

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF APRIL 8, 2009

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

PRESENT: President Fischer, Trustee Elrick, Trustee Leicht, Trustee Ransbottom, Trustee Smith, Trustee Van Ooyen, Trustee Versteegen

ALSO PRESENT: C. Kell, M. Recker, D. Haug, J. Moes, R. Van Gheem, V. Schneider

Public Appearance for Items not on the Agenda

None

Moved by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Van Ooyen to enter into the Public Hearing.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Public Hearing – Rezoning 1036/1038, 1042/1044 & 1050/1052 W. Florida Avenue from RM – Residential Multi-family District to RT – Residential Two-family District

J. Moes explained that the originally plat was zoned for multi-family development but the actual use is residential two-family and the rezoning is being recommended so the properties are zoned for their actual use. J. Moes stated the ordinance for the rezoning will be presented to the Board at next week's meeting for action.

Moved by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Ransbottom to close the Public Hearing.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried

Review/Action COPS Grant Application for Fox Valley Metro Police Department

Assistant Chief Mark Recker commented on the current staffing level compared to other communities in the Valley and municipalities that were of similar size noting that the Metro currently has 24 officers and 27 was their highest staffing level. Asst. Chief Recker stated that the Metro is the lowest staffed force in the Valley as shown on the comparables worksheet and the Metro also provides many additional services to its residents such as serving as first responders and assisting with vehicle lockouts. Asst. Chief Recker read a report from November 2007 and in the report the Police Chief recommended that the Metro should have 30 sworn officers on staff. Asst. Chief Recker stated that he would like to submit a COPS Hiring Recovery Program grant application to hire three new officers and the grant would cover 100% of the funding for salary and benefits for the officers for three years and the Village's would need to keep the officers employed for a fourth year with the Village's paying the employment costs for the officers. D. Haug commented on the financial impact estimating that to cover the costs for the employees in the 4th year, the tax rate would have to go up approximately .30 cents per \$1,000. J. Moes commented that because of the declining property values in order to keep services as they are today, it is estimated that the tax rate would need to be increased 20 to 30 cents per \$1,000. C. Kell stated that he and Administrator Hermus support the grant application with the understanding that the Metro and both Boards need to be aware that the staffing level will be continuously evaluated and future openings in the Department may not be filled. Asst. Chief Recker reported that the deadline for applying for the grant is April 14 and he has heard that President Obama has asked that the grants be distributed in July but at this time it is not known when the grant selections will be made. Asst. Chief Recker further stated that 3,000 grants will be awarded and the Department may not be awarded any grant or only grants for one or two officers instead of three. Discussion took place.

Moved by Trustee Van Ooyen, seconded by Trustee Leicht to permit Assistant Police Chief Mark Recker to apply for three officers for the Fox Valley Metro Police Department through the COPS Hiring Recovery Program.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Certify April 7, 2009 Election Results for Municipal Offices

The Village Clerk reported that the Board of Canvass had met earlier today to canvass the votes for Village President and Village Trustees and the votes were found to be correct as reported on Election night.

Moved by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Ransbottom to certify the April 7, 2009 Election Results for Municipal Offices as presented.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion – GASB Statement 45 – Actuarial Study of Other Post Employment Benefits

D. Haug reviewed the excerpts from the joint actuarial study conducted with the Village of Kimberly on estimated medical insurance liability for employees and retirees that were hired prior to September 1, 1980. D. Haug stated all governmental units are being asked to report this liability and the calculated liability will now be included as a future liability in the annual financial statements of the Village. D. Haug noted that the report makes assumptions about future costs as there is no accurate prediction at this time. The initial actuarial liability was determined to be \$6,071,691. Discussion took place. Action by the Board was not required.

Discussion/Possible Action to Approve – PSC Simplified Rate Case

D. Haug reviewed the proposal for a simplified rate case and stated the 2008 PSC Annual Report indicated the Water Utility is authorized to earn a 6.25% rate of return and the 2008 rate of return was 4.56%. Utilities that fall below the authorized rate of return are eligible to apply for a Simplified Rate Case. The rate increase would be 3.8% or a .71 cent increase for the average residential customer.

D. Haug reported that the Water Commission had reviewed the proposal and unanimously supported the increase and if the Village Board also approves the Rate Case, it would become effective on June 1 after official publication. Discussion took place.

Moved by Trustee Elrick, seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the PSC Simplified Rate Case for a 3.8% water rate increase.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Unfinished Business

Trustee Verstegen asked the Board to consider putting the Imagine Little Chute Development and Revitalization Plan on future agenda for review.

Items for Future Agenda

President Fischer stated the Imagine Little Chute Development and Revitalization Plan could be put on the April 22 Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion. Trustee Verstegen distributed copies of a survey being conducted by Outagamie County. Board members were asked to complete the survey and return it by May 15th to the Village Clerk and she will send them to the County. President Fischer recommended putting the survey on the agenda of next week's meeting to discuss any questions Board members may have about the survey.

Moved by Trustee Van Ooyen, seconded by Trustee Leicht to Enter Closed Session.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Closed Session: *Real Estate (e) 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. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats.*

Amendment to village occupancy date for garage property with Paul & Lynn Artz
Possible purchase of public property to remove curve in Hartzheim Drive
Development Agreement for GH Investments and Evergreen Little Chute Development

Legal (g) Conferring with legal counsel for the Village, legal counsel rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Village Board with respect to litigation in which the Village is now or is likely to become involved. 19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats.

Legal strategies with respect to litigation in which the Village is or is likely to become involved.

Moved by Trustee Van Ooyen, seconded by Trustee Leicht to Exit Closed Session and Return to Open Session.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Return to Open Session

Moved by Trustee Van Ooyen, seconded by Trustee Elrick to charge Paul & Lynn Artz \$500 a month to lease the garage property at 141 E. Main Street

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Ayes-7, Nay-0, Motion Carried Unanimously

VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE

By: Charles Fischer, Village President

Attest: Vicki Schneider, Village Clerk