explained the resolution to correct a water billing error that would be reimbursed to the resident. This will also be voted on at the next council meeting.

Crombie stated that a downtown business approached the City to see if the downtown business grant program, from the past, was still available. The council agreed that since money was not budgeted for that expense this year it would not be a good financial idea, but would be willing to look into offering this another year when it was budgeted for.

Further discussion on the tabled sewer lateral discussion and additional information was provided from Crombie. After speaking with the DOT in order to keep all property owners equal with some properties being on the state highway that the portion of the sewer lateral starting at the right of way should be handled by the City and the portion from the right a way to the house by the property owner. There is no universal or clear answer either way, but we should make a decision for the city to stand by. Ruenger stated he agrees with Crombie, but thinks there should be some kind of a disclosure if the findings are a result of the property owner then the property owner should be liable for the expense. The Mayor said there will be further discussion on this topic.

Crombie shared that a food truck owner approached the City to ask for approval to set up in the City. The council doesn't feel it is the best interest of the City to allow it on the City property. However, there is nothing in writing that would prohibit the food truck from setting up in the parking lot a commercial property with the permission of the business owner.

**Building & Parks:**

**License & Finance:**

**Personnel:**

**Library:**

Anders shared the March 1, 2022 Library Board minutes. She also noted that SAGES has not had a librarian, so the public library has been providing the library programs. The library is still working on updating their 5 year plan. Anders also noted they had another roof leak which needed repair. The library has prepared a rotating display wall in City Hall with historical news paper clippings and photos. Right now they are relating to Darrell Schultz, whose memorial service will be held at City Hall this coming weekend.

**Audit & Review:**

**Cemetery, recycling & transfer station:**

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.