



## VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

At the regular Board Meeting, held in said Village and County in the State of Illinois at 7:00 p.m. on January 22, 2008 meeting was called to order by Mayor Irwin. The following official business was transacted:

### Roll Call

Present Mayor Irwin; Village Clerk Weeks; Attorney Teegan; Trustees, Bender, Murrey, Ulasy, Working, Kiesgen and Koske.

### I. Preliminary Audience Comments

There were no preliminary audience comments this evening. Mayor Irwin took a moment to honor the Village of Fox Lake's Street Department for their dedicated service and countless hours they spend keeping the streets of Fox Lake clean from snow and service to the village streets. Mayor Irwin asked Trustee Kiesgen if he would like to say a few words to the Street Department.

Trustee Kiesgen stated that he has worked in a street department position over the course of his professional life and commended the street department employees for their continued dedication to the Village of Fox Lake. Trustee Kiesgen recognized the street departments inability to leave for family vacations during the winter months due to their position. Trustee Kiesgen thanked them for their hard work.

Ms. Rogers recognized their hard work and dedication to the Parks and Recreation Department for all the signage they hang and for the great decorating work they did at the Millennium Park location during the winter holidays.

Chief Hoehne introduced the department employees and the supervisors one by one.

Mayor Irwin presented a plaque of appreciation for 30 years of dedicated service to George Larson. Mr. Larsen graciously accepted the plaque and thanked the Mayor and the Board Members.

Trustee Kiesgen stated when he was on the Board during his first term one of his first assignments was to take the advice of Stuart Hoehne and Joe Armando recommendations to hire George Larson.

## II. **Approval of Minutes**

*Trustee Koske made a motion to approve the Village Board Meeting Minutes dated January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 seconded by Trustee Bender.*

*A roll 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>

***Motion Carried***

## III. **Presentation – Citizens Referendum Committee for Big Hollow**

Mayor Irwin introduced Mr. John Mazur. Mr. Mazur stated that he was a resident of Fox Lake and resided at 503 Lakeland Ave, Fox Lake, IL. Mr. Mazur stated he was giving his presentation as a part of the Referendum Committee for Big Hollow School and as a parent of a student at Big Hollow School.

Mr. Mazur stated they thought it was important to bring some information to the public to educate them on the proposed referendum. Mr. Mazur stated that he was a long time resident of the area and attended the schools here. He stated he used to ride his bike where the Jewel now stands, and where he used to hunt and fish there is now Valley Lakes and recognized the growth of the village. He stated it has been interesting to watch the community grow and change during that time. He stated at the same time the community had grown in an expediential way.

Mr. Mazur stated there were approximately 80 students in his graduating class and in 1997 there were 400 children in Big Hollow and in 2007 there were approximately 1500 children at Big Hollow. He stated the growth in our community has been great we all are proud of the community and the town is testament to everyone present the fact that his generation of people want to live here in the area. He stated that the area was a destination to a vast amount of people due to our values.

Mr. Mazur stated that over the course of time the schools have been affected due to the increase in the amount of children and the inability to keep up with the amounts of children that are newly coming in to the area and the impact that has on finances. He stated our school systems are hurting a small amount. He referenced Grant High School and the renovations they are proposing with the school because of capacity issues. He stated from recollection they had 900 student population in the year 1991 and now is approximately 1745 and he thought 1750 was their capacity limit. He stated if the growth was looked at they are not necessarily keeping up with the growth. He stated as more children enter the school system and keep getting elevated we are going to have more and more situations going on.

He stated the operational expenses at the school are increasing at such a rapid rate that its starting to become out of control, the children themselves and the size of the school class, we have the largest average size classes in Lake County 28.5 per classroom and that is in the first grade.

He said they had people giving presentations a few weeks ago to talk about the demographics, where we are going in time and it will affect the school district and people in the community. He stated at the rate we are growing by the time his first grade son attends fifth grade he will have 46 other classmates. He stated the largest concerns were large classroom sizes comes the value of education and learning. He stated when we are in a crowded room the ability to maintain control takes a longer time and that affects the actual book learning time.

He stated what they were trying to do is get a working cash bond, and over the years we have tried to get different referendums and within the community there are misconceptions with regard to referendums. He stated people might not be aware the Big Hollow School has not passed an operational referendum in 24 years.

He stated that they were going to try and get a .54 tax rate increase this year verses the past, which was .75 and \$1.20.

He stated the buildings are beautiful and they were built a few years ago, they did pass a building bond referendum, which got the schools to where they are able to hold the children and they weren't experiencing a capacity issue but rather staffing and operational issues.

Mr. Mazur stated last year in order to preserve some of the tax breaks that they needed to abide by from a borrowing spending aspect they did need to cut the art program, music program and some of the computer classes and they are 100% paid to play program at that school. So parents are now thinking are they going to let my child participate in a sport program and it's a tough choice to make because the dollar is interesting in today's world. He stated we saw what the federals lowered the interest rates. He stated in times of need and change people have to look at where they want to invest their money. They have to look at what is outside the community and are at risk or take a look at what is inside the community so they can get the best value so they can get what is coming back so they can get what's going on in the area.

Mr. Mazur stated the class sizes are high and they are trying to bring back the programs, with passing the referendum they will be hiring additional staff to bring them back down to the average recommended size to get the best education from it.

Mr. Mazur stated that he brought literature to give everyone additional information and this is what we have been handing out.

Mr. Mazur stated if you have a house and you say what does this tax rate really mean to me, you can look and say if I have a home that is valued at \$100,000.00 this is what it will mean to me, or if I own a home that is values at \$300,000.00 as a township they average homes in the area at \$280,000.00 which means approximately \$32.00 per month investment. Mr. Mazur stated this is a 5year investment and if you don't like the changes or like what are going on then you have the right to approach the Board and voice your concerns. He stated we want to support the community and the children

because at the end of the day the result from the schools has a direct impact on the community.

Mr. Mazur stated they have a blue ribbon campaign for awareness that people are displaying. The campaign is about educating people to the facts and issues of the community. He stated Big Hollow stands alone out there, part of a few different districts including Round Lake, Fox Lake and Volo and Ingleside it's not home to one specific municipality. Mr. Mazur asked for verbal support and asked if anyone had any questions. Mayor Irwin asked the audience for any questions for Mr. Mazur and thanked him for his presentation.

#### **IV. Parks and Recreation Coordinator Update**

Ms. Rogers stated her report was given at the Committee level and wished her Chairman Trustee Working a Happy Birthday.

#### **V. Director of Planning and Community Development Update**

Mr. Rogers stated he had the developers Oxford who purchased the Big Hollow property in town to show them additional properties in Fox Lake they might be interested in. He stated they were interested in one particular parcel.

Mr. Roger stated it was important to remember where we are going not where we have been.

#### **VI. Department Head Reports**

##### **A. BEHAN**

Chief Behan stated his report was covered in the committee meeting.

##### **B. HOEHNE**

Chief Hoehne stated Trustee's Bender, Murrey and Kiesgen had his report.

##### **C. HART**

Mr. Hart stated he distributed a memo about political signs. He stated that he has received calls regarding the interpretation of the ordinance regarding size. He stated the ordinance does not contain verbiage regarding the signs however the Village Code did address that issue. He stated most of the signs that are being displayed are 4 foot square but allowing the 16 square feet sign. He stated there was a note on the bottom where we would like to include an illustration with the physical dimensions on it so there would be no questions regarding the sign. Mr. Hart stated what they were asking is the ordinance containing the information regarding political signs be amended to include that size with the outside dimensions and illustrations. Mayor Irwin inquired about this topic being discussed in the Building and Zoning Committee meeting. Trustee Working stated they would discuss that topic.

##### **D. CHRISTENSEN**

Mr. Christensen stated he did not have a report this evening.

##### **E. WOLF**

Ms. Wolf stated she did not have a report this evening.

## VII. Trustee Reports

### A. Bender

- Trustee Bender stated he did not have any motions this evening however he would like to recognize the individuals who participated and passed classes and he read the following names and achievements.
- STEVE GOUDREAU
  - ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL-HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AWARENESS
  - FREFIGHTER II
- JEFREY A. MILLER
  - FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER
- BETTY ANN SMITH
  - FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER
- TED J. DAMOS
  - FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER

### B. Murrey

Trustee Murrey stated although he had a motion on the agenda he would like to table it until the next meeting because there were a few details he would like to get clarification on.

### C. Ulasz

*Trustee Ulasz made a motion to approve the Bill List dated January 22, 2008 in the amount of \$679,796.15 seconded by Trustee Kiesgen.*

*A roll 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>

***Motion Carried***

*Trustee Ulasz made a motion to ratify the Manual Check List dated January 22, 2008 seconded by Trustee Bender.*

*A roll 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>

***Motion Carried***

*Trustee Ulasz made a **motion** approving the Grainger bills in the amount of \$1,464.20 seconded by Trustee Murrey.*

Trustee Bender read the following statement: “For the record I would like to disclose that I am the owner of stock in Grainger consisting of less than 1% of outstanding shares: I further will refrain from evaluating, recommending, approving, deliberating or otherwise participating in the negotiation or approval of Grainger bills and that I will abstain from voting on any motions to pay Grainger bills”.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Trustee Bender</i>	<i>Abstain</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>

***Motion Carried***

*Trustee Ulasz made a **motion** to approve Ordinance 2008-02, an Ordinance Amending Section 1-8-D-3 of the Code of the Village of Fox Lake related to the Office of Village Administrator seconded by Trustee Koske*

*A roll 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>Nay</i>
<i>Trustee Kiesgen</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Koske</i>	<i>Aye</i>

***Motion Carried***

**D. Working**

*Trustee Working made a **Motion** revising the Parks and Recreation Coordinator Job Description to report to Mayor and/or Village Administrator instead of Office Manager/Deputy Clerk seconded by Trustee Ulasz.*

*A roll 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>

***Motion Carried***

**E. Kiesgen**

Trustee Kiesgen stated he did not have a report this evening.

**F. Koske**

Trustee Koske stated there was a new Business license applied for from Semec Contractors L.L.C. who are electrical contractors that will be located on Rollins Road.

**VII. Attorney's Comments** – Attorney Teegen stated he did not have comments this evening

**VIII. Presidents Comments** –

Mayor Irwin stated she would like to expand on Trustee Working earlier comments regarding the blood drive that was hosted at the Lake Front Park facility. She read the letter from Marie at Life Source thanking the Village for the support. She stated they collected 29 units and only 3 rejections, which is a substantially significantly positive achievement.

Mayor Irwin stated the next blood drive will be held on April 11, 2008 at Lake Front Park.

**Appointment Village Administrator** – Mayor Irwin stated she would like to make the appointment of Nancy Schuerr as Village Administrator and asked for a motion to approve her appointment of Nancy Schuerr as Village Administrator.

*Trustee Ulasz made a Motion to Approve Mayor's Appointment of Nancy Schuerr to the position of Village Administrator seconded by Trustee Bender*

Trustee Working stated Nancy Schuerr has done an outstanding job for this Village and has saved us money and he thought that she is an outstanding person and woman however, right now we have a problem because we are trying to figure out the 911 situation and how we are going to fund that, and our sales taxes are down according to the sales tax report he has received which is down -7% over 2006. He stated the Street Department is considerably over budget due to the salt purchases and overtime that has been paid out. Trustee Working stated he didn't agree to spend additional monies to another administrative position at this time.

Mayor Irwin asked the Village Attorney if she could make a statement. Attorney Teegan stated she could.

Mayor Irwin stated she would like to say that Nancy Schuerr has a Bachelors Degree and an MBA and has such great leadership skills. She has saved the Village so much money with our insurance programs. Mayor Irwin stated in the morning there would be a reorganizing of items around here and she will be able to further delve into areas where she now not allowed because she is not the Mayor or a Trustee. Mayor Irwin stated that tomorrow morning she will have the authority to help us delve into deeper into things like the 911 situation and overtime, comp time, just a lot of ways that she is going to earn her salary in less than 2 months I guarantee it. This woman is phenomenal she has got such excellent written and verbal skills there isn't any one of my department heads that does not think that she is defiantly the one to choose. She stated not only does she get what I conceive one of the best and the most intelligent young lady that I have ever meet as a Village Administrator she is also our HR person. She stated an employee has not sued us since we have had Nancy on board and that's pretty good because I can remember the old days when we were getting sued all the time and we have not had that. She will defiantly earn her keep and she will save the village way more money than \$25,000.00 a year because I of all people know that we are desperate for money but she is going to earn it and she will do a great job at it.

Trustee Ulasz stated if she didn't firmly believe that, I have her goals here and operational efficiencies, budgeting process development long term and I see and have a list of how she has saved money for the village. If I didn't feel that we would be getting our money back by delve into going in through things as we as Trustee don't have time to get involved in. She stated she thought that Nancy Schuerr would save us money in the long term and she really believed in this. Trustee Ulasz stated Nancy Schuerr salary is spread across all departments.

Mayor Irwin stated all department head have been thrilled to death that we are doing this.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

*Trustee Bender                      Aye*

Trustee Murrey           Aye  
Trustee Ulasz            Aye  
Trustee Working         Nay  
Trustee Kiesgen         Aye  
Trustee Koske           Aye  
**Motion Carried**

Mayor Irwin asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2008-R-02.

Trustee Ulasz made a **Motion** to approve Resolution 2008-R-02, A Resolution Establishing the Salary for the Position of Village Administrator seconded by Trustee Bender

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Trustee Bender           Aye  
Trustee Murrey           Aye  
Trustee Ulasz            Aye  
Trustee Working         Nay  
Trustee Kiesgen         Aye  
Trustee Koske           Aye  
**Motion Carried**

Mayor Irwin asked Samantha Weeks Village Clerk if she was prepared to swear in Nancy Schuerr as the Village Administrator. Ms. Weeks stated she was prepared.

Village Clerk Samantha Weeks swore in Nancy Schuerr as Village Administrator.

**IX. Audience Comments –**

There were not audience comments this evening.

**X. Executive Session – Review of Executive Session Minutes and Personnel and Threatened Litigation**

Trustee Bender made a **motion** to retire into executive session for review of executive session minutes and personnel and threaten litigation to include Nancy Schuerr, Human Resources Director and Building Commissioner Bill Hart at 7:40PM for personnel and Threatened Litigation matters seconded by Trustee Kiesgen.

Trustee Bender           Aye  
Trustee Murrey           Aye  
Trustee Ulasz            Aye  
Trustee Working         Aye  
Trustee Kiesgen         Aye  
Trustee Koske           Aye  
**Motion Carried**

Trustee Working made a **motion** to reconvene the Village Board meeting at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Murrey

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Trustee Bender           Aye  
Trustee Murrey           Aye

Trustee Ulasz           Aye  
Trustee Working        Aye  
Trustee Kiesgen        Aye  
Trustee Koske           Aye  
**Motion Carried**

*Trustee Working made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes Dated February 28,2006, March 27, 2007, April 10, 2007, June 12, 2007, June 26,2007, July 10, 2007, July 24, 2007, July 31, 2007 sessions 1 and 2, August 28, 2007, September 11, 2007, September 25, 2007,October 23,2007 and December 11, 2007 seconded by Trustee Koske*

*A role call vote was taken as follows:*

Trustee Bender         Aye  
Trustee Murrey         Aye  
Trustee Ulasz           Aye  
Trustee Working        Aye  
Trustee Kiesgen        Aye  
Trustee Koske           Aye  
**Motion Carried**

**XI. Adjournment**

*Trustee Working made a **motion** to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:09 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Koske.*

*A role call vote was taken as follows:*

Trustee Bender         Aye  
Trustee Murrey         Aye  
Trustee Ulasz           Aye  
Trustee Working        Aye  
Trustee Kiesgen        Aye  
Trustee Koske           Aye  
**Motion Carried**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

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Samantha Weeks  
Village Clerk