

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2010

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 Frassetto, Trustee Hietpas, Trustee Mahlik, Trustee Van Deurzen, Trustee Verstegen

ALSO PRESENT: C. Kell, D. Haug, J. Moes, T. Flick, R. Van Gheem, E. Misselt, V. Schneider

Public Appearance for Items not on the Agenda

Michael Stouffer, 714 Bluff Avenue, addressed the Board about concerns he has with the weed and grass ordinance that was passed at last week's meeting and he stated that the ordinance is an example of a really bad ordinance. Mr. Stouffer stated he was protesting the ordinance for the common good and he didn't believe there was enough time given to the public for review and comment on the ordinance before it was acted on by the Board. Mr. Stouffer commented that he is troubled that the ordinance only allows for a five day notice to be given for weed/grass cutting as it doesn't leave much time for the property owner to respond and he thinks it is extraordinarily unfair. Mr. Stouffer also stated he was troubled that the ordinance states a resident must post bond before they can appear before the Board about a complaint on this ordinance. Mr. Stouffer also stated the ordinance states the fee scheduled is attached and it was not attached on his copy of the ordinance. Mr. Stouffer commented that the language in the ordinance does not make sense and he also commented on the fine that the resident is required to pay and the fact that Village owned property is exempted. J. Moes, 1422 Miami Circle, stated that annually a notice is published in the paper and he doesn't want his neighbors to be allowed to let their weeds and grass grow weeks on end without abatement. Trustee Hietpas commented on the language in the ordinance that states "the Village Board has indicated they have zero tolerance on the issue" and he doesn't believe that language is needed in the ordinance as it is more of a commentary and the Village Board will turn over from time to time. Mr. Stouffer expressed concerns with the ordinances and how they will be interpreted in the future by different staff members and the language in the weed ordinance that states the Village will destroy the weeds in a way that is least expensive and how it would affect his wife if pesticides were used on his property. Mr. Stouffer again commented that the intention of the ordinance is not bad but it is a really badly written ordinance.

Review/Discussion/Possible Action – Drainage Issue at 1305 E. Lincoln Avenue

Trustee Elrick stated he had looked at the ditch and he commented on the large riprap that was used and the significant amount of trees that are growing in the ditch and because the Village has an easement on the property he believes the Village should be maintaining the drainage basin. R. Van Gheem provided to Trustees a picture of the flooding that took place on August 11 that he had received from Mr. Hietpas. R. Van Gheem provided information on the design of the drainage basin but noted he was not able to find any of the design plans for the drainage basin and he was not with the Village at the time it was designed. R. Van Gheem noted that the riprap is actually too small for the volume and velocity of the water that travels through this basin during heavy rains. R. Van Gheem stated that it was a natural ravine and improvements were made to the drainage basin in 1997 and an easement was signed by Leon and Mary Hietpas at that time. R. Van Gheem stated he has concerns with the elevation of parts of the yard being at or below the elevation of the top of the drainage ditch. R. Van Gheem also has concerns with the wild and planted vegetation that is impeding on the flow of the water. R. Van Gheem stated that the Department is working with the homeowner to schedule the removal of the vegetation. Comments were made on the historic amounts of rain that fell in July. Mr. Hietpas stated that this isn't the first year he has had a problem and questioned if it isn't the Village's responsibility to maintain the ditch as an easement had been granted to the Village for maintenance of the ditch. Discussion took place on the options to address the issue. Board members agreed that staff should move forward this fall with removing the

vegetation and then next year if the flooding continues to happen, the Board will consider whether to spend funds to widen and deepen the drainage basin.

Review/Discussion on Capital Improvement Plan 2011 - 2015

D. Haug and staff members led a review of the CIP for the Public Works Department's streets projects, TID projects, and sanitary sewer, water, and storm water projects. Staff commented that many of the numbers are based on estimates and many projects being proposed hinge on outside agencies and possible developments. D. Haug informed Board members that the CIP could be put on next week's agenda if there are unanswered questions and it will also be on the agenda of September 8th for further discussion and it will be presented for approval at the September 15th Board meeting.

Clear Water Reduction Report

R. Van Gheem presented to the Board for informational purposes the HOVMSD Clear Water Reduction report that was conducted by Donohue & Associates. The report indicates that Little Chute has removed an estimated 25% of the peak flow to the wastewater treatment plant and it is estimated that the Village has removed 60% of the total clear water flow but that is not indicated in the report. R. Van Gheem stated he presented the report to show that the Department's staff has been working very hard to find and correct areas of inflow and infiltration in the Village. Trustee Elrick applauded staff for their achievements in I/I reduction. Staff noted that the Village will keep moving forward with their efforts to reduce I/I and they will be keeping a close eye on the reduction achievements of the other communities in the HOVMSD. Michael Stouffer, 714 Bluff Avenue, commented that he understands that only 10% of the total clear water is coming from private laterals and he questioned the relative value compared to the cost and stated that there has been no hard data made available on how much reduction is due to private lateral replacements and he would like to ask again that this issue be looked at because of the cost to individuals. R. Van Gheem stated he has seen studies that have shown that replacing the laterals can remove up to 65% of I/I.

Unfinished Business

None

Items for Future Agenda

Board members agreed to schedule a meeting with the Kimberly Board for a budget discussion on the Joint Departments for the 5th Wednesday, September 29 and the meeting will be held in Little Chute. Trustee Frassetto stated she has been asked by a business to bring to the Board floor a discussion on the parking situation on Sanitorium Road as now parking is only allowed on only one side of Sanitorium in the area near Main Street. The business would like to see parking allowed in front of their business. Trustee Frassetto stated the parking issue does not need to be an agenda item but she would like to obtain information on the history of the parking situation on this street. Trustee Frassetto also asked staff to present information at a future meeting on the benefit to the Village for creating an in-house engineering position compared to contracting for engineers. C. Kell stated that staff is working on a study on this issue as time allows but it probably will not be completed prior to the adoption of the 2011 Village Budget.

Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Van Deurzen, seconded by Trustee Frassetto to Adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Ayes 7, Nay 0 – Motion Carried

VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE

By: Charles Fischer, Village President

Attest: Vicki Schneider, Village Clerk