

Village of Fox Lake
Finance Committee Meeting
June 24, 2008
6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Ulasz, Trustee Bender, Trustee Murrey (arrived late), Trustee Kiesgen, Trustee Working and Trustee Koske. Also in attendance were Mayor Irwin and Treasurer Paul Christensen.

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Chairman Ulasz asked if there were any questions or clarifications to the minutes of June 10, 2008. There were no comments, the minutes will stand as presented.

IV. Bills to be paid

Chairman Ulasz asked if there were any questions regarding the bills to be paid in the amount of \$824,873.99. Chairman Ulasz stated there were no questions or comments, the bill list will stand as presented.

V. Ratification of Manual Check List

Chairman Ulasz asked if there were any questions. There were no questions or comments, the manual checklist will stand as presented.

VI. Grainger Bills

Chairman Ulasz asked if there were any questions. There were no questions or comments, the Grainger bill list will stand as presented and I will make a motion this evening for approval.

VII. Old Business

Grayslake Contract

Chairman Ulasz asked Nancy Schuerr to provide an update on the Grayslake contract. Nancy Schuerr stated we have been talking and negotiating with Grayslake on the contract that we presently have and the talks are going well. One of the things that is coming up is our timing on this re-negotiation, we had to start early, we are at an 18 month period that is actually effective July 1 where we have to send them a letter that states we are not going to move forward with the present contract; this is a requirement of our old contract. I have talked with them today and they are well aware of this formality that we must go through. That is the update we are going to continue talking to them; we had a great meeting today and we are moving forward. Nancy Schuerr stated I'm sorry it is a 15-month period.

Fireworks

Nancy Schuerr stated the residents have been very supportive of our fireworks and donating with gusto, they have donated \$2,500 above the contract. Our contract with Mad Bomber was \$15,000. In moving forward they have pushed to add the additional fireworks donations. We would have to change our proposal with Mad Bomber, and up the amount from \$15,000 to add in the donations over and above our expenses. Obviously this is a late date so what we would have to do is give your consensus on approval of this and then ratify it at the following meeting.

Chairman Ulasz stated we are committed to donating the \$7,500, at this point we not only match the \$7,500 to make the \$15,000, we have another \$2,500 after expenses. Again, what Nancy is saying

after talking to Howard, we need a consensus in order to be able to take the \$2,500 and have Mad Bomber provide us with more fireworks. This is the citizen's donations, do we have the consensus of the Board; shall we discuss this?

Trustee Koske asked if there is anything else we can do with the money? Chairman Ulasz stated in my opinion and I am only one vote, but if a citizen donates the money to the fireworks I expect the money to go for the fireworks in the air. That is my opinion of what we should be doing to these funds. Trustee Koske asked if we can take \$2,500 off the Village's donation? Nancy Schuerr stated when we did the proposal we stated the \$7,500 was what we had put in the budget and what we would contribute to it; I think that is the right thing to do; contribute like we stated in our meeting and in our budget. Trustee Koske said I am not talking about the right or the wrong thing to do I thought we were looking at options. Chairman Ulasz stated I am looking for a consensus so we can ratify the decision at the next meeting; you had posed that maybe we can reduce the amount that we have budgeted from \$7,500 to \$5,000, if the consensus is to do that; but this is citizen money that was donated for the fireworks; and our budget does contain the \$7,500.

Trustee Bender stated I go along with Trustee Koske a little bit, this is the first I have heard of it, but from what I have seen tonight I am sure the Street Department has put in a lot of overtime with the flooding, and I would rather if I have an option to that \$2,500 go into overtime that we have been putting in and then adjust the budget accordingly.

Chairman Ulasz stated I would counter back that this is money that people have donated. Trustee Bender stated yes on the donation side, but our side of the \$7,500, if we reduce our contribution to \$5,000 plus whatever the citizens have contributed, then we could spend the \$2,500 towards the cost of overtime for the Street Department. I think that is an option. Chairman Ulasz stated I understand and that was my first thought; but I have to think in my mind, which is why I am representing the pros and the cons personally is this donation money was given specifically for the fireworks. We gave them permission to sign the \$15,000 contract; we had committed the \$7,500; and in actuality if we didn't get all this money we would be committing more. Logically and being frugal I would like to do just as you are saying, but in my opinion and the way I am swaying is are we dealing with money that came from the citizens. They didn't donate to help us out with our extra. Trustee Bender stated I am not saying to touch their contribution one bit; but I think you could readjust our \$7,500 and use the \$2,500 that we saved on our budget for better use, and that is just my opinion.

Trustee Koske stated a couple weeks ago we were talking about \$25,000 for the fireworks and the Village backed off on that because we didn't feel we could raise the money or that we would be able or should we make that type of commitment to the fireworks. Chairman Ulasz stated in her mind this dollar donations came in to put on the fireworks so the \$2,500 that we have that is over, I personally feel should go up for a better and longer show.

Mayor Irwin stated we would be slapping the citizens in the face that have been putting in their dollars and change in the jars and sending us checks. We are slapping our citizen right in the face.

Trustee Working asked if the bills have been paid for the fireworks expenses so far? Paul Christensen stated yes. Trustee Working asked so this is on top of the expenses. Paul Christensen stated the only bill that I am aware of is the bill for the golf outing, which is \$350.00, and I have factored that in. The \$2,500 is a conservative number; we probably have \$1,000 out in the jars right now. Trustee Working stated the other items are Carol you keep saying it is citizen's money, but the \$7,500 is citizen's money, it is their taxes that they contribute to the Village. When you say it is citizen's money for specific use, I feel it is all citizen's money. It is money that is budgeted for as well, I am leaning toward what Trustee Koske and Trustee Bender. Trustee Koske stated I am just thinking from the hip Carol because this wasn't provided before, I am asking questions trying to decide where we should go on this.

Chairman Ulasz I understand. In the past years we have committed to the \$7,500, your right we backed out of the \$25,000 because we were scared we couldn't raise that money and couldn't commit to the money if it wasn't raised. The final question is do we want our citizens money and give it back to them for a better show? Trustee Bender asked what does the \$2,500 give our citizens; more shells more time what exactly? We know what we have put out on the Street Department. Chairman Ulasz asked if Chief Behan could come up, since he has been the one who has talked with Mad Bomber; can you give us an idea of how much longer of a show we would get for the \$2,500?

Mike Behan stated they had originally said when it was \$25,000 it was about a 30-minute show when you cut it by \$10,000 you are looking at a 15-minute show. The set up is like \$4,000 and it has to be paid; the money you donate now is going to just make a better show. Time wise they said in the beginning it was a minute and half per \$1,000. I don't believe this is the end, I think there is more money coming. If you look at past fireworks, the last two weeks is when they send in their money. I haven't picked up the jars in probably three weeks now.

Chairman Ulasz stated the reason we haven't kept you informed was that last week our funds weren't up there, this week is when we have received the donations.

Trustee Murrey stated he has no comment right now.

Trustee Kiesgen stated he would like to make a comment. Personally I think we owe it to the people of the Village of Fox Lake, we were shot down on the fireworks on the water, which we all dearly loved and had for a lot of years. There has been a lot of work put into the fireworks for this year and I think we should make the best of it. If we can gain additional funds like the Chief was saying, and I have noticed the jars are picking up a little bit. The money has been budgeted; it is my feeling to go along if we can get a little better show for our residents I will support that.

Chairman Ulasz stated we need a consensus to be able to do this so if you can give me your consensus so we know where we stand. Chairman Ulasz asked Trustee Koske for her consensus; she stated she would support the fireworks to give the additional money collected for the show. It is against my better judgment, but if we are going to do it lets just do it. I think the people of Fox Lake are sorely disappointed this year; there is no question about it. The Village has looked very foolish in the last few months about this whole fireworks business, I think it has been very embarrassing be that as it may, if the money is coming in, we budgeted it, but I don't want to hear any griping about \$2,500.00 come September, November. Chairman Ulasz stated she would guarantee if my big gripe was only \$2,500 I would be very happy.

Trustee Bender stated I would still prefer to see it go to the Street Department. Another point is I am assuming we are going to have mosquito abatement and that cost quite a few dollars also. Two more minutes on the fireworks verses working in the community, helping the people with the sandbagging that we have done, now we are going to have an issue of the mosquitoes I would rather see the money spent in that area than another 2 or 3 minutes of the show.

Trustee Murrey stated I support the fireworks, and I have asked this before so we don't sit up here looking like the Grinch that stole Christmas. We are nickel and diming this thing, this is not just the fireworks; this is for the town, business people and also the people that live here. I have been inundated with the handful of voters that talk about the million of boaters that we are robbing from the viewing of the show. Whatever we do we are going to do right or wrong, what I would really appreciate if this committee would do the right thing, if it is 5 more minutes of fireworks or \$2,500 of mosquito abatement I don't care, just do the right thing so we do a quality product out there. This is so silly arguing about \$2,500, if it goes up to \$3,300 are we going to give them that money now. We should have stated the \$7,500 game and had the show, and had the business and moved on, if

there was such an increase of donations that came in, we could of done like the last predecessor and donate it to a charitable organization for next years fireworks wherever they may be at. Whatever you are going to do I will support it. But the philosophy is we should have stayed with the same amount we started with. It always seems to work when you throw the 11th hour change they you throw a monkey wrench into it.

Trustee Koske stated no matter what no one is going to be happy no matter which way we go with this.

Trustee Working stated I hate to nickel and dime that we are looking at employees, cutting programs, looking at everything. Giving it some thought, listening to what Chief Behan had stated that we have more money coming in; I would support it, but I would like to see the additional donations going to the Street Department. I will support the \$2,500 to increase the fireworks but I would like to see whatever is collected from now on to go to the Street Department as a compromise. Trustee Koske stated it is a good idea but you can't do that. Mayor Irwin stated you couldn't do that; we either do it or don't do it. As Paul Christensen has stated it is one big pot, it is all part of the General Fund. The contributors is a separate pot, when we get down to paying the bill we would still increase the donation, but we would have less of a cost on our donation. Trustee Working asked Paul Christensen if that was explained correctly. Paul Christensen stated yes, but it would damper any fundraising from this point forward.

Chairman Ulasz stated she is proposing we as a Village are going to give \$7,500 and whatever we get in donations will go towards the fireworks. I need to have a consensus in order for the Mayor to sign the contract. It is for the \$2,500 and whatever else we get in donations to the best of our ability. Mad Bomber is very flexible up until July 1st after that he really can't be very flexible.

Trustee Kiesgen stated he was fine with the proposal.

Chairman Ulasz stated so we have the consensus to go ahead, the donations up until July 1st will increase our Mad Bomber contract, if there are any funds left over after this then they will go towards our expenses.

VIII. New Business

Trustee Working stated I notice on the bill list that we are shopping at Home Depot, which is located in Volo, and it is not a huge amount. July 1st they go under home rule and their sales tax goes up to 8%; I would recommend whoever is doing this to avoid Home Depot and save on the sales tax. Chairman Ulasz stated we don't pay sales tax. Paul Christensen stated more importantly it has always been the philosophy of the Department Heads to shop in Fox Lake whenever possible. They only go to Home Depot when it is not available at Menard's. We buy whatever we can at Menard's first. Trustee Working stated the bill list has a toilet, two weed whips, the last time I was at Menard's they had toilets and weed whips.

IX. Committee Comments

None

X. Audience Comments

Lee Filas, Daily Herald stated he has received a promotion so he will not be attending any more Board Meetings and wanted to thank everyone. I will be working 5:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on All Breaking News throughout the entire coverage area.

Glenn Close stated I think you are making a mistake on the Fireworks, it was stated before at previous meetings that Mad Bomber would be flexible and any funds, I think we could of raised the \$25,000 easily if the Board would of gone along with that. We have lost the arresting event that

would have raised a few thousand dollars. We would have covered the amount. When the Board changed the amount we lost a lot of people and momentum. With this being our first year; it may be our only year; you are making it a lot more difficult that it needs to be. If the money is donated to the fireworks it should go all for the fireworks. Mayor Irwin stated that is what is going to happen. Glenn stated there was not reason to have this whole discussion. Mayor Irwin stated legally there was.

XI. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss the Committee Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Carol Ward
Deputy Clerk