

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2014

Call to Order: President Vanden Berg called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

President Vanden Berg led members in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of Trustees

PRESENT: Michael Vanden Berg, President
James Hietpas, Trustee
John Elrick, Trustee
Bill Peerenboom, Trustee
Brian Joosten, Trustee
Larry Van Lankvelt, Trustee
Skip Smith, Trustee

Roll Call of Officers and Department Heads

PRESENT: James Fenlon, Village Administrator
Captain Lund, FVMPD Police
Tom Flick, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry
Jeff Elrick with Public Works
Laurie Decker, Village Clerk
Jim Moes, Community Development Director
Teri Matheny, Finance Director
EXCUSED: Beth Carpenter, Library Director
Chuck Koehler, Village Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Interested citizens, Media Reps.

Public Appearance for Items Not on the Agenda

None

Presentation—Little Chute Football Team Proclamation

President Vanden Berg congratulated the Little Chute football team on their outstanding performance this season.

Action/Approval—Toonen Properties Fireworks Permit

Moved by Trustee Van Lankvelt, seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the fireworks permit for Toonen Properties.

Ayes 7, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes

Committee of the Whole Minutes of October 29, 2014
Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2014
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2014
Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2014

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Elrick to approve the minutes as presented.

Ayes 7, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Update/Potential Action—McKinley/Grand Reconstruction Project

Mike Simon from McMahon presented slides for the project to the board and the alternatives that were discussed at the last meeting were reviewed. A few exceptions were needed from the DOT to obtain funding on this project and the Trans 75 exception for no bike lanes was approved. Further investigation will be done regarding an exception for angled parking. The board recommended that the stated exceptions

from the DOT be received and revisit this matter again at the January 7th meeting. Roy Van Gheem will provide the costs for parking.

Discussion/Action—Village Hall Third Floor Renovation

Administrator Fenlon provided the board an update on the Village Hall Third Floor Renovation. The initial timeline is to have the former Board and President's rooms completed by April 1, 2015 and the courtroom and hallway to be completed by May 1st. Staff recommendation is to continue having Village Staff act as the construction manager on this project.

Presentation/Potential Action—Street Assessment Policy

Administrator Fenlon stated that we have met on this topic and in September and October and we have taken public comment the whole month of October and have processed that information throughout the Board and staff. The goal is to make two decisions. We have one on the street assessment policy and we have one for 2014 where we conducted reconstruction projects on Riverside, Jay, Kelly and Violet and as of today those are under the current policy. We are looking for where the board wants to go with the 2014 Street Assessment Policy. The policy needs to be fair and equitable and we cannot arbitrarily set rates. It has to be based on policy and the current 70/30 policy is what we strive for. Similar to Appleton, the Village can move forward with the assessment amendments in 2015. Appleton has also enacted the wheel tax that goes into effect in 2015 which may be an option for Little Chute. The discussion of 2014 street assessments started with Trustee Peerenboom stating the concern he has with the 70/30 ratio and the standard assessment rate for concrete is the 3% automatic increase every year. He would like to see us go back in 2014 to the 2012 rate that was used on those projects and start bringing the rate we are charging down 3% every year until we have it down to a level that homeowners can afford as their assessments come due. Director Van Gheem added that the way the original rates were set was on four different streets and we averaged the cost about 8 or 9 years ago. The rates at that time were based on 70/30 ratio. What has happened is the cost is escalating quicker than our rates. Our rates now are based on a flat rate and that's where you run into trouble because the streets vary so much. If the Village wants to reduce the rates just pick a lower percent. Trustee Elrick commented that he would like to see narrower streets and parking knocked down to one side. He also stated that 60% of our streets are in subdivisions with hardly any traffic. The amount of parking in these subdivisions could work with one sided parking. We need to get down to the narrowest streets. Chris Berkers asked if you pick a new rate for 2015 will that rate be applied to 2014 special assessments. Director Van Gheem replied it would not as we cannot go back and make one sided parking on Violet and Kelly. Trustee Peerenboom stated the Board implemented the current policy in 2007 that was supposed to encourage a road diet. That policy was set up for narrower roads will the Village Board is not following it because residents wanted parking. President Vanden Berg agreed we aren't following it but we also are not getting a push from residents for wider streets. Trustee Elrick explained that we are at a point where we are talking about adjusting our assessment policy and how are we going to pay for the additional expenses. The rules from the DNR have become stricter where we have to do more storm water management. President Vanden Berg replied that in regards to 2014, I don't know how in good faith we could change the rules of the game and he is all in favor of freezing the rates and agrees with Trustee Elrick to narrow the streets. The cost of the streets has gone up faster than the rate of inflation. Trustee Elrick wants a base rate on base design with 2 driving lanes and a parking lane. Director Matheny added that when you adopt this policy you have to be willing to take the increases in the mill rate or be willing to take less in transportation aids because the state has us in a box. If we reduce the streets we are doing we will lose GTA and if you are going to assume additional repayment of debt on the general property taxes then you have to be willing to raise the mill rate. Trustee Smith asked what the ramifications are of the board raising the mill rate. Director Matheny replied that it doesn't keep you competitive in the Valley. The risk is the higher the mill rate is in comparison to adjacent communities is what that will do to our development and growth. Mark Gloudemans of 717 Sanatorium Road asked if we could go back to the 2014 slide as he feels that we have left that topic. He stated that we need to make a decision on 2014 and as hard as it is; the fair thing to do is to move on. In 2011, we tried to get the policy changed and it didn't happen. To make it fair and equitable, we just need to move on to 2015. Trustee Smith added that our budget is already closed for the year and we can't go back and adjust anything so our hands are tied and very limited on what we can do.

- 1. Moved by Trustee Van Lankvelt, seconded by Trustee Joosten to keep the present policy for 2014.*

Ayes 3, Nays 4(Smith, Elrick, Peerenboom & Hietpas)—Motion Failed

2. Moved by Trustee Elrick, seconded by Trustee Smith to modify the street assessment policy to not include the width of the bike lanes in the assessment ratio

Ayes 7, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Action—Utility Commission Ordinance #7 Amendment

Moved by Trustee Elrick, seconded by Trustee Van Lankvelt to approve the amendment to the Utility Commission Ordinance as presented.

Ayes 7, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Approval/Action—Resolution #40 CSM for Fox Valley Tool and Die

Moved by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Van Lankvelt to approve Resolution #40 CSM for Fox Valley Tool and Die.

Ayes 7, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Discussion—Sponsorship Logo Feeding America

Community Development Director, Jim Moes stated that the Feeding America owns acreage on Highway 41 and would like to put a sign up. The code does allow for a free standing sign advertising of a project to come. This would be the first sign with the new electronic regulations. The board approved the sign for up to a one year term.

Operator Licenses:

Fleming, Tyler

Little Chute

Pump House

Moved by Trustee Elrick, seconded by Trustee Van Lankvelt to approve the operator license as presented.

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

****NOTE—Trustee Van Lankvelt stepped out briefly**

Action—Denial of Operator License for Brian Mason

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Hietpas to deny the operator license for Brian Mason.

Ayes 6, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Action—Bell Taxi Renewal

Moved by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Hietpas to approve the renewal for Bell Taxi.

Ayes 6, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Action/Approval—Taxicab License for Jesse Harris to drive for Bell Taxi

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Elrick to approve the taxicab license for Jesse Harris.

Ayes 6, Nays 0—Motion Carried

****NOTE—Trustee Van Lankvelt returned to the meeting**

Department and Officers Progress Reports

Department and Officers provided progress reports to the Board

Disbursement List

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Van Lankvelt to Approve the Vouchers and Authorize the Finance Director to pay all vendors.

Ayes 7, Nays 0—Motion Carried

Call for Unfinished Business

None

Items for Future Agendas

None

Closed Session:

- a) 19.85(1)(c) Consideration of Employment, Promotion or Performance Evaluation Data of any Public Employee of the Village of Little Chute. *Personnel Evaluations*

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded Trustee Elrick to enter into Closed Session.

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

- b) 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. *Sale of Village Owned Property/Negotiations*

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded Trustee Elrick to enter into Closed Session.

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

- c) 19.85(1)(c) Consideration of Employment, Promotion or Performance Evaluation Data of any Public Employee of the Village of Little Chute. *Personnel Matter*

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded Trustee Elrick to enter into Closed Session.

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

Return to Open Session

Moved by Trustee Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Elrick to exit Closed Session.


Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried


Adjournment

Moved by Peerenboom, seconded by Trustee Elrick to Adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Ayes 7, Nays 0 – Motion Carried

Attest:


Laurie Decker, Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE
By: 
Michael R. Vanden Berg, Village President