

The Committee of the Whole meeting was held at the Marshall Buehler Center and also set up as a Microsoft Teams meeting.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on the Municipal Building door, the entrance of the Police Department/Marshall Buehler Center, and at Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank in Port Edwards, as well as on the Village website.

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by President Mancl at 5:00 p.m.

Present: President Mancl, Trustees Flugaur, Hess, Hummel, O'Connor, Radtke & Zurfluh

Absent: None

Also Present: Nick Abts (Village Attorney), B. Martinson, D. Tremmel

Citizens: Larry Isensee, Rebecca Isensee, Amy Schelich, Teresa Bousquet, Luann Nurmi, Steven Howland, Charlie & Kim Martin, Tim & Snezana Wensits, Brenda & Tony Koepfel, Jackie Summerfield, Pietrzak, Mike Geary, Dave & Joann Walter, Mike Beam, D. Smith, Brian & Lori Wysocki and Eric Hjortness. Via TEAMS – Carla Sawa, Vickie Guckenberger, Tom Fedore, Charles Lester, Kennedy Bossa, Robin, Scott Stewart and Krista Howland.

Public Comments: Larry Isensee is concerned that the services to taxes are out of balance with the taxes they pay. He asked that the attorney go through his presentation slowly. He also questioned why the agenda referred to a possible closed session and feels this topic should be open.

Teresa Bousquet stated that she does not come from a family with a lot of money and she worked hard to purchase her house. She feels the resale value of their homes are affected because the homes near them in the Town of Saratoga have a lower tax rate.

Mike Beam feels there is a tax to services inequity. They were told they would receive more services. The proposal would go a long way to reduce the inequity.

Eric Hjortness stated that the benefits of Nepco Lake do not go to the Village. He mentioned that the 2016 ten-year plan includes economic growth. In order to stimulate economic growth, the Village needs to lower the property taxes. He recommended a detachment from the Village.

Mike Geary stated that before the agreement expired, the Village President told them they would receive the same services as other residents. President Mancl pointed out that it was not the Village President but a previous Administrator that he was referring to.

President Mancl stated that she received multiple emails from various residents which she forwarded to the Board members.

Attorney Nick Abts gave a presentation on the legal obligations and potential liability of the Village in regard to the boundary agreement properties. He stated that expiration of the development agreement between the developer and the Village does not release the developer from any obligations they have pursuant to the HOA with the lot owners and the PUD. The Village is responsible for emergency services to the boundary agreement area.

Attorney Abts stated that he is concerned about the liability for the Village of granting a request to the lot owners because they are a specific subset of residents. The Village may have liability to the residents who are not lot owners when the lot owners already have a different mechanism for receiving the benefits. If there is an HOA that controls certain matters, the Village is the wrong target. The proposal regarding the wheel tax, Lake District fees and fire protection fee is contrary to state statute.

He also stated that if a lot owner is individually benefitted, any individual trustee who is a lot owner will be benefitted, and there is potential for a conflict of interest. Therefore, such trustee should abstain from deliberations and decision-making regarding these matters to avoid any conflict of interest.

A closed session will not be necessary because there is no present threat of litigation.

In reference to the former Administrator, the attorney stated he could find no evidence of any promises made by the former Administrator being authorized by the Village Board. Nothing in the minutes shows that the Village Board has any responsibility.

Some of the trustees had questions regarding Attorney Abts presentation, which he clarified.

Motion (Zurfluh/O'Connor) to strike Item #5 from the agenda. Motion carried. All ayes.
(Item #5 referred to a possible closed session.)

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Diane Tremmel, Clerk-Treasurer