



**VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE
Town Hall Meeting**

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

At the Fox Lake Town Hall Meeting, held in said Village and County in the State of Illinois at 6:00 p.m. on September 25th, 2019 meeting was called to order by Mayor Schmit. The following official business was transacted:

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order

Roll Call

Present Mayor Schmit; Village Attorney Howard Teegan; Trustees: Jensen, Stochl, Konwent, Marr, Moore and Koske.

Staff also in attendance: Anne Marrin, Laura Linehan, Kealan Noonan, Ryan Kelly, Donovan Day, Susan Griffin, Matt Trujillo, Lindsay Stroberg, Phillip Love and Jimmy Lee, Jr.

III. Introduction of Guests and Department Heads

Mayor Schmit opened the Town Hall Meeting by greeting the audience and giving a brief overview of the agenda. The Village Board members then introduced themselves and gave a summary of Village activities, programs and improvements they took part in throughout the year.

Mayor introduced each of the Village departments and its members:

- **Administration Department:**
 - *Village Administrator – Anne Marrin*
 - *Director of Human Resources / Assistant to the Village Administrator – Laura Linehan*
 - *Interim Director of Finance – Susan Griffin*
 - *Management Analyst – Phillip Love*

- **Public Works Department:**
 - *Director of Public Works – Kealan Noonan*
 - *Local Water and Sewer Division Supervisor – Matt Vasey*
- **Parks and Recreation Department:**
 - *Director of Human Resources / Assistant to the Village Administrator – Laura Linehan*
 - *Special Events and Marketing Coordinator – Matt Trujillo*
- **Community and Economic Development Department:**
 - *Director of Community and Economic Development - Donovan Day*
- **Public Safety / Police Department:**
 - *Chief of Police – Jimmy Lee*
 - *Commander and ESDA Coordinator – Dawn Deservi*
 - *FoxComm 911 Dispatch Center Manager – Lindsay Stroberg*
- **NWRWRF:**
 - *Director of NWRWRF – Ryan Kelly*

IV. Department Accomplishments / Upcoming Projects

1. Administration (Anne Marrin):

Accomplishments:

- *Established Celebrate Fox Lake 501(c)3 and Champions of the Chain 501(c)3.*
- *PACE Bus Service Program reinstated.*
- *Completed Village of Fox Lake Mobile Application for iPhone and Android download.*
- *Website re-design and navigation rebuild to enhance transparency.*
- *Received GFOA award for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.*
- *Enhanced Village communications through e-newsletter, press releases and Social Media.*
- *Joined Visit Lake County to encourage tourism in Fox Lake.*

Awarded Grants / Funding:

- *Sayton Road – US 12 to Rollins Rd: \$1.8M.*
- *Nippersink Blvd – Oak to Grand: \$1.5M.*
- *Nippersink Wall – Capital Bill: \$550K.*
- *Nippersink Wall – STP Funding: \$480K.*
- *Grand Ave: \$1.1M.*
- *IEPA Loan Forgiveness – Phase I: \$2.2M.*
- *Police Department Grants: \$50K.*
- *NG 911 Grant: \$155K.*

- *CMAP LTA Form Based Code: \$100K.*
- *CBDG Lake County for Murals: \$30K.*
- *Millennium Park – Stormwater Management: \$22K.*

Total Grants/Funding Awarded = \$8 Million.

Upcoming Projects:

- *Signage Design Project with Corbin to design wayfinding signage throughout Fox Lake.*
- *Partnering with Fox Waterway Agency, businesses and other municipal entities to develop a watershed master plan.*
- *Continue applying for various grant opportunities through STP programming and BDD funding.*
- *Work with Census.gov to ensure Fox Lake residents are properly counted in the 2020 Census.*
- *Enhance the Village's sustainability plan.*
- *Continuing to work on the Lake County Regional 911 Consolidation Project.*
- *Develop an internal Sharepoint system to enhance internal workflows.*

2. Public Works (Kealan Noonan):

Accomplishments

- *Completed Sayton Road reconstruction.*
- *Substantially completed Grand Avenue resurfacing.*
- *Reconstruction of Frontage Road came in well under budget:*
 - *Bid Contract: \$566,257.*
 - *Final Payment: \$492,268.*
- *Installed and painted the Community Garden stairs.*
- *Installed new lights at Community garden for both Christmas and Farmers Market events.*
- *Worked with Parks and Recreation on the installation of the new ice rink.*
- *Final draft of Village-wide road inventory.*
- *Started Interconnect Project to allow more reliable water system throughout the Village.*
- *Installed new watermain on Sayton Road.*
- *Received Illinois Department of Public Health Annual Fluoride Perfect Compliance award.*
- *Zero EPA violations.*
- *Sewer video of 5,000 feet of sewer main.*
- *Exercised over 200 main line valves.*
- *New back-up generators at Washington and Dubells Lift Stations.*
- *Over 400 work orders completed.*

- *Cleaned 63,345 feet of sewer main.*

Upcoming Projects:

- *Starting construction on Grace Avenue gathering area.*
- *Began engineering on Frontage Road North (by old Dominick's).*
- *Installation of new lighting along Grand Avenue and Sayton Road bike path.*
- *Route 59 and Washington Street (2021-2022 with Lake County).*
- *Look for funding for Forest, Holly and School Street.*
- *Planning for new local road replacement program.*
- *Route 12 Sidewalk construction.*

3. Parks and Recreation (Laura Linehan):

Accomplishments

- *New programs and special events implemented:*
 - *Fright Night Concerts*
 - *Family Game Night*
 - *Senior Drop-In Center*
 - *Get Your Play On*
 - *Pumpkin Jubilee*
 - *Father's Day Fishing Frenzy*
 - *Go Fox Lake Program*
 - *Festival of Lights / Kris Kringle Winter Market*
 - *Enhanced Farmer's Market.*
- *Completed the Parks and Rec Master Plan.*
- *Enhanced marketing of Village programs and Special events through social media and personal outreach.*
- *Increased sponsorship and volunteer programs within the Parks Department.*
- *Bettering Partnerships with the library, schools, Fox Lake businesses and local organizations through event participation.*

Upcoming Projects

- *Senior Fair – October 17, 2019.*
- *New fitness programs for adults – Zumba starts October 7, 2019.*
- *Development of Lakefront Park and a Riverwalk as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan implementation.*
- *Pelican-polluza: Week long event for April 2020.*
- *Enhancing Millennium Park thanks to Administrator Marrin and a grant received through Stormwater Management.*

4. **Community Development (Donovan Day):**

Accomplishments

- *Developed standards and an implementation guide for business incentives.*
- *24 new businesses in Fox Lake.*
- *Approximately \$10M in commercial investment in Fox Lake since September 2018.*
- *Façade improvement program.*
- *39 new homes built, totaling ~\$3.5M invested in new residential construction.*
- *\$30K Community Development Grant from Lake County to install murals downtown. Three murals to be completed by the Village and a fourth by Promote Fox Lake.*
- *2019 Downtown Art Installation featuring Anchors at the Community Garden.*
- *9 Special Use Permits approved for Short-Term Rentals.*
- *Code enforcement: 428 violations successfully abated and approximately 350 businesses inspected, and business licenses issued.*
- *6,256 inspections were completed by the Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer in the last 12 months.*

Upcoming Projects

- *Focus on business attraction for the Route 12 corridor.*
- *Create the Fox Lake Arts Council to expand our creative economy.*
- *Work with CMAP on the grant they awarded Fox Lake to create form-based code for the Route 12 corridor.*
- *Market the Fox Lake Feasibility Study to attract a hotel.*

5. **Public Safety (Chief Jimmy Lee):**

Accomplishments

- *Police Officer Applicant Testing: Fox Lake Police Department hosted the written exam for police officer applicants and there were 81 applicants.*
- *Hires and Promotions:*
 - *Sergeant Martin Promotion*
 - *Officer Crowley Hire*
 - *Officer Dawson Hire*
 - *Officer Cwiok Hire*
 - *Officer VanBuren Hire*
 - *Officer Caputo Hire*
 - *Officer Carreno Hire*
 - *Two Community Service Officers*
- *Celebrated National Night Out by partnering with the Farmers Market.*
- *Participated in specialized law enforcement, investigative and service teams. Added members to MFF, EST and MCAT teams. Chief Lee was appointed to the Governing Board of the Major*

Crimes Task Force.

- *Officer Ebbing represents the Fox Lake Police Department in working with Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS).*
- *Teen Court was established as an alternative to referring a teen offender to adjudication hearings. This program provides the opportunity for youth offenders to be judged by their peers and has proven to reduce recidivism in youth offenders.*
- *Developing a public safety drone program.*
- *Initiated an internet safety zone program that designates the Police Department's front lobby as a meet up spot to conduct transactions from online websites such as: Craigslist, garage sales or any other online purchasing or selling website.*
- *Installed the Meggitt System for interactive firearm judgmental training. This allows officers to train on simulated situations to improve firearm handling and accuracy, as well as decision making under stressful scenarios.*

6. FoxComm 911 Dispatch Center (Lindsay Stroberg):

Accomplishments

- *Met NFPA standards for Grayslake and Lake Villa Fire Department via ISO Survey.*
- *Enabled Text-to-911 for Village of Fox Lake. This is for hearing impaired callers. Will be pushed out to the public once cellular providers improve coverage.*
- *Passed Law Enforcement Agencies Data System Compliance Audit for both FoxComm and Fox Lake Police Department.*
- *Implemented Solacom NG911 call handling equipment.*
- *Implemented SQL Computer Aided Dispatch with Lake County ETSB.*
- *Received Illinois Department of Public Health Emergency Medical Dispatch Agency License.*
- *Received Emergency Medical Dispatch Accredited Center of Excellence Certification.*
- *Implemented RapidSOS 911 location services database.*

Upcoming Projects

- *Text-to-911 implementation for Grayslake, Lake Villa, Lakemoor and Park City.*
- *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Missing Kids Readiness Project.*
- *APCO Project 33 training accreditation year 2020.*
- *Regional 911 consolidation.*

7. NWRWRF (Ryan Kelly):

Accomplishments

- *Collected, treated and discharged approximately 3.4 billion gallons of water to the Fox River.*
- *Ran more than 10,000 lab tests.*
- *Exceeded 2,200 consecutive days without a substantiated safety incident.*
- *Completed planning, design and bidding process for upcoming flow monitoring project.*

- *Completed major sewer use ordinance revisions.*
- *Overhauled the primary pumping process and added inline grinders to reduce accumulation of debris in the downstream process.*
- *Completed NPDES permit application process and all requirements associated with March 2020 expiration.*
- *Completed planning, design and bidding phases of the project to replace major underground infrastructure related to the Plant's biological treatment process.*

Upcoming Projects

- *Construction phase of project that includes the installation of 18 permanently mounted flow metering devices to delineate flow rates throughout the NW Lake County Sewer System.*
- *Construction phase of major project to replace failing underground infrastructure related to the Plant's biological treatment processes.*

V. Strategic Planning Team Updates

There were no Strategic Planning Team updates as most of the items were covered in Section IV of the Town Hall Meeting. Mayor Schmit encouraged meeting attendees to visit the department displays outside the auditorium where they can ask questions and collect various resource materials.

VI. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Schmit said Fox Lake is the greatest Village on the planet. He raised his family here and he graduated from this building (Grant High School). In the 1970's, Fox Lake was the place to be with so many grocery stores and clothing stores, etc. The Village stood still, and got passed up. The Village isn't standing still anymore, it's running and it's visible with all the improvements throughout town. The Mayor said he's available to talk to anyone who wants to meet with him. He hand delivers over 300 business licenses a year and he likes to hear feedback from residents and business owners as well. He attends all the community events he can. The first Town Hall meeting he attended had over 300 people in attendance, and tonight, there are around 30 people. These are the meetings where the Village Board needs input.

Mayor said that Promote Fox Lake has been doing such a good job with all the volunteer work to make improvements throughout town. He said he is the 23rd Mayor and none of them were able to bring a hotel to town. Mayor Schmit is going to keep working on getting that hotel. The Village is also undergoing a road study to rate all roads in town. There will be a big push to make improvements on the worst roads. These improvements are funded through federal grants and sales tax collected from businesses in town. The Mayor said he receives a lot of criticism for all the car dealers in town; however, car sales tax brings in \$1.2M a year to the Village.

The Village needs to keep up with technology. The Police were recently authorized to purchase a rescue drone. This drone has thermal imaging to see body heat if someone is missing in the water or in a wooded area. The Village doesn't want to lose its historical traditions but it needs to come into the 21st century with its technology.

Mayor Schmit has been elected the President of the Lake County Municipal League for the next two years. He is also Vice President of the Lake County Land Bank that acquires abandoned properties, fixes them up, pays off all liens on the property and then re-sells. Mayor Schmit was also named to the Fox River Flood Commission, the Port Authority Tax Force and the Lake County Census Task Force. It's important to fill out the Census forms because that is how the Village receives its funding.

VII. Audience Comments and Questions

A resident of 143 Grand Ave asked about the aggregation on the electric bills.

- *Anne Marrin said the aggregation program, after two years, the pricing started increasing which wasn't saving anyone anything. At that time, the Village didn't want to be locked into any sort of pricing knowing that ComEd's contracts in the next year would be finished and drop in price anyway. It wouldn't be fair to residents to lock them into rates that would be higher than the ComEd rate. The Village has been reviewing this every year and electric prices are going down. They will continue to keep an eye on the rates and if they start to increase, they'll go out to the aggregate to lock in the best pricing if they think it will continue to go up.*

The same resident asked about the broken sewer pipe on her property and if it can be repaired this year. It is under the sidewalk and every time it floods, it backs up into the home.

- *The Mayor said staff will look at it with a camera and see what can be done.*

The same resident asked a third question about replacing the trees that were chopped down on Grand Ave.

- *Mayor said the Village has a tree replacement program. The trees that were originally in there were the wrong type of trees that were growing up into the electrical wires. ComEd needed to cut them down. There are several trees in inventory.*

One resident asked Anne Marrin if the 'Champions of the Chain' is launched.

- *Anne said that it is preliminary right now. They received the 501c3 designation but they still need to come up with a logo. They have done some fundraising and made some announcements. She'd like to go out to local businesses and they can display a sticker in the window that says something along the lines of "I am a Champion of the Chain". This won't only be the Chain of Lakes but the Fox River communities as well. It's in the beginning stages but she welcomes anyone who wants to help out.*

Another resident said thank you to the Mayor and the Board for everything they do and put up with. Their dedication to the city is bar none and he appreciates it. (The rest of the audience showed their appreciation with a round of applause). He looks at the Mineola Hotel every day and knows its For Sale. As the Village waits for a buyer is there any code enforcement that can be done to put a Band-Aid for lack of paint. When you get within a half-mile, you can see how ugly it is.

- *The Mayor confirmed it is for sale. Two people have come in with hopes of restoring it. It is condemned right now. They Mayor said the Village is in a spot where it can't do any more than what has been done so far. It has historic significance to the town and they have done what they could. The Village entered into an agreement with the federal court after suing Mineola that the owner takes all the risk and the Village will take none. It's a tricky situation, forcing the owner to paint the building. The Village continues to hold out hope for someone to come along and buy it. The only other option is demolition and the estimates for that are \$400K-\$600K. It has also lost its landmark status. The Mayor agrees it is deteriorated and if it gets any worse, demolition may be the only solution. The Village will continue to work on finding a resolution.*

VIII. Adjournment

Trustee Stochl made a motion adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., seconded by Trustee Marr. All were in favor. Motion Carried.



Amy Driscoll, Village Clerk