

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

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 Frassetto, Trustee Hietpas, Trustee Joosten, Trustee Peerenboom, Trustee Smith, Trustee Van Lankvelt

ALSO PRESENT: R. Hermus, J. Moes, T. Flick, R. Van Gheem, T. Matheny, S. Berkers, Marty Marasch, Chief Jansen, Jeff Hendricks, Jan Hietpas, Duane Nechodom, Interested Citizens, Media Reps

Public Appearance for Items not on the Agenda

None

Discussion-Responses to Retiree Health Insurance Questions

R. Hermus addressed questions that were asked to him on the August 21, 2013 board meeting. The first question regarding a listing of communities that provide health care to retirees both up to age 65 and over 65 was provided in their agenda packets. The next question was if communities could have Medicare eligible retirees excluded from the WEA Trust. R. Hermus reported that he contacted Michael Schwitzer of the WEA Trust and yes, you could carve out Medicare eligible retirees but once retirees reach the age of 65 insurance would have to be obtained elsewhere. R. Hermus stated that by the village's contract with retired employees he is not sure that can be done. The last question that was asked of R. Hermus was regarding a legal opinion seeking clarification of Act 10 on employee health care specifically the retirees that are covered by past contracts/policies. R. Hermus stated that the legal opinion he received was that Act 10 has no bearing on the employee health care specific to retirees but what the village has done by policy and past practice dictates what will be done in the future. Trustee Joosten questioned if there would be any savings if the village carved out retirees and put them into a separate policy. R. Hermus responded that it has not been looked at specifically but usually a group policy will get a better price. Discussion regarding WEA notification of opting out of state plan occurred.

Discussion Regarding CIP Projects

a) Fire Department

Chief Jansen reported that due to the cost of refurbishing the current aerial truck it is recommended that replacement would be more cost efficient due to the age of the vehicle. Chief Jansen reported that last year refurbishing the current aerial truck was looked at to hold off buying a new vehicle for ten years but after further research it was found that the suspension replacement would cost \$200,000 - \$300,000. Trustee Frassetto questioned if this fire truck caused a potential danger to our firemen. Chief Jansen noted that due to the open cab of the truck he is hesitant to put his men back there unless absolutely necessary and the hydraulics could pose a threat in the future. Trustee Hietpas questioned the resale value of the aerial truck and Jeff Hendricks of Pierce stated that the value varies and could be \$15,000 to \$50,000 depending on age and condition. Trustee Joosten questioned the possibility of buying a used aerial truck. Chief Jansen stated that he has not looked into the possibility of buying used. Jeff Hendricks reported that the seats on the open cab should be removed because it does not meet safety requirements and also the advanced age of the truck makes it hard to locate replacement parts for the truck. Jeff Hendricks also reported on the suspension of the truck and the possibility of failure in the near future. Duane Nechodom reported on the maintenance of the aerial truck. Discussion regarding repair centers for fire trucks occurred. Trustee Frassetto stated that she was in favor of the purchase of the aerial truck because the safety of the volunteer firemen and village residents is extremely important. Trustee Frassetto stated that she would like to see that Chief Jansen not put firemen in the open cab of the aerial truck in the future if possible until the truck can be replaced in the future. Chief Jansen was excused at this time for a fire call. Trustee Van Lanvelt

questioned the availability of grants for fire equipment. Marty Marasch answered that the Fire Department has applied for grants. Trustee Smith questioned looking into a used truck and Jeff Hendricks stated that yes the Fire Department can look into that possibility but to keep in mind the current space the department has for the truck and what may be available for purchase used. President Vanden Berg commented on the use of the open cab on the aerial truck and that the Fire Department should look into it further. R. Hermus stated that there are many variables that decide whether or not the open cab gets used and he trusts that Chief Jansen only uses the open cab when he has to. R. Hermus stated that poor planning has led the village to purchase 3 fire trucks in 3 years and that he has spoken with Chief Jansen to get the village on a schedule for such purchases.

b) Band

T. Flick reported that the Village Band is in need of new equipment or that they have outgrown their current equipment. T. Flick stated that he would like direction as to what to do with long term repair and replacement of village owned band equipment. T. Flick stated that the band has a positive impact on the village and provides community enrichment to our residents. T. Flick reported that the band has outgrown their current trailer and the band is requesting to purchase a larger one due to an increase in band members. T. Flick stated that at this time he does not know what the current trailer is worth. T. Flick reported on the flatbed trailer used for parade performances and high school events and noted the poor condition of the trailer. T. Flick reported that originally the band asked for \$3,500 worth of equipment but they are now asking for \$2,000 due to members having some of their own equipment. T. Flick stated that the \$2,000 is for a drum the band needs. Trustee Frassetto questioned if cost sharing with the school district would be possible for the flatbed trailer. T. Flick responded that he could ask. T. Flick stated that he needed to have a discussion with the school district regarding wavers for individuals on the trailer for school events. Trustee Joosten questioned if community grants were possible to raise funds for the purchase of needed equipment. T. Flick stated that yes he would pursue Cheesefest to ask for a donation. T. Flick stated that it would be a one-time increase in the budget to purchase needed equipment. Jan Hietpas stated that the band wanted to have a drum repaired that fell off the back of the trailer but found out the drum was beyond repair so currently the band only has one drum. T. Matheny recommended putting an allowance of \$500-\$1000 yearly into their budget for equipment replacement. Trustee Joosten recommended sending out a letter to area businesses asking for donations for the village band. T. Flick stated that he would recommend waiting to do that because businesses have been asked for donations from a lot of organizations this summer. Trustee Frassetto disagreed with the campaign to raise money for the band due to larger projects coming up that could potentially ask for help from the community. R. Hermus recommended that T. Flick do further research and bring it back to the board.

Discussion/Action-Plans for Proposed Senior Housing Project on Grand Avenue

R. Hermus proposed a plan for developing village property for senior housing on Grand Avenue and recommended that the village Plan Commission be allowed to work with an Architect to develop a site plan, building plan, and floor plan for marketing to a developer. Trustee Joosten questioned if a Market Study has been done to see if senior housing is needed by the village. R. Hermus gave examples of area senior housing facilities that were occupied quickly. Trustee Frassetto stated that the need for senior housing was driven by the fact that the senior housing facility on Monroe Street has a waiting list. Trustee Smith stated that a study was done in the past by the UW Extension. Discussion regarding the zoning and design review process of the property occurred. President Vanden Berg noted that having the Plan Commission develop a plan does not prohibit investors or developers from planning something other than senior housing for the property. Trustee Smith stated that he was in favor due to the fact that a potential developer has an idea of what the village wants for the property. Trustee Joosten stated that a study to determine which type of senior housing was needed be it assisted or apartment living.

Discussion regarding types of senior living occurred. R. Hermus stated that he would look into the study that was done in the village to see what was determined to be the needs of the village and get back to the board. R. Hermus stated that the study could also be shared with Plan Commission to help decide which type of senior housing facility would be suitable.

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Smith to Approve the Senior Housing Development Plan as Presented.

Ayes 6 – Nays 1 (Joosten) – Motion Carried:

Unfinished Business

Trustee Hietpas stated that he would like to have a budget discussion regarding the French Road/Evergreen payment on next week's agenda. Discussion regarding Victor Allen Tour occurred. R. Hermus reported that additional asbestos was found at the Feldkamp property on Grand Avenue and the cost for removal would be just over \$14,000.

Items for Future Agenda

None

Moved by Trustee Frassetto, seconded by Trustee Van Lankvelt to enter closed session (7:16 p.m.)
Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

Closed Session: §19.85(1)(c) Consideration of Employment, Promotion, or Performance Evaluation of any Public Employee of the Village of Little Chute-Personnel Issues

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Frassetto to return to open session (7:56 p.m.)
Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

Adjourn

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Frassetto to Adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE

By: Michael R. Vanden Berg, Village President

Attest: Sandy Berkers, Village Deputy Clerk