



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING NOTES OF
MARCH 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Lutke.

Present: Bahle, Case, Long, Lutke and Suppes
Absent: Christensen and Newcomb
Staff present: Aylsworth, Fay, Larrea and Miller
Guests: Mark Huggard of Jacobs, Larry Mawby

Case requested an update from DPW Director Miller on the Broadway issue be added to the agenda. Larrea stated it will be discussed under the Work Plan.

Reports/Communications

The WWTP Monthly Operations Report was submitted by Mark Huggard of Jacobs and can be found in this meeting packet. Huggard and Miller updated committee on the influent flow. Jacobs has added new maintenance staff members, one of them having welding experience.

The DPW Status report was submitted by DPW Director Miller and can be found in this meeting packet. EGLE engineers have approved the Consumer Confidence Report which will be published soon. Miller attended a cross connection training; the Village now has an updated plan. Spring cleaning with the Vactor truck, which will be ready in a few weeks, is being scheduled. Annual inspections have been planned. Generator training has taken place. The generators are used in emergencies only. A previously approved generator will be installed at the lift station. Miller has completed one of three emergency operators' manuals. Road weight restrictions are now in effect. Miller provided an explanation of a new work order system now in place. It is a mobile platform that tracks assets, equipment maintenance and gives a good picture of service life.

The Marina staff report was submitted by Harbor Master Aylsworth and can be found in this meeting packet. Harbor Master Aylsworth stated she has been working with DPW Director Miller on the new work order system and believes it to be a great way to communicate work orders. She reported that a John Deere Gator, TS 4x2 has been

purchased at cost to replace the golf carts. The cost was \$6,900.00 with added safety features. She will train staff on this new equipment.

The Revenue and Expense report was submitted by Treasurer DeVol and can be found in this meeting packet.

Report VSB-2020-19 Ferry Discussion

Committee discussed whether to pursue the ferry concept with the Village of Elk Rapids. Following discussions, Committee recognizes it to be a very time consuming and potentially costly venture, and would prefer Village staff spend time and money on the vital projects presently identified, and further recommends to Council to not pursue the Ferry concept with Elk Rapids. If, however, tax payers wish to pursue this concept, or grant money is identified for the feasibility study, or a private entity comes forward, the concept could be discussed again.

Solar presentation

Larry Mawby appeared before Committee to see if there was an interest in having solar power installed at the WWTP to generate a portion of the electricity used at the plant. He stated it makes economic sense, and ethically it is the right thing to do. It would require the sale of approximately eight acres of Village property adjacent to the WWTP to a, for-profit third party. Grant money may be available to a for-profit third party that would reduce the cost of the project. The Village would not see a savings for approximately 10 years, the time it takes for it to pay for itself. It would require a change in Township Zoning. A site survey would be necessary. Mawby requested copies of last year's power usage. Mawby requested a list of questions and overriding concerns; he will bring the answers to the next Utility Committee meeting. Mawby will provide a packet or web links of other municipalities and/or entities that are using solar energy.

Committee had the following comments/questions:

- What is the Village's long-term use for the adjacent property needed to purchase?
- The concept would require some discussion and time for education.
- Cost of installation.
- Space requirements.
- Cost benefit analysis.
- The solar power would have to maintain the current and future output.
- Is there enough sun to produce enough power to break even or generate a savings?
- Currently the WWTP does their due diligence not to waste energy.
- Morally Committee would support, but there are lots of unknowns right now.

Report VSB-2020-16 Village Bathroom discussion

Committee received a copy of a letter written by a Village property owner previously submitted to the DDA, that contained comments regarding restrooms within the Village. Committee recognized restrooms in the Village as a discussion that has been going on for a long time. Committee discussed:

- There are usually no grants for bathrooms in downtown districts and the costs could easily be ½ million dollars. There are more grant opportunities with the DNR when associated with the water.
- Location
- Cleaning – staff time
- Liability - Safety issues

Following discussions, it was the consensus of Committee that the business community has a responsibility to provide restrooms to its users, and the Village has a responsibility to maintain restrooms within the Village parks. Larrea will author a letter to the Suttons Bay Chamber informing them of the Committee consensus.

Report VSB-2020-17 Shoreline Erosion Resolution

Committee recommends consideration of the Resolution to the Village Council at the March 16, 2020 meeting. Long suggests the Resolution include an acknowledgement that there have been steps taken already to try and correct the erosion, at a cost to the Village residents.

Report VSB-2020-18 Investment Policy Amendment

Committee recommends to Council to amend the policy as written.

Work Plan Overview

In addition to the 2020 Work Plan attached to these notes reiterated by Larrea, he offered the additional comments:

- Consumers Energy Grant was intended for Water Wheel Park due to the enormous costs to fix the park. The Grant is called, “Put Your Community on the Map”.
- Jefferson Street Pedestrian Court. This is an idea in which rather than block off the area that is now the closed boat launch, add a plant/vegetation barrier and some picnic tables with a clear vision to the park, install lights, perhaps have school kids do paintings and create a public art. Larrea further stated the area by Water Wheel park could be fixed up and picnic tables placed under the shade. (Committee is recommending signage that tells boaters the boat launch is now at North Park, and additional signage for the basketball courts etc.)
- Lakefront Lot Study – Considering decreasing lot sizes; requires further review.
- Marina Master Plan – The Plan is being reviewed and updated. There are things in the plan that have been completed, showing success.

- Ice rink Park – The Township has requested the Village take over the maintenance there, which has not been supported by Committees.
- Broadway Street – Ongoing research is necessary for possible property restrictions. A title search has not been initiated yet. Catch basins is not a reality. It would be better to create a pond as it will allow the water to settle. It is still unknown exactly where the water is going to go. Easements require time and money to acquire. If the Village is unable to improve the water issue, it will be referred back to the drain commissioner. Ownership of properties within the area need to be established. Still waiting for the snow be melt in order to do test bores. Trees will be lost if the process. The area is checked daily, sometimes more. Committee member asked if there have been any discussions with the township such as following standards when issuing driveway permits? Larrea stated he learned there used to be a stream there that is now blocked off. The basin there has not been maintained. Long questioned why the township has not been contacted and the title search conducted yet, noting the importance of moving forward and showing good faith. Long will contact the Township and follow up. Larrea stated Broadway Street as a high priority.

Public comments/Witten communication

Zywicki stated he has talked to Steve Christensen, Drain Commissioner on numerous occasions who allegedly said if it were to be in any other place, the water issue would be fixed by now. Zywicki requests the Village do a Title search on property that may or may not be the Village's. Larrea responded by saying that the issue is not a Village issue, that he is trying to be fiscally responsible which can make the process slower.

Committee Member Comments

A comment was received from Committee member Christensen regarding agenda item Village Bathroom discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Shar Fay, Village Clerk.