

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2007

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

PRESENT: Trustee Elrick, President Fischer, Trustee Joosten, Trustee Ransbottom,
Trustee Van Ooyen, Trustee Versteegen, Trustee Vanden Heuvel

ALSO PRESENT: C. Kell, J. Moes, D. Haug, T. Flick, R. Van Gheem, V. Schneider
Jeff Bahling, Rettler Corporation

Public Appearance for Items not on the Agenda

None

Discussion/Action on Resolution Committing Village Funding to Little Chute Windmill, Inc. for the Proposed Construction of an Authentic Dutch Windmill in Island Park

Administrator Kell opened the meeting and stated the Village is in a position to look at options for the Mill Street Bridge as the bridge must be removed in 2008 for the locks restoration project.

Administrator Kell gave a presentation that outlined three options that the Board could consider for the replacement of the Mill Street Bridge for Island Park and potential funding assistance for the Windmill Project. Option 1 proposed building a new vehicular lift bridge in 2009 with federal & state funding assistance and contribute \$500,000 to the Windmill project toward construction of Island Park. The estimated total cost to the Village for Option 1 is \$1,150,000. Option 2 proposed building a new pedestrian lift bridge in 2009 without federal/state funding assistance (not eligible) and do not contribute funds to construction of the windmill. The estimated cost to the Village for this option is \$1,580,000 to \$1,920,000. Option 3 proposed removing the existing mill street bridge in 2008/2009 in accordance with the requirements of navigational law and continue to pursue federal/state funding for a new vehicular lift bridge with the hope of securing funding during the next funding cycle which is likely to be sometime between the years of 2012 to 2014 with a cost similar to option #1; however, the construction cost is likely to be higher. Advantages and disadvantages to the options were also presented. Administrator Kell pointed out that if the bridge is replaced with a structure that cannot accommodate vehicles, the Village will likely have to pay the cost of removing the HOV metering station at an estimated cost of \$500,000 and Island Park would remain inaccessible until possible 2014. A discussion took place and audience member commented on the issue. Trustee Joosten questioned the Village's liability in paying for moving the HOV metering station. Trustee Vanden Heuvel stated that legal responsibility has not been determined but the result will likely be that taxpayers and/or sewer rate payers will pay the cost to relocate the metering station. Trustee Joosten also questioned why a permanent structure bridge was not considered and stated that he had talked with the bridge consultant who stated to him that a fixed structure was feasible at a cost of approximately between \$350,000 and \$400,000. Staff members stated that the consultant did not include that type of structure in the study because it was not a viable option. President Fischer stated he felt the Village may likely receive funding for the bridge project only because of all the cooperation between the Federal and State Government, Fox Locks Authority, County, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Windmill Committee and the Village. Don De Groot, Chair of Little Chute Windmill Inc., presented the history of the Windmill concept and the Committee's vision and stated the Windmill Committee did not come to the Village looking for assistance but the Village approached them with an idea of relocating the Windmill to Island Park, which was one of the original locations looked at for the Windmill. A discussion and question and answer period with audience members took place until approximately 7:45 p.m. Some of the citizens in attendance indicated they were not against the Windmill

but against tax dollars being used to assist with the project. (A list of those that signed in at the meeting is included with the official minutes.) Trustee Ransbottom stated he supports the resolution and the Windmill project because of the importance of heritage and stated as a taxpayer he believes he is making a responsible decision and is looking down the road for the taxpayers of the Village.

Harlan Kiesow, Executive Director of the Fox Locks Authority, commented on the economic impact that the combined projects will have on the community and the Fox Valley. Trustee Van Ooyen spoke in favor of the Resolution and stated it is better to have the Windmill constructed on park land that is tax exempt land as the Village will gain tax dollars from the current downtown land owned by the Windmill when the land is sold and also spoke about the \$500,000 from the Village being an investment in the Village. Paul Cornett, President of Advance Little Chute, Inc. commented in support of the project. Trustee Verstegen stated she supports the Windmill project as the Village's fund balance is currently high and she sees it as a savings account and the \$500,000 can be used as an investment to encourage development in the downtown. Administrator Kell closed the presentation by stating the Village Board had asked him in June to see what could be done about funding for the bridge and stated contact was made with local, state, and federal representatives and all the interested parties have been working together to secure funding for the bridge. Administrator Kell stated he had been informed that an announcement about the bridge will be coming forth Federal & State government representatives on Monday.

Moved by Trustee Verstegen, seconded by Trustee Ransbottom to Adopt Resolution No. 45, Series of 2007 Committing Village Funding to Little Chute Windmill, Inc. for the Proposed Construction of an Authentic Dutch Windmill in Island Park.

Further Discussion: Trustee Elrick stated he supports the resolution because of the amount of tourism dollars that will be spent in the Village and because a non-profit, tax exempt entity will be taken off from taxable property and placed on Village property and that he further believes the tourist will stop downtown to visit the downtown businesses. D. Haug informed the Board that a 2/3rd vote will be required.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Elrick – Yes, President Fischer – Yes, Trustee Joosten – No, Trustee Ransbottom – Yes, Trustee Van Ooyen – Yes, Trustee Vanden Heuvel – Yes, Trustee Verstegen – Yes.

6 Aye – 1 Nay (Joosten) Motion Carried

Presentation by Rettler Corporation – Final Draft of the Comprehensive Park and Outdoor Recreational Plan

Jeff Bahling from Rettler Corporation presented the final draft of the Plan and stated that this is the Village's first plan designed for parks and recreation and it will serve as a roadmap for the Village for future years for planning for development. Discussion took place. The Plan will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting for adoption.

Discussion – Developing Additional Criteria for Granting Class B Liquor Licenses

Moved by Trustee Elrick, seconded by Trustee Verstegen to table discussion on the agenda item until next year.

All Ayes – Motion Carried Unanimously

Review/Possible Action on 2007 Budget Adjustments

D. Haug reviewed the proposed 2007 budget adjustments reminding Board members that the budget transfers are non-cash transactions and are used to recognize updated information or reallocation of the adopted budget. Trustees asked to have the budget adjustments placed on next week's agenda for action.

Discussion/Possible Action on Jets Football Program Fee Increase

T. Flick stated the proposal is being brought forward as requested by Trustees and he provided a history of the program and a comparison to registration/fee requirements for neighboring communities. Discussion took place. Trustees agreed to have the Park and Recreation Director discuss the fee increase with the Grid Iron Club to see if they are interested in assisting with offsetting the players' registration cost increase.

Moved by Trustee Ransbottom, seconded by Trustee Elrick to raise the Jets Program Registration Fee to \$35.00.

All Ayes – Motion Carried Unanimously

Unfinished Business

None

Items for Future Agendas

Trustee Elrick asked for an agenda item to discuss a request by the Baseball Club regarding fundraising and sign placement along the baseball field fencing. Trustees agreed to place the issue on the agenda of the next Committee of the Whole meeting. R. Van Gheem requested that the Board schedule a meeting date for the Public Informational meeting on the 2008 projects with his recommended date being January 9. Board members agreed to have the meeting date recommendation placed on next week's agenda for action.

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

All Voted Aye – Motion Carried Unanimously

Closed Session: *Roll Call Vote to Enter Closed Session on Real Estate (e) Deliberations or negotiations on the purchase of public properties, investing of public funds or conducting their specific public business when competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats. – Victor Allen's Coffee, LLC*

Moved by Trustee Elrick, seconded by Trustee Versteegen to return to open session.

All Ayes – Motion Carried Unanimously

Return to Open Session for Possible Action on Closed Session Matter

No Action was taken on Closed Session item.

Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Versteegen, seconded by Trustee Ransbottom to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:50 p.m.

All Ayes – Motion Carried Unanimously

VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE

By: Charles Fischer, Village President

Attest: Vicki Schneider, Village Clerk