

**VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
November 16, 2006**

Board Members Present: Bill Hamm, Don Dohrwardt, Bruce Laabs, Larry Palm, Joe Short, and Larry Waskiewicz. Arriving later: Chris Kunstmann.

Also present: Nancy Washburn, Fire Chief Brian Schommer, Brian Weyker, Mark Jaeger, Allen Neumann, and Jo Ann Wagner. Arriving later: Janice Stadler and David Ziehr.

Public Hearing on Proposed 2007 Budget

The public hearing on the proposed 2007 budget was called to order at 7:00 p.m. No comments were received.

Close Public Hearing and Call to Order of Board Meeting

The public hearing on the proposed 2007 budget was adjourned and the regular village board meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Hamm.

November 2, 2006 Village Board Meeting Minutes

(Kunstmann arrived). Waskiewicz noted that he would like the minutes changed on page two (middle of first paragraph) removing the sentence "The Fire Department deficiencies still need to be remedied" with "The Fire Department deficiencies as well as the Marshall's office will still need to be assessed by the Building Committee and placed on the long range plan. The Fire Department needs are 1383 square feet according to the May 2000 Needs Assessment study and the Marshall's office 500 square feet, although there is room in the basement which could be used. This would cover us until a minimum of the year 2020." With this change the minutes from the November 2, 2006, village board meeting were approved on a **MOTION** by Short, seconded by Waskiewicz, and carried with Dohrwardt and Kunstmann abstaining.

Payment of Bills

Payment of the General Fund, Water and Sewer bills was approved on a **MOTION** by Dohrwardt, seconded by Laabs, and carried with Hamm abstaining.

South Milwaukee Street Sidewalk Assessment – 401 Wheeler Avenue

Dohrwardt recused himself from this discussion. Resolution No. 2002-E approved installing sidewalk on the west side of South Milwaukee Street. Notices were mailed to property owners and the resolution was published as a Class 1 notice. At the February 20, 2003 village board meeting, the consensus of the board was to offer a 50% reduction in the sidewalk assessment to a property owner where a sidewalk easement was needed. The property at 401 Wheeler Avenue did not require acquisition of a sidewalk easement. Therefore, the property owner was billed the full cost of sidewalk. The property owner at 401 Wheeler Avenue has stated that he will attend the board meeting. The board continued with the next agenda item and will come back to this item if the property owner arrives.

Parks Committee – November 8, 2006 Meeting

The minutes from the November 8, 2006, Parks Committee meeting were reviewed. Laabs noted that the committee is asking for re-instatement of some budget items, specifically the \$2,000 for the summer recreation program, \$2,578 for tree lighting, and \$5,000 for the Stoney Creek play structure. The committee also recommended the removal of the slide at Stoney Creek Park.

2007 Budget / Resolution No. 2006-Q

Hamm stated the village has tried summer recreation programs in the past without much success. He suggested a possible joint project with the school in the future. He also could not justify spending \$2,578 for tree lighting when other items have been cut from the budget. Hamm was not in favor of the \$5,000 for Stoney Creek Park equipment when final decisions have not been made on all parks. Some equipment may be moved. A letter has also been received from the fire chief regarding re-instatement of some fire

department funds. Some of the money cut from the fire department budget was added to a Fire Equipment and Operating Reserve account. (Dave Ziehr arrived at 7:15 p.m.) Dohrwardt commented that the budget can be amended now, or it can be amended next year. Discussion followed on changing the levy or changing something from within the budget.

A **MOTION** was made by Waskiewicz, seconded by Palm, to return to agenda item 6A regarding the sidewalk assessment at 401 Wheeler Avenue.

Sidewalk Assessment – 401 Wheeler Avenue

Dohrwardt recused himself from this discussion. Hamm stated that the village board has received a copy of the letter mailed by David Ziehr. Based on the decision of the village board to offer a 50% reduction in the sidewalk assessment for property where an easement was needed, it appears the bill is correct. No sidewalk easement was needed for 401 Wheeler Avenue. Ziehr stated that he had a conversation with the Director of Public Works discussing a retaining wall needed for installation of the sidewalk. Ziehr stated that everyone else received a 50% discount and could not understand why he did not receive it. He did not understand how road right of way should affect it. Neumann explained that an easement was obtained from other property owners in exchange for a reduction in the sidewalk assessment. The village already had road right of way at 401 Wheeler Avenue and did not need to obtain an easement. Waskiewicz noted that Resolution No. 2002-E notified the property owners of the need for sidewalk and allowed 60 days for installation. The property owner could have installed the sidewalk at that time. No changes were made to the sidewalk assessment.

2007 Budget

Waskiewicz noted that there are at least fifteen plusses to the proposed budget. They are:

- \$.17 decrease in taxes for 2007 per \$1,000.00 value of home
- Building a joint municipal building in 2007
- Building the square footage needed for the DPW in 2007 and house the Antique Fire Truck
- Increase of \$3,000.00 for Fire Department volunteer wages from 2006
- Addition of a Retirement Savings Plan for the Fire Department Chief
- Addition / Replacement of a Police Car which is faulty
- Additional hours of Police coverage in the Village
- Repair of the roof for the Fire Department building \$50K
- Addition of a 2nd soccer field at Marie Kraus park
- Addition of a playground on Forest Street
- Addition of advertisement for the Village of Fredonia to attract Businesses
- Enlargement of sewer lateral to eliminate back ups into residents households \$120k
- Addition of Computer system for WWTP to increase efficiencies
- Rental of Street sweeper instead of direct purchase
- Position ourselves to add second East / West road in Village - Martin Drive extension

Waskiewicz noted that each line of the budget was reviewed / assessed from 2005 and 2006 by the Finance Committee. If the monies were not used they were cut completely or reduced appropriately. Existing services were not eliminated, and any additional services were assessed by each committee. Laabs questioned where the donation from the Waubedonia Soccer Club towards the soccer field appeared in the budget. It is shown as a revenue in the Capital Projects budget. The \$2,000 budgeted for the Forestry program was discussed. Neumann stated that to qualify for Tree City USA the village must spend \$2 per capita on the Forestry program. Kunstmann questioned if the amount could be reduced as only \$500 was spent last year and \$187 in 2005. Neumann stated that it may be a problem with how the wages are allocated, perhaps to Parks instead of Forestry. Laabs stated that \$10,000 was allocated for parks equipment in 2006 and was requested as a carryover to 2007. However, in 2007 it is being moved to a reserve account. Palm commented that the Fire Chief was asked to cut \$5,000 from the fire department budget, and then additional cuts were made. He felt the letter from the Fire Chief had some good points and was in support of the letter re-instating the funds as requested by the fire chief. Kunstmann commented that:

- On page one of the general fund explanations the account number for social security for the village president is wrong and should be changed to 51410-150.
- All fire department miscellaneous accounts were removed from the budget except for \$50 ~~in the fire department budget~~
- No money was budgeted for unemployment compensation in the fire department or general fund budget
- Money was taken out of the budget and put into a reserve account; how is this different than putting into a miscellaneous account? If the money is needed, it should be budgeted into that account.
- Reductions to the fire department budget were discussed at the October 19th village board meeting. The Fire Chief was asked to give recommendations by October 30th. This was given to the village board on November 2nd, however, the Finance Committee has not met to review the recommendations.
- Village board costs could be reduced by 5%.
- Hydrant rental could be reduced by \$1,000.
- The Fire Department budget should be returned to the original budget minus the \$5,000 that was cut.
- Cuts should not be made to department budgets without input from the department head.
- The cost for the village hall is \$415,000. Of that amount \$404,000 is projected to be borrowed. The village could borrow the full amount.
- The ~~cost~~ budgeted amount for the Marie Kraus parking lot could be reduced.

Dohrwardt commented that the current proposed levy is the 2.25% allowed by the state. Any re-allocation of expenses should come from the interior of the budget.

A **MOTION** was made by Dohrwardt, seconded by Kunstmann, to reinstate the line items to the 2007 Fire Department budget per the Fire Chief's letter dated October 23, 2006, back to the budget with the \$5,000 reduction, including reinstating ambulance funds with any shortfall to be taken from the reserve account and from contingency. Motion carried with Dohrwardt, Kunstmann, Laabs, and Palm voting aye, Short voting nay, and Waskiewicz and Hamm abstaining.

A MOTION was made by Laabs, seconded by Kunstmann, to reinstate \$5,000 to the 2007 Parks budget for Stoney Creek Park structure, with the money to come from the Parks Reserve account. Dohrwardt questioned if the slide would be removed this summer. Hamm stated that is a different issue and not on the agenda. This will be added to a future agenda. A vote was taken on the motion with Kunstmann, Laabs, and Palm voting aye, Dohrwardt, Hamm, and Short voting nay, and Waskiewicz abstaining. Motion failed. (It was clarified that the \$5,000 discussed was from the original Parks budget presented to the Finance Committee).

Dohrwardt clarified that his intent was to re-instate the fire department budget as requested in the letter from the Fire Chief. He assumed that it requested all items except the \$5,000 originally cut. He reiterated that his intent was to re-instate the requests as itemized in the October 23, 2006, letter. Kunstmann agreed. Hamm noted that applied surplus will be used to balance the budget. Waskiewicz recommended that the motion be amended. A **MOTION** was made by Dohrwardt, seconded by Palm, to amend the motion to reinstate the fire department budget to clarify that all items will be re-instated per the October 23, 2006, from Fire Chief Brian Schommer, with funds taken from the appropriate reserve accounts and applied surplus. Waskiewicz questioned if this reduced the salary amount and deferred compensation amount. Dohrwardt noted that it does not change those amounts, as they were not addressed in the letter. Motion carried with Dohrwardt, Kunstmann, Laabs and Palm voting aye, Hamm and Waskiewicz abstaining, and Short voting nay.

Resolution No. 2006-Q Approving 2007 Budget

Resolution No. 2006-Q approving the 2007 budgets as amended, with a tax levy in the amount of \$676,482 was adopted on a **MOTION** by Dohrwardt, seconded by Kunstmann, and carried with Waskiewicz and Short opposed and Hamm abstaining.

Report from Architectural Control Board – November 1, 2006 Meeting

Palm reported that the Architectural Control Board met on November 1, 2006. They approved a shed at 233 Pine Street and the data communications tower at 401 Highland Drive.

Speed Limit on South Milwaukee Street

Hamm stated that when the speed limit on South Milwaukee Street was lowered to 25 mph the road was narrow and in poor condition. The road is now improved and he feels the speed limit should be 35 mph. Dohrwardt agreed it would be appropriate at 35 mph. A **MOTION** was made by Hamm, seconded by Short, to change the speed limit from 25 mph to 35 mph on South Milwaukee Street from Industrial Drive south to Meadowlark Road contingent on the Town of Fredonia doing the same. Motion carried with Waskiewicz abstaining.

Plan Commission – November 6, 2006 Meeting

Hamm reported that the Plan Commission met on November 6, 2006, and approved a sign permit for Village Green. They also recommended approval of the revised final plat for Village Green (Phase 1). Nancy Washburn explained that the ten lots on Deer Meadow Court were removed from the first phase and will be included with a later phase. Temporary turnarounds are provided at the end of deadend streets. A **MOTION** was made by Waskiewicz, seconded by Kunstmann, to approve the revised final plat for Phase One of the Village Green Subdivision. Motion carried.

Revised Declaration of Covenants – Village Green Phase One

The Declaration of Covenants was amended to reflect the numbering change in the revised plat. A **MOTION** was made by Waskiewicz, seconded by Palm, to approve the revised Declaration of Covenants for the Village Green Subdivision Phase One. Motion carried.

Masonry Requirements in M-1 and M-2 Zoning

The recommendations of the Plan Commission were reviewed regarding changes to the zoning code pertaining to masonry requirements in the M-1 and M-2 zoning districts. Dohrwardt questioned how this would apply to a building when it is built in sections. He felt this may distort the masonry requirement. Hamm stated that the issue was discussed at length at the Plan Commission meeting. The Architectural Control Board still has control over the aesthetics. A **MOTION** was made by Laabs, seconded by Kunstmann, to schedule a public hearing on the proposed changes to the zoning code. Waskiewicz questioned why the village board is spending money on changing an ordinance when it has not been requested by anyone besides the village board. Hamm noted that it has been requested twice by the Architectural Control Board and was sent back to the Plan Commission for a recommendation. Dohrwardt noted that it is a good time to change the ordinance as no one is requesting it, therefore, we are not doing it specifically for anyone, but are doing it for the benefit of the village. Motion carried with Waskiewicz opposed.

Report on Joint Municipal Building

Hamm informed the village board that he attended the Town of Fredonia board meeting last Thursday. They will be holding a special town meeting on December 14th to approve the borrowing for the joint municipal building. The Town Buildings Committee will put in writing a request to borrow money for a joint municipal building. After that the Town Buildings Committee will be dissolved which will allow the creation of a joint Buildings Committee. This committee would have two representatives from each community. The committee would then appoint another person to be the chairperson.

Dental Insurance Renewal

A **MOTION** was made by Short, seconded by Dohrwardt, to renew the existing dental insurance (a 7% increase in premium). Motion carried with Dohrwardt, Hamm, Kunstmann, Laabs, and Short voting aye, and Palm and Waskiewicz voting nay.

December Village Board Meeting(s)

A **MOTION** was made by Short, seconded by Kunstmann, to have only one village board meeting in December with that meeting on December 7th. Motion carried unanimously.

Report on Operations at WWTP

The report was reviewed. Neumann noted that there has been a breakdown in the clarifier. The liquid from the clarifier will be transferred so the repair can be assessed.

Report from Director of Public Works on Operations of Village

The report was reviewed. Neumann stated that two sites have been recommended for boring a test well. At the Waubedonia Soccer Club meeting last night he discussed layout of the second soccer field. The club re-affirmed their commitment to the project. Laabs stated that the Parks Committee will meet in January to start planning for the soccer field. Neumann stated that they are planning to stay within a few feet of the master plan for the Marie Kraus park. The tree lighting banner will be put up. Badger Paperboard has been contacted regarding the timeline for building. They are hoping to build a 50,000 square foot building, but may need to come to the village board to request an extension to the timeline.

Report from Clerk-Treasurer on Operations of Village

The report was reviewed. The November election had 907 voters with 59 using the touch screen machine. At times there was a line waiting to use the voting booths. A poll observer was there during the morning hours and a few observers watched the tallying of the votes.

Correspondence

Correspondence received and reviewed include:

- Email from Paul Roback on November 15, 2006, Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on Comprehensive Plan.
- League of Wisconsin Municipalities Legislative agenda for the 2007-2008 Legislative Session
- Open records request from John Depies

Other Business

Short commented that:

- Citizens say that “Al said”. He noted that written correspondence is needed. Verbal orders should be avoided.
- Was the property owner at 401 Wheeler Avenue informed of the sidewalk assessment when he purchased the property?
- Department budgets are expected to be detailed.
- Requested a change to ordinance 5-2-1(c) from appropriate to “budget” at the next meeting.

Discussion followed on voting differently at the committee and board level.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. on a **MOTION** by Palm, seconded by Kunstmann, and carried.