

MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF ELBURN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)  
JULY 1, 2019

Board Members Present: Trustees: Sue Filek, Bill Grabarek, Chris Mondri, Patricia Schuberg, Matt Wilson

Board Members Absent: President Jeff Walter, Ken Anderson

Staff Members Present: Village Administrator John Nevenhoven; Finance Director Doug Elder, Village Attorneys Britz & Bill Thomas, Police Chief Nick Sikora; Deputy Police Chief Schlachta; Building Commissioner Tom Brennan; Public Works Supt Phil VanBogaert; Village Engineer Dave Burroughs

Others Present: Residents LeRoy Herra, Dan Kolzow, David & Amanda Cyr; Blackberry Township Reps Esther Steele (Township Supervisor), Tim Norris, Harley Veldhuizen; Bruce Aderman; Elburn Herald Reporter Susan O'Neill

1. Call to Order – Mayor Pro Tem Grabarek called the meeting to order at 8:09 PM.
2. Roll Call – A roll call ensued.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Discussion:
  - a. Blackberry Township IGA for Parks – Village Admin Nevenhoven advised three representatives from Blackberry Township are present tonight. The Township is interested in partnering with the Village for use of parks by Blackberry Township residents who do not reside in the Village. The proposed agreement between the Village and the Township has been reviewed by the Village Attorney but has not yet been voted on by the Township. Nevenhoven asked the Board for any questions/concerns. Township Supervisor Esther Steele said the Township's goal is to collaborate with other taxing bodies for services they cannot provide on their own. Steele stated the Township is interested in 1/3 participation for development costs only—they do not want to be involved with ongoing maintenance costs. This will be considered by the Township at their July 9, 2019 meeting. As far as the second park discussed earlier this evening, Steele said the Township would be interested in participating with the construction of the park should the grant come through. Steele noted the Township will only participate with parks located in Blackberry Township. Nevenhoven explained once the park is complete, the SSA will take over maintenance costs. If the SSA is underfunded, the developer will cover costs until the SSA is fully funded. There was consensus from the Board this is a positive partnership that will produce a stronger, broader community with governments participating with each other.
  - b. Part-Time Police Staff – Chief Sikora said he has made the Board aware of part-time officer staffing concerns several times. With the current staffing model, we need 14 part-time officers to adequately staff shifts. We currently have six part-time officers and continue to struggle finding qualified part-time candidates. This struggle is also realized by neighboring communities. The current staffing model doesn't work anymore. We are constantly asking full-time officers to fill open shifts and mandating overtime—which doesn't help with morale, burnout and the good of the department. The Police Department's capital staffing plan calls for hiring more full time officers but we don't believe go at the pace originally thought. Sikora asked the Board to consider approving the hire of a full time officer now rather than wait until next fiscal year. With the help of Finance Director Elder, it is estimated the overall budget increase will be \$65,110 and includes pension. This amount does not include offsetting of overtime charges. If approved, a budget amendment would have to occur. Sikora believes this is the future for the police field overall.

Retirees are no longer interested in continuing police work after their retirement. Elburn is one of the highest paying departments of part-time officers. It was asked if the Kane County Sheriff was asked about coverage. Sikora said he does not believe subcontracting police service is the best for a growing community. In addition, Elburn and Kane County are on different dispatch and record systems and pulling everything together becomes cumbersome. When asked if the Police Department budget can be cut to help offset some of the cost, Sikora said the department budget is thin—staffing is the bulk. Sikora and Deputy Chief Schlachta will review for possible reductions. The next full time candidate on the eligibility list is currently a part-time officer for the Village. If approved, we will lose another part-time officer. Sikora is currently conducting a background on a part-time candidate. Beyond the next person on the eligibility list, there are only non-certified officers who would have to go through the police academy (approximately an eight month timeline before patrolling on their own). While there is no charge for the academy training, the Village would be responsible for payroll and benefit costs to the employee. In addition, there is no obligation of the employee to the Village—they could leave during or after training if they so choose. The department currently has a full time officer on Public Employee Disability Act (PEDA) due to a duty-related injury. Sikora suggested we move forward with full time staff at this time due to lack of part-time candidates. There was consensus from the Board to hear recommendations as to potential budgetary cuts. Chief Sikora will work with Deputy Chief Schlachta on a list.

- c. Creation of a Class B-2 Liquor License for 213 S Main Street, Mobil Gas Station – Nevenhoven said the new owner of the Mobil Station inquired in November 2018 with the Village as to the possibility of obtaining a B-2 liquor license. The State agrees they are eligible for a liquor license but the Village does not have any B-2 (beer and wine only) licenses available. A liquor license would allow them to apply for a gaming license. Mobil said they are not interested in gaming but could change their minds. The B-2 class includes tastings which does not seem appropriate for gas stations. There was discussion if the hours of sale should be reduced. When asked for his opinion, Chief Sikora said his previous experience with hours of sale was not a huge issue. There was consensus from the Board to leave selling hours as-is and to move forward with the B-2 liquor license for Mobil, minus taste testing. Nevenhoven will prepare the necessary paperwork and bring it back to the Board at their July 15 meeting.
5. Other Business – Blackberry Township Trustee Veldhuizen advised LaFarge will host an open house tomorrow regarding their expansion plans. It will be at the Blackberry Township Hall from 4:30-6:30pm. Nevenhoven will attend the open house.
6. Adjourn – Trustee Filek moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mondt and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane McQuilkin  
Village Clerk