



**VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE VILLAGE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Lake and McHenry Counties, }
Village of Fox Lake } ss.

At the special Committee of the Whole Board Meeting, held in said Village and County in the State of Illinois at 5:00 p.m. on December 11, 2007 meeting was called to order by Mayor Irwin. The following official business was transacted:

Roll Call

Present - Mayor Irwin; Deputy Clerk Ward; Attorney Morozin, Trustees, Bender, Murrey, Ulasz, Working, Kiesgen and Koske (late 5:15 p.m.).

I. Discussion

Mayor Irwin opened the Special Committee of the Whole Village Board at 5:00 P.M.

Mayor Irwin stated that this would be a general discussion and some of the Trustees had questions about the Tucker Report.

Mayor Irwin stated there would not be any action or vote taken for this meeting contrary to the newspapers report. She stated that this would be a discussion only. She stated that she has scheduled a meeting with Nancy Schuerr, Human Resources and Richard Tucker on Thursday at 9:30 A.M. and the purpose of that meeting is to relay all the information and questions from this meeting to Mr. Tucker.

Trustee Bender stated, after reviewing I agree with most of the consultant's findings. He stated he would like to take a closer look at some of the statements he made. In particular Appendix II Page 2 Paragraph 1 where he talks about the CenComm presentation and I quote, "the CenComm presentation assumed certain conditions which are problematic basically questionable these conditions relate to several factors and assumptions". Trustee Bender stated the next thing is and I'm told I can't talk about them. And I respect that. They deal with the Grayslake Contract. Now lets look at page 5 paragraphs 5 of the appendix 2.

Opening negotiations with CenComm should consider the factors and issues that are primary to Fox Lake timing of changes primary to consider support of the Grayslake conditions as identified in the Fox Lake Intergovernmental agreement. While the

agreement is in place Fox Lake entry in the CenComm is the partner agency appears again to be problematic or questionable. Trustee Ulasy asked if he would like to read the last line. Trustee Bender stated he could if you would like me too. Trustee Ulasy stated she thought this would go onto one more line. Trustee Bender stated go ahead. Trustee Ulasy read absent modifications acceptable to Grayslake, Fox Lake relationship to CenComm should be that of a service client or CenComm becomes simply a personnel provider. Trustee Bender stated okay, and the other item he had noticed on the same page paragraph 1 read line 1. Trustee Bender stated he agreed with this statement and has from the very beginning. Where he says the issues discussed above indicate that Fox Lake's merge into CenComm operations may not present as much of an economic savings as first presented. Trustee Bender stated then you go into lines 2 and 3 and he says however, other options are available it is in the interest of Fox Lake to further examine the CenComm Proposal. Trustee Bender stated he didn't have a problem with that if that's what the majority of the Board would like to suggest. But before going into the negotiations with CenComm he believed the legal issues with Grayslake should be resolved first or we are just wasting our time. Mayor Irwin agreed. Trustee Bender stated that being said if the majority of the Board would like to move ahead negotiations with CenComm here are some of the issues he felt should be addressed up front.

Trustee Bender stated in reference to appendix 2 page 4 paragraph 2, I'm not sure that I understand how the consultant arrived at 2.6 million dollar one time cost and just how much Fox Lake would have to pay into this thing. He stated 2.6 million dollars is one of the higher numbers that he has seen.

Trustee Bender stated next go down to paragraph 3 where the consultant states that caution should be exercised in estimating potential savings. He stated an example of it is on page 3 paragraph 7 He stated this would be much costly than Cencom original proposal and basically what we are talking about without reading it but we can if you prefer. Trustee Bender stated the activity formula jumps from 33% up to around 48% that's a third more then what they were projecting. Trustee Bender stated referring to page 9 as I understand CenComm equipment is outdated and in some cases as much as 20 years or more and needs to be replaced additionally the buildings may need major modifications. What will this cost Fox Lake? Without reading it at the present time at some point appendix 2 page 3 paragraph 5, where the consultant refers to the importance of Fox Lake retaining ownership of the hardware. Trustee Bender stated that this was a key point.

Trustee Bender stated as I said earlier with what was presented he would hold off on going back to CenComm until

1. Grayslake legal issues are resolved or addresses.
2. CenComm settles their hardware and building situation.
3. The statistics can be analyzed and reconciled.
4. Today CenComm & Fox Lake uses each other as back up. How would this work in a merge?

Trustee Bender stated if the Board elects to move ahead and re-evaluate the CenComm proposal, I think further review needs to be made NorCom and Antioch as page 8 & 9. Similar in nature to our normal bidding process only instead of taking the lowest bid we take the highest bid that satisfies our requirements. So if we are going out on this lets go out and get NorCom and Antioch and take the high bid on it.

Mayor Irwin asked you mean outsource our Dispatchers with NorCom. Trustee Bender stated we had the dispatchers at one time with NorCom if you remember. Mayor Irwin stated she did remember.

Trustee Bender stated basically one of the things that he thought about was the personnel issue and he is saying take a look at the personnel issue and the total outsourcing on the center, which is basically what he was thinking about with CenComm.

Trustee Murrey stated in his opinion when he had asked for the proper direction from Richard Tucker the consultant was to give us what we needed to do and that's not there. These are all the same issues we have been discussing, your mixing numbers, do this, do that. Trustee Murrey stated he would say this only once when this Village moved forward and created a public safety center and this was one of the integral parts of the building and this was a larger global issue.

If we outsource or get rid of the dispatch center what would happen to the rest of the building. It was designed for multiple agencies to use.

Trustee Murrey stated as he reflected on while he was reviewing the report from Richard Tucker, he fully understood the necessity of having clients and the building operational otherwise it would become a burden on the Village's General Fund. Taking that commitment at the same time prior to even move a wall or redesigning as the committee was discussing at the time was they couldn't stop or finding something that was soft we need to move ahead and there has been a litany of events that have happened which accumulated and it happened under your watch Mayor and I am still tight to my conviction we need to make that dispatch center work, we need to keep it there, we need to find customers. Trustee Murrey stated, I was hoping Richard Tucker was going to say your head can't hit the wall anymore or it isn't going to happen because at the present time it concerns me because we put Annette Wolf in a very awkward position of being the supervisor/ director of that center. One of the things Richard Tucker spent quiet a bit of time with us was showing the global issue of this center and what was going to transpire and you had needs and dates that were going to hit, your going to need to put money aside so you can meet these new agendas and regulations.

Trustee Murrey stated he needed him to tell him to stop or no to get with the CenComm and do this. Mayor Irwin stated he didn't do that. Trustee Murrey stated well we need him to do that, and he needs to direct his client and what he needs to tell his client here today is if we are going to wash our hands. Trustee Murrey stated he was going to call our Treasurer today because what is the Village stance gong to be as far as finances and not just for today but in the future and we need to project this out for 5 or 6 years and what can it sustain and what do we need to do to sustain it. Mayor Irwin stated we need to ether get customers, merge or outsource. We need to do something. Trustee Murrey agreed and stated one of the things he didn't do in his reports was where is the directive, he didn't give us any format of the stumbling blocks. We tried to do some of it in house using staff and because of some unfortunate death and before you know it days turn into weeks and turn into months and before you know it a year has gone by. Trustee Murrey stated he was looking for a footprint. If we were going to keep it you have to meet this and it will cost you that. This would give us some figures because I don't want to be sitting out here and starving the Village to save a radio dispatch center. Trustee Murrey stated as a Board we need not to think of that as just a Radio Dispatch Center we need to look at the facility as an entire facility because I'm not going to be sitting here again next year or the following year hearing that the Police Department has to budget this and this and then it becomes a financial monster and that's what worries me. Trustee Murrey stated he didn't want this to become a white elephant since they decided to off campus the Village on its own and bring the Village Administration back to downtown and leaving the Public Safety aspect over there with our Street Department and Fire

Department that's fine but when you do that you need to find a financial avenue. Trustee Murrey stated to recap what he was saying is that the consultant needs to give us some figures on what its going to take to bring a Director in, give us a time line and be able to get the financing department some numbers. How do you expect us to come with this, not this could be doable if we do this, this and this. Trustee Murrey stated he didn't have these numbers and I know there expensive. This is a big global issue picture not just taking the dispatch center out of there and outsourcing it to another agency. Trustee Murrey stated this is where he was at and if we needed to do that then there would be a litany list that Trustee Bender would come up with needs to follow through so we are not back where we were when we were exploring it when we here every so often why don't we go back to Antioch and why didn't we do that. Trustee Murrey stated Richard would be able to fill you in on why we aren't at Antioch. Trustee Murrey stated that's what you need to come back to the Mayor with some numbers and I need red marks and black mark from the Finance Department and things saying that can't fly we would be welching the future of the community you know the short come because I really haven't given it much consideration of outsourcing because I truly feel we need to make that thing work.

Trustee Koske apologized for being late due to a conference call while in the parking lot. Trustee Koske stated she has been through this about 3 times and I made notes. What I wrote down at the bottom were two things, there is no answer and what did we pay for we knew all of this. Mayor Irwin agreed. Trustee Koske stated we knew all of this and there is no answer, I am not a professional, I am not a consultant with special knowledge of 911 communications options, Mr. Tucker is and I'm not sure what we asked him. Maybe he misunderstood what we were asking of him.

Mayor Irwin asked Nancy Schuerr to come up and explain to the Board what was asked of Mr. Tucker. Mayor Irwin stated he was given specific direction. Ms. Schuerr stated the discussion with Mr. Tucker included the specific situations and we asked him to give us some solutions. Mayor Irwin stated to clarify the financial situation was explained to him. Nancy Schuerr stated the financial issues were discussed very clearly with Mr. Tucker and we were looking for solutions to our situation. She stated he spoke to other individuals within the Village he talked to them in more detail about operations and she thought it was clear that we were looking for solutions. Mayor Irwin stated all of us could have written the report because we have been discussing these issues for a year. Ms. Schuerr agreed.

Trustee Koske stated as a Board Member I'm still sitting here not knowing whether it's best to cut our losses and run or to hold on for a duration because it will get better. Trustee Koske stated she still didn't know what to do and was hoping this report could help us make a decision that needs to be made. Trustee Koske stated she could not make a decision with this. Mayor Irwin agreed and stated that we all could have written a page from this report because it isn't anything that isn't in the minutes of all our meetings from last year, but I was asked to contact Mr. Tucker we thought he would be the expert in his field. Trustee Koske asked if he was hesitant to give us specific direction for some reason. Mayor Irwin stated she knew he worked for CenComm and everybody knew that and he works full time for them, they said it wouldn't be a problem, I don't know why we got a report like we received, we will meet with him on Thursday and find out. Trustee Koske stated we need to go back to him and ask where the recommendation is. She stated we already know what is in the report. Mayor Irwin agreed and stated that will be the number one question for Mr. Tucker.

Trustee Kiesgen stated as a new Board Member of course most of you have been through the 911 issues for years, and he thought it would be wise not to rush into it. He stated I

think we should request of Mr. Tucker what your going to do and get a report that we can all read and understand. Get facts and figures. Mayor Irwin stated with real solutions and Trustee Kiesgen agreed. Trustee Kiesgen stated there were things in the report that he wasn't a professional on and what ever it takes for the Board to move on he would support. Mayor Irwin stated we would make sure we got the right solutions one way or another.

Mayor Irwin asked Trustee Ulasz for her opinion. Trustee Ulasz stated she agreed with what everyone has been saying because it flip flops back and forth and what she got out of it was if we wanted to control our personnel cost we outsource our personnel. She stated we are not in a position nor do I think it is his recommendations, I think its how we feel and I don't want to give up our center our equipment because we spent a lot of money it. So I don't think that's what he came up with I think that's a feeling we have had or who's ever he's talked too. So his recommendation was outsourcing and I do see CenComm people here and what they are saying in this report is we need 3 positions covered at all times 24 hours a day and when their proposal doesn't cover 24/7 for 3 positions so if you are going to add another shift or position you would need another 4 8-hour people on there. Trustee Ulasz stated that would increase our cost and potentially their cost of about \$228,000.00 and our initial savings was \$235,000.00. Trustee Ulasz stated also in this report they were not sure that Mr. Tucker is not sure of our activity Grayslake activity as well as our activity it seems to be more than what we have been priced at and if it is more that means our cost is higher, so he is saying then is at the cost between our outsourcing verses what we are currently doing and where we are going with again new positions 24/7 those three positions we are about the same. Trustee Ulasz stated by outsourcing people, like the Fire Department is very stable and we know per year what the cost is including 8% increases per year not where we are going right know where we have our personnel costs are our biggest cost for our 911 center and that is a 12 hour shift which by his report he doesn't like the 12 hour shift, there cost have been very stable the last few months as far as overtime and regular time. Trustee Ulasz stated it seems to be flip of what he is saying now that we have been out there 3 or 4 months,

Trustee Ulasz asked Ms. Schuerr for specifics. Ms. Schuerr stated we have been doing 12-hour shifts since August 1st and our overtime has gone down. Trustee Ulasz agreed and stated it has stabilized. Mayor Irwin stated Mr. Tucker he didn't like the 12-hour shifts, Trustee Ulasz stated he wasn't in favor of as it appears to her an 12- hour shift. She stated he has given recommendations that are the same as the recommendations that we have given when we were budgeting. Outsourcing merging or staying the way we are and needing more customers. He has said the same thing we have already said. One thing he said was the likely hood of bringing on other agencies it was not as, I wanted him to say the potential is terrific and that is not what he was saying. I didn't feel he was saying that and he is also saying that we bring people in and that would be extremely competitive because everyone, there is very few agencies and they will be slashing their prices and we are going to be slashing our prices to keep our customers.

Trustee Koske stated another part is the quality of the center, if you have a choice of A or B you will look at not just the cost but the quality of the center.

Trustee Ulasz stated he make a huge effort in saying that any centers around here including Antioch would be very complete with pricing. Trustee Ulasz stated she is feeling like you are feeling that the last recommendations she received were exactly what we already have.

Trustee Bender stated he would like to revisit the 12-hour shift issue. He stated he spent an hour with the Mayor and Nancy Schuerr; we went through and identified the personnel issues that were talked about. Obviously it hits upon the 12-hour shift and after talking to the Mayor, Nancy Schuerr and Annette Wolf at length on these subjects my impression was its working and we are saving money by doing that. Trustee Bender stated he has talked to a number of people in the center individually and they love it and don't want to change it. So I wasn't sure why he kept banging away at it, it gave me the impression he really didn't dig into the overall operation, but he did make a comment that I thought was interesting on page 3. The projected 2007-2008 projected budget to run FoxComm is in excess of 1 million dollars and we know that. This amount is at the lower end of similar sized dispatch operations. Trustee Bender stated he thought our people were doing the very best they could with what was available and these were his comments. I wanted to let everyone know that we have talked about it, these 12-hour shifts people are happy with it and its what they want.

Trustee Ulasz stated she was in the beginning meetings with that and Nancy Schuerr and they sat down and one thing Nancy did was poll the people to make sure this was the right direction to go because it is a commitment and change. Nancy got from the Telecommunicators a positive response and Annette has been great at sending us her hours and letting them know the first month was a little rough but it was working out well. Mayor Irwin stated if anyone would like I've asked Nancy Schuerr the over time. Nancy Schuerr stated she has received charts from Annette 12 weeks before she started and 12 weeks after they started the 12-hour shifts, she stated the difference in over time between the 8-hour shift and 12 -hour shifts. Mayor Irwin stated she thought everyone would like to have a copy of that. Mayor Irwin stated she could understand that 12-shifts may not work in other centers. Trustee Bender stated that it appeared to be working here and Mayor Irwin agreed.

Trustee Working stated because he was the last on the list and people have said a lot of things that are my concerns as far as this report being incomplete but what was brought out were things that we have already had discussions on and he reconfirmed. Trustee working stated on page 8 opportunities to reduce operational costs for Fox Lake 911 communications is the assumption that CenComm will maintain most equipment because CenComm facility currently acts as back up for CenComm and it is assumed that the capitol investment made by Fox Lake will be preserved or leveraged in what ever entry agreement is reached with CenComm. So its not throwing sheets over the equipment. He stated it goes further to say CenComm has since matured into a stable operational environment with competitive competent management structure and cooperative participation by its agencies. Trustee Working stated he also understood from the report that the element of control is not as important as the differential of such costs. Rather if 911 calls are answered in a competent manor and dispatched properly the service may be outsourced without undue concern. Even being efficient the single agency dispatch center will likely be more costly to the community then combining the options. Trustee Working stated he understood what he was saying Fox Lake needs a significant more stable budget platform and preserve its investment into FoxComm facility and technology as a client rather than a provider. He stated we talked about going further into negotiations with CenComm seeing exactly what the bottom line is, seeing exactly what the saving would be and when I asked the question of CenComm when they made their presentation, Mr. Tucker mentioned we would be getting rent for our facility of \$9,000.00 per year. Trustee Working stated he thought we should further approach CenComm and see what the real bottom line numbers and savings are.

Mayor Irwin stated the meetings with Grayslake would be first and this would have to be discussed because we do have a contract with Grayslake we are honoring that we will not break, that we would honor. Trustee Working stated he understood that Mayor and what I am saying is that negotiations will not take a day or two they would take months. Mayor Irwin agreed and stated that she and Howard talked about the fact that him and I have got to sit down with Grayslake in the very near future within the next couple of weeks and have a serious conversation with them then we can go further with what ever direction we will be going especially merging. Then the outsource if everyone wants to outsource that won't effect Grayslake but they still have to be told by me and by Howard that's what we are doing. She stated that we have not had any further discussions with CenComm because we have to get our lawyer a little un-busier so we can sit down with Grayslake and do this fairly and honestly.

Trustee Working stated it says in here as a client and not as a provider and it further states in here that the Village of Barrington was a CenComm service client for several years prior to becoming a partner agency. Mayor Irwin agreed and stated that was an option or we can outsource it but we still have to talk to Grayslake first and unfortunately Howard has been on a couple of big cases and as every body on the Board knows getting in touch with Howard isn't easy lately. She stated as soon as he is available we will talk to Grayslake then we can delve further into that issue. Grayslake has got to be told anything that we do that will concern outsourcing, merging.

Trustee Working stated he agreed with that but what he was saying is we have got real loosely goosey numbers from CenComm and Mayor Irwin agreed. Trustee Working stated he would like to see firm numbers and what it is going to come down to because I know we are arguing over a number of calls vs. number of CAD entries. He stated if you go by the number of calls it's going to cost us more and if you go by the number of CAD entries it would cost us less. He stated he was playing with a checkbook that he didn't know what the balance is. He stated do I write another check and does it bounce or does it clear. He stated I don't know and that's what he is stating we don't have firm numbers to really make an intelligent decision and this will save the Village \$1.00 or will it save the Village \$400.00 or \$400,000.00 we don't know. Trustee Working stated the numbers have been thrown here and there what is the actual cost. Trustee Working stated you are not going to purchase a car and say well how much is that car, your not going to say its going to be around \$200,000.00 maybe and it could be \$400,000.00 you don't do that you got to have solid firm numbers.

Mayor Irwin asked for additional comments from the Board.

Trustee Murrey stated to re-cap, its important when Mr. Tucker comes out that the message is sent to him. Myself and Department Head Hoehne right now are playing football with another engineer have to a look at what we would like to have done. All of a sudden they want to throw everything in the pot and let this other engineer see what we want to do. Trustee Murrey stated no, lets make a decision and move forward on it. Lets spend some time and if we have something substantial then we can send it out and get another opinion on that not just the global issue. This is what this reminds me of and Trustee Working makes a great point but if we are going to outsource this thing before I would even concede looking at it I want to look at the entire facility, will the rent pay for the absence of that and can we still use the facility on how its operated. These are all the things that are going to have to be included to make a decision on outsourcing. Trustee Working agreed and stated that is what he was saying; I want to know if it comes with a radio and tires. Trustee Murrey stated he would encourage if we could possibly to have him here you could get him and give him these things and of course he isn't going to

want to give an answer right away but if he could prepare something and if we could meet as a whole with Mr. Tucker and let him pin point this thing out.

Mayor Irwin stated Mr. Tucker stated he doesn't regularly meet with Village Boards. Trustee Murrey stated he usually meets with people. Mayor Irwin asked Nancy Schuerr to explain that to the Board because she did ask him. Nancy Schuerr agreed and stated yes you did ask him to come to the meeting and explain that to the Board. She stated he doesn't regularly come to Board Meetings. She stated we could ask him again. Trustee Murrey stated either that or have the Chairperson of Finance and Chair of Public Safety there. Mayor Irwin agreed. Trustee Murrey stated to post the meeting. Mayor Irwin agreed to posting the meeting and stated next Thursday at 9:30 is when they will be meeting with them. Trustee Murrey stated he knows how to reach him should Mr. Tucker have any questions. Mayor Irwin stated this would be a week from Thursday not this Thursday. Mayor Irwin stated that everyone should have their questions prepared for the meeting next Thursday. Trustee Working stated within the proposal from CenComm I would like to know how are people are protected. Mayor Irwin stated Lisa from CenComm was here and is writing the comments down and would bring them to CenComm. Trustee Working stated he did not want to see any current Employee loose their positions. Mayor Irwin stated we have already been promised that. Trustee Koske as we are looking into CenComm are we also looking into staying here. Mayor Irwin stated absolutely.

Trustee Bender stated he wanted to thank Trustee Murrey for recommending the consultant if for nothing else it put on paper the issues we are dealing with and discussing and now we can focus on. Trustee Bender stated one of his concerns from day one and he thought the only person he mentioned it to was the Mayor. Trustee Bender stated with his business background we did not entertain bringing in a consultant whom worked for a competitor and that essentially what we have done here. He stated while he agreed he was very good he working 2 sides of the fence and he thought that's why there was the mediocre response. He doesn't want to commit to them or us so you walk the fence. Trustee Bender stated that this would never happen in business or it shouldn't happen in business or at our company. Mayor Irwin stated all I know is that you and Greg recommended him. Trustee Bender he agreed and wasn't going to argue that point. Mayor Irwin stated he stated when he was working for me he is working for me. Trustee Bender stated he for one was glad we did not react to quickly on giving away our essential emergency services, that one million dollar investment and the one million dollar contract. He stated it was clear to him that if we wanted to continue this direction I which I think we are all saying there will be a need for more money and unfortunately if you continue to work with a consultant its going to be more money. Trustee Bender stated that somewhere along the line you would have to cut. Mayor Irwin stated we are cutting it Thursday. Trustee Bender stated the other thing is he was wondering while working through this decision that we shouldn't be looking at other financial options that may be out there. We are focusing on this and we have been stuck on this for 4-5 months it's really time to start digging into these other areas. Trustee Bender stated as everyone knows everyday the budget is continuing to be eaten away.

Nancy Schuerr asked if there was direction should Mr. Tucker not want to meet. Mayor Irwin stated then we will not meet and that may be the last meeting with Mr. Tucker.

Trustee Murrey stated it may be time for Mr. Tucker to sever his ties for this now that he has put on paper everything we've talked about. If there was another consultant he could suggest to looking into this thing and send us point-by-point solutions. Mayor Irwin asked if we needed an unbiased opinion. Trustee Murrey stated he thought Mr. Tucker

was very professional. What you stated was correct, because at the time he was working with us developing this center he works with many agencies he pulls from what he thinks is best. He has met and exceeded our expectation. Trustee Murrey stated we need to ask him for a Director Consultant to give us direction.

Trustee Ulasie stated that we have done some things to increase the revenue; we have the garbage doing it in a 2 stage so we don't shock the residents. We have brought up the 2% Telecommunication Tax which would be an infusion of approximately \$150,000.00 - \$175,000.00 per year and we have decided to put that on hold for now. Trustee Working in the Building Department reviewed all the fees were updated. Parks and Recreation is looking into getting their developer fees we have reviewed our fees in several areas. Trustee Ulasie stated we have reviewed our fee structure and we don't want to hit our residents or shock them to much but gently prod them along to get us through this slump area that we have now, we have both been in business we have the highs and the lows. We are in our lows and maybe it wont peak this year and probably not next year but it will come around. She stated we are examining everything.

Trustee Bender stated he had a few recommendations that he was going to run during the finance meeting. I would be happy to talk about them now. Trustee Ulasie stated that was fine with her. Trustee Bender stated these were strictly finance and that was why he was going to hold them until the Finance Committee. Trustee Bender stated about 2 months ago I suggested that the treasurer and if need be a Government Finance Consultant develop a short term plan to address the General Fund issue to address possible loans, bonds, grants, fees and other things and I would like to know where we stand on that. Paul Christensen stated what we have decided to do is have him come in and look how we hold the monies, that don't increase our revenue, that doesn't help us, get any farther. With the specific question asked how does the money help? Trustee Bender stated that what I would expect is the Financial Consultant he would balance that and he would tell us both sides. Mr. Christensen stated he had the auditor come in. Trustee Bender stated I didn't say the Auditor. Mr. Christensen and Mayor Irwin stated that is what we decided. Trustee Bender stated no that was my second point; I am talking about the loans increasing fees, grants. Mayor Irwin stated but you and I agreed that we could have the auditor do a higher audit to make sure all the monies were there. Trustee Bender stated let me address that second point, yes I asked at that point the Treasurer again if he needed to talk with a General Financial Consultant on are we following State Statutes and Ordinances on the monies that were collected and are we doing it as far as collecting them. Are we accounting for them properly and are we spending them properly and the Mayor did indicate I think to all of us but I know she did to me directly that we were going to ask our auditors to do a special assignment.

Mayor Irwin stated you agreed to that. Trustee Bender stated that it has been 2 months. Mayor Irwin stated he was coming tonight but he canceled due to weather. Trustee Bender stated that is what he was asking for. Mr. Christensen stated the project was still moving forward and Mayor Irwin agreed. Paul Christensen stated how we hold our monies and how we are using it. He stated he can't have our auditor come in here because he is auditing his own work then come and tell us how to get through a financial problem by raising fees or different areas then. He stated we have talked about that and decided the Mayor had brought someone in that had talked to them and decided that would be the best use of our money and we can come up with our own solutions. Trustee Bender stated that is what he has been waiting for. I said either you do it as our Treasurer or if you need help higher a consultant as a financial analyst. Mayor Irwin stated she thought that we had discussed that. Trustee Bender stated we did the second one. Mayor Irwin stated she thought we discussed both of them. Mr. Christensen stated would you like me to

come up with a list of increased revenue and the different options out there. Trustee Bender stated that's what we are paying you to do Paul. Mr. Christensen stated I have brought many plans forward. Trustee Bender stated I'm not asking you to make the decision we are asking you to bring the alternatives to the Board and say here is your alternatives tell me which one you want and then you go ahead and implement it. Mayor Irwin stated actually Paul has continually done that. Paul Christensen stated he has brought that to the Mayor and it was decided that we didn't want to move those ideas forward. Mayor Irwin stated she talked to Trustee Carol Ulasy. Paul Christensen stated the ideas weren't palatable and not good. Mayor Irwin stated they weren't good for us. Trustee Bender stated that was for us to decide Trustee Carol Ulasy is one vote and the Mayor is none. Mayor Irwin stated you want to raise the electric – you want to raise the utilities? Paul Christensen stated the Mayor has directed him not to bring those ideas forward. The Mayor stated I bring those to Trustee Ulasy, Trustee Bender stated that was a cop out. Mayor Irwin stated no it wasn't it was my fault, he does bring them to me I don't bring them forward, its my fault not Paul's. Paul Christensen stated raise taxes or cut expenses and most of our expenses are in personnel I mean its that simple. Trustee Bender stated give us the options that's why we are paying you the big bucks. Mayor Irwin stated he has given her the options. Trustee Ulasy stated we have given you the options during budget time. Trustee Bender stated no you didn't let me give a couple more. Trustee Bender stated in the famous Daily Herald December 7th 2007 there was a little quip in the paper, which I thought, was interesting. Volo – Mayor Burnell and I'm not going to read it, it was just in this weeks paper. He is asking for a referendum for home rule they only have 216 people he wants to raise the sales tax 1% to 2% half going to roads and half going to our other needs. Can we ask the Treasurer to research that? Mayor Irwin stated he has already researched these things. Paul Christensen stated it wasn't a go project, yes I can use it for the roads but I can't use it to solve the budget and I can't pay for our Policemen with it. It doesn't solve our need. He stated at this point we feel we have a source for our roads. He stated he couldn't talk about it right now but he could talk privately about it. Paul Christensen stated we have a source for our roads and how to funnel and help our roads at this point. Mayor Irwin stated actually Paul totally researched the sales tax thing but if your home rule, Paul Christensen stated not if your home rule did I do it but as, Mayor Irwin stated no we know if you're a home rule you can do it. Paul Christensen stated you can do it automatically but we looked at it as a referendum as a separate referendum, Mayor Irwin agreed. Trustee Bender stated yes it is and that's what he is doing should we be looking at these things. Paul Christensen stated he could not balance the budget from that because I can't use it for personnel, I can't use it for where I need the money. Trustee Bender stated what does Burnell know that we don't know and that's my question.

Trustee Working stated he was going for the referendum for the home rule. Mayor Irwin agreed. Trustee Bender stated and he is trying to raise the sales tax is what he is trying to do. Mayor Irwin stated he was trying to do it without going to referendum. If you go out for referendum to raise the sales tax how high do you think we are going to get with that how many people do you think will pass that. Trustee Bender stated he didn't know but we have got to see some options as the Board. Mayor Irwin stated lets go for referendum to become home rule then we can raise our taxes to what ever we want. Trustee Bender stated you need to make your cases. Trustee Bender stated the other item he would like to address is when we sold our home in Prospect Heights I found out this is true in many other towns we paid a rather stiff transfer tax when we sold the home. I believe it was around \$500.00 - \$1,000.00 something like that and that went to the seller. Very common tax I don't see why we can't consider something like that. Paul Christensen stated that was a home rule tax. Trustee Bender stated that was a reason to be home rule. Paul Christensen stated there is every reason to be home rule because you have unlimited

ability to tax. Mayor Irwin stated we would consider going for home rule during the next election.

Trustee Bender stated the other thing is that it was symbolic on his part but he would like to demonstrate his personal concern over this financial situation in Fox Lake and I would like the Treasurer under your Chairman Ulasz to not issue me any further paychecks until the end of the financial year for 2007-2008. He stated keep his compensation, now its small but as I said it was symbolic.

Trustee Bender stated the last one he had was very controversial. I would like to Board to know how much we are spending on legal fees, police time, CSO time, Building Department time on chasing down this guy at 34 Fairfax. This thing has been going on for 2 years and we are paying for attorneys, police to be out there and we are doing all kinds of things and if that isn't \$40 - \$50,000.00 I don't know what is. Now you talk about saving money there it is right there. What are we trying to accomplish? Trustee Bender stated all I hear is and I've checked with other people, and all the man wants is his tools back and his lawn mower. Give him his tools back and his lawn mower and wash your hands of this guy

Mayor Irwin asked Chief Behan to approach the mike because it goes further than that Mr. Bender and you know that. Trustee Bender stated no I don't know that I know what I am being told.

Chief Behan stated that was an issue that happened 10 years ago when that person didn't clean up his yard and that's the way it goes to criminal proceedings. He stated it takes a while but when it did come down and all that stuff was taken it was almost 2 days of dump trucks taking things off his property. Now there might have been weed whacker's there might have been all kinds of items in that. There was plenty of time given to get those items or anything else that he needed to remove. I have been working close with this person been to his house last week and I am going again tomorrow to talk with him again about this issues and things he has on his property now. With the criminal proceedings that are going to go on that's the way criminal proceedings go, if he doesn't show, or if the judge does put a lien on his property that takes time. Trustee Bender asked what does it take to close it. Mayor Irwin stated do you want to let him keep putting up the signs and we don't have anybody taking them down. Trustee Bender stated no, Mayor Irwin stated that's what is happening every time we take a sign down we go to court. Trustee Bender stated lets do this then. Lets you, the Police Chief and me sit down with Mr. Close and see what we need to close this subject and get it done. Mayor Irwin stated how does that sound. Trustee Bender stated it is costing us money to do this. Mayor Irwin stated that couldn't be discussed because it's not on the agenda. Trustee Bender stated it is conveniently all of a sudden isn't but that's okay. Trustee Working stated its not on the agenda, Trustee Bender stated we are talking about saving money but we are throwing money across the street and that is what has me mad. Trustee Bender stated the only people making out on this are the attorneys. Mayor Irwin stated we would have a meeting. Trustee Bender stated he would be happy to sit in on it so we can terminate this thing and save money that's what I am trying to do.

II. Adjournment

With no other discussion Mayor Irwin asked for adjournment of the meeting at 5:57PM.

Trustee Working made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 5:57 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Murrey.

A role call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Trustee Bender</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Murrey</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Ulasz</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Working</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Kiesgen</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Koske</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Motion Carried</i>	

Samantha Weeks
Village Clerk