

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2012

### Call to Order

President Vanden Berg called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

PRESENT: President Vanden Berg, Trustee Berken, Trustee Frassetto, Trustee Hietpas, Trustee Mahlik, Trustee Peerenboom, Trustee Smith

ALSO PRESENT: C. Kell, T. Matheny, J. Moes, T. Flick, R. Van Gheem, V. Schneider

Nick Vande Hey – McMahon & Associates, Interested Employees and Citizens, and Media Reps

### Public Appearance for Items not on the Agenda

None

*Moved by Trustee Frassetto, seconded by Trustee Hietpas to Enter into the Public Hearing for Rezoning Village North Subdivision Lots 13 – 17.*

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

### Public Hearing – Rezoning Lots 13 – 17 in the Village North Subdivision from RC- Residential Single-Family District to RT – Residential Two-Family District

No questions asked or comments made.

*Moved by Trustee Frassetto, seconded by Trustee Smith to Exit the Public Hearing.*

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

### Discussion – Amending Village Code Section 32-1 Park Regulations- Dogs in Parks

T. Flick reviewed the proposal that is supported by the Parks Department and the Park Planning Committee to amend the Village Ordinance to allow leashed dogs on roads, paved trails, and chipped or gravel paths within all Village Parks. T. Flick stated the reasons the ordinance amendment is being recommended is to encourage increased use of the soon to be completed Heritage Parkway Trail and also because the current ordinance that does not allow dogs in parks has not been enforced and there is also increased popularity of walking dogs in parks. T. Flick stated he believes increased use in the park by those walking their leashed dogs will help with policing those that let their dogs run at large in the parks. Discussion took place.

Trustee Mahlik stated he would not be in support of the ordinance change unless there is enforcement of pet owners being required to clean up after their dogs and he wants to see signs, trash receptacles and possibly bags for pet waste provided. Trustee Mahlik stated that he has seen signage/receptacles/bags provided in parks in other communities. Trustee Frassetto stated she agrees with the recommendation and she believes responsible pet owners will pick up after their dogs and signs won't matter to those that are not responsible. T. Flick suggested that he will talk with the Police Chief about signage and the ordinances in place now regarding dogs defecating on sidewalks. T. Flick stated he would also like to research what other communities do with their park systems and he noted that installing signage in all the parks would be expensive. T. Flick asked if it was the consensus of the Board to amend the ordinance to address cleaning up after dogs. President Vanden Berg stated he is opposed to changing the ordinance for the reason of it not being enforced. Trustee Mahlik stated he agreed with President Vanden Berg and there are a lot of parks that don't allow dogs. Trustee Frassetto stated she supports the ordinance change to allow leashed dogs on the trail systems. T. Flick noted that he and the Park Planning Committee are not proposing this ordinance amendment because of lack of enforcement of the current ordinance but because they don't want to deter users from using the new trail system and currently there isn't enforcement because the Police Chief has stated that they do not have the time or staff to enforce this ordinance. T. Flick stated he has not heard any residents' state that they do not want dogs in parks. T. Flick stated he will discuss the ordinance issues with the Police Chief and he will bring it back to the Board for possible action at a future meeting.

### **Discussion by Village Board Regarding Their Idea for Possibly Reorganizing the Department of Public Works Per Trustee Peerenboom's Request**

Trustee Peerenboom stated the reason he wants to discuss this is because of the upcoming retirement of Mike Jansen and the Board should decide if that is a position they want to keep in the organizational table or if that is a position that could be delegated to other employees for budget savings. Trustee Peerenboom stated his original thought was to utilize the Building Inspector to do the inspections that Mike was doing and the harsh reality is that the Board needs to look at saving money. R. Van Gheem provided a handout of the Public Works Department staffing organization. R. Van Gheem stated he needs to know if the goals of the Board are to save money, cut personnel, or provide adequate infrastructure as these issues are interdependent. President Vanden Berg stated his assumption is to provide basically the same level of service that is currently provided with less personnel and/or less costs. Trustee Frassetto commented on saving on engineering costs and bringing some of this work in-house. Trustee Smith commented that he would like to see what the duties are of all employees and he would like to learn how the Village operates. R. Van Gheem suggested that the employees could present their job duties to the Board at future meetings or Board members are welcome to visit the Department in person to see what the employees are doing. R. Van Gheem stated their intent was to fill this position and if it isn't filled, the work will have to be hired out or tasks will have to be ignored. Trustee Peerenboom stated he would like to know how public works would adapt to not having the position filled and this is an opportunity to see if the Department can function without this position. Trustee Mahlik stated he believes the position is needed and if the position isn't filled he would like to know what the cost is going to be to outsource the work. Trustee Hietpas stated he would like to see if some of the duties could be allocated to other employees and to look at replacing some of this work with a laborer. Trustee Hietpas confirmed that this discussion is on Mike's position and not the mechanics position and staff and Board members agreed that the mechanics position is intended to be filled. Administrator Kell suggested that the Board look at the tasks of the personnel and then decide if those are tasks that they want the Village to continue. Administrator Kell stated that if inspection of contractors' projects is eliminated there will be a price to be paid years down the road and he further stated that he is confused as the Board discussed possible adding staff in terms of a civic engineer and that is a higher paid position and it needs to be determined what is the most cost effective way to handle the inspections. Administrator Kell also indicated that the Public Works Dept. was hoping to get a new inspector trained during 2012 projects because 2013 will be a major project year with the Main St. project. Discussion continued. Trustee Peerenboom stated he would like to know how much time Mr. Jansen spends on inspections. Trustee Frassetto stated she was content with filling the position and she would like to see the position posted now so training for the position can be done before Mr. Jansen retires. Trustee Smith stated he would like to see what the duties are of the engineering aid as he is inquisitive as to what the job entails. Trustee Mahlik stated he thinks the position will need to be filled as consulting and outsourcing costs will be much higher overall. Trustee Hietpas stated he would still like to see if it possible to delegate some of the responsibilities to other staff and then hire a lower paid position for some of the other work. Trustee Peerenboom stated he agrees with looking at the possibility of delegating some of the work to other staff and he wants to see if it is feasible to fill the position with a part-time person and he needs to see justification to continue expending the money for the position. President Vanden Berg suggested that Mr. Van Gheem put together a broad analysis of the tasks of the position and the possible alternatives and report back to the Board in a few weeks.

### **Unfinished Business**

Trustee Peerenboom stated he received an email from a concerned citizen and the citizen is asking the Village to consider installing a round-a-bout at the Vandenbroek St., Main St., Depot St. intersection. R. Van Gheem stated the installation of a round-a-bout was looked at as part of the Downtown Traffic Study and it was determined that there isn't enough land for a round-a-bout unless additional land is acquired. Trustee Frassetto stated she also received emails from residents in support of straightening out the Vandenbroek St., Main St., Depot St. intersection.

C. Kell provided a handout that listed the speakers that recently spoke at an economic development conference he attended. C. Kell stated the speaker, Tony Nelessen, is a Little Chute native and Mr. Nelessen used Little Chute as a prime example in his speech but the information provided was not all positive. C. Kell stated he wished that Mr. Nelessen would have contacted him prior to making his presentation on Little Chute to verify some of the information he presented.

### **Items for Future Agenda**

Trustee Peerenboom requested a future agenda item to discuss installing a round-a-bout at the Main St., Vandenbroek St., and Depot St. and he asked Mr. Kell to provide the diagrams for the round-a-bout that were prepared as part of the Downtown Study. J. Moes requested that the ordinance to change the zoning of the Village North Subdivision Lots be placed on next week's agenda for action. C. Kell stated at next week's meeting he will be bringing forward proposed procedures for selling the Village North Subdivision lots. Trustee Frassetto requested a future agenda item to discuss the street alignment of Depot St. and Vandenbroek St.

*Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Berken to enter into closed session.(7:07 p.m.)*

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Staff (with the exception of J. Moes) and the Village Clerk were dismissed from the meeting at this time.

### **Closed Session:**

**19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stats. Deliberations or negotiations on the purchase of public properties, investing of public funds or conducting other specific public business when competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – Offer to Purchase Village Property Located at 319 W. Main Street**

*Moved by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Mahlik to Exit Closed Session and Return to Open Session. (7:30 p.m.)*

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

### **Return to Open Session – Possible Action on Closed Session Items**

No action was taken.

### **Adjournment**

*Moved by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Mahlik to Adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:32 p.m.*

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

## **VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE**

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By: Michael R. Vanden Berg, Village President

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Attest: Vicki Schneider, Village Clerk