

Village of Winthrop Harbor
Committee of the Whole
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
October 12,2021

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruno at 7:00 PM.

The following Elected Officials were present:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

Trustees: Buddy Hargett, John Levin, Robert Marabella, Dana McCarthy, Hartmut "Fritz" Weiss, Alana Whitmore

Also present:

Robert Long, Interim Village Administrator
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Michael Sheedy, IT
Scott Fuller, Recreation Director
Ed Mohn, Police Chief
Pat DiPersio, Director of Community Development
Tim Nearingard, Superintendent of Public Works

The meeting was called to discuss the following items.

10 – 20 Year Vision for the Future #3

PUBLIC WORKS

Superintendent of Public Works, Tim Nearingard, provided "Public Works at a Glance", relating to the different functions, such as, street lamps, garbage produced, how many miles of roads and miles of pipelines. He said his focus is on teamwork. Tim also provided information on Employee Structure and a Financial Summary. He went on to explain each fund and what the approved expenditures are for that fund, as well as what services those expenditures provide. Tim provided some fast facts about water and sewer and talked about the Annual Water Audit. Tim talked about the Infrastructure Replacement Plan in anticipation of the funds from President Biden's Infrastructure Plan if it came to fruition. This would be included with the Utility Master Plan that is being completed by Baxter & Woodman this budget year. Tim also provided some Streets fast facts which talked about a 3-year Street Rehabilitation Strategic Plan as well as snow and ice control.

Tim talked about the Forestry Division that provides services such as:

- Trimming right of way trees

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- Delivering wood Chips
- Mowing over 12 acres of grass
- Brush Pick up program
- Tree removal
- Tree planting

Fleet Maintenance Division

- 30% of Fleet/Equipment is over 15 years' old
- 26% of Fleet/Equipment is graded in *Poor* condition
- All 5-Yard Front Line Plow Trucks are over 10 years' old

Some key pieces of equipment have been replaced in the last 7 years. The replacement of fleet must continue to be priority.

Facilities

- The Public Works Remodel Project – Originally constructed in 1969 with minor repairs and changes over the years. This project is well overdue.
- A Grant of just over \$600,000 was awarded to the Village for this project 2 years ago.
- What is the plan if this doesn't come through???

Some Financial Summary – Challenges

- Prevailing Wage Act
- OSHA
- Water/Sewer Rates
- Capital Improvement Needs

Next Steps

- Priorities
- Explore Funding Sources
- Meet Mandates

Future for Public Works

- Recover and Improve Staffing
- Proactively Manage Assets
- Use Technology to Enhance Services
- Accreditation from APWA
- Green Initiatives / Infrastructure
- Environmentally Conscious Snow / Ice Removal

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director, Pat DiPersio, said that the Community Development Department oversees the Village Building Department functions as well as Land Use and Economic Development planning. These functions guide public and private development through comprehensive planning, development policies and review standards in order to create and maintain a balanced community.

Community Development starts with planning:

- Comprehensive Plan
- Land Use Plan
- Economic Development Plan

Pat went on to list some of the plans of Winthrop Harbor that dated back to 1964 and went through 2019. Pat listed some of the things necessary for change. He listed the enigma of Economic Development listing the Standard Site Selection Criteria vs Winthrop Harbor's existing Conditions. Continued attempts to attract outside investment have failed primarily because local market conditions simply do not meet the needs of the investor.

- We know it's not working because we have the benefit of a historical record
- The marina has been operating since 1989
- The original master development plan was not completed
- Had the original plan been completed, it would have created the core of a tourism based economy
- Non-boater amenities/activities serve a far larger market than boaters alone
- A fully developed eco-tourism industry is our best chance to drive customers to the Village in a manner that changes those criteria that attract investment
- Catalyst projects will be required to overcome the fact that businesses do not wish to be "Trail Blazers"
- The objective of the Village working to change market conditions has informed actions taken to date and planned next steps

Pat had a long list of Actions Taken to date. He also listed Successful Grant Awards to Date. They were only possible with the support and guidance of the Village Board, Economic Development Commission, Planning & Zoning Board and the Community.

Pat said we need to "Keep working the Plans" and provided a long list of things on the plan.

The Next meeting is planned for November 2nd, 2021 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m. on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.