

Village of North Fond du Lac
OFFICIAL MINUTES- Meeting of May 4, 2009
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

PRESENT:

Jim Scharf, Trustee
Keith King, Trustee
Mike Will, Trustee
Mike Streetar, Trustee

ABSENT: James Moore, Village President (excused)

STAFF PRESENT:

Chuck Hornung, Administrator
Donna Richards, Village Clerk
Darren Pautsch, Police Captain
Paul Nelson, Fire/EMS Chief

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Scharf.

Chairman: SCHARF

Citizens wishing to be heard may address the committee on any agenda issue after the committee discussion has been completed, but prior to consensus. Please raise your hand to be recognized by the chair. Citizens wishing to be heard on topics not listed on the agenda may speak under item B.

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS.

1. Discuss the Annual Report of the Fond du Lac County Economic Development Commission. Presentation by Brenda Hicks-Sorensen. FCEDC served 187 clients, of which 72% were new to FCEDC services, others were carryovers. 48% are existing businesses seeking development assistance, large or small. Entrepreneurs are worked with, to develop a business plan, and then assistance is provided as needed from that point, depending on the person's needs. 36% were entrepreneurs, remaining 16% business attraction clients. Business revolving loan fund provided \$1.6 million to 8 businesses, and 7 are moving forward. One is even ready to expand. It was an especially busy year with the flood recovery, so spent a lot of time working with flood clients, but they are not included in the 187 client figure.

Impact Loan Program is FCEDC's fund. That is what we used for Ziegler. We reutilized the repayment of those funds for flood recovery, for up to \$5,000 each for business people quickly to \$85,000 in payments deferred for 2 years, but many are already paying back. Also, had Commerce and City money for flood recovery, \$300,000 and \$25,000. Awarded nearly all of this, 0% deferred for up to 2 years.

Established a new Small Business Revolving Loan Fund, and provided 4 loans totaling \$376,000 last year.

Bullseye goals are: Balanced industry, max job growth, capital investment, and talent attraction. A lot is going on... Chicago Tube and Iron, Wausau Everest and MacNeal Steel were attracted. Many are well paying jobs, with Wausau Everest paying over \$60,000 a year. McNeal Steel is its first Wisconsin operation. Concern about job growth is great. Some say they should be expanding, but hesitant... hunkering down. Others struggling, some going gangbusters. Local industries are cautious about hiring new positions in this economy; they invest in capital instead.

FCEDC Operating budget: sources are higher due to an unforeseen payoff that occurred. Talked about public/private/ revolving loan fund/ and grant portions of budget.

We would like another Spec building in the area, but that is not happening. We need one. We need space for businesses/people, and don't have it.

Melissa is in the new position as Community Development Specialist. She sent out a report today, and will do so quarterly. We are working on her workplan; it is in draft form.

Scharf asked how FdL County fares against the other counties. It is on FCEDC's website. Foreclosures... no change from 2008 and 2007, but drastic jump first quarter of 2009. But lenders don't see this, so likely not local financial institutions making the foreclosed loans. We are a slow growth community, about 1% a year, consistent. Home sales are down, but some say slow, others say very busy with refinances and tax credits. Wages are average, unemployment number is high. For March 12.6% City, 10.4% County, State 9.4%, nation 9%. Second highest in MSAs in the State. Top in safest, top in schools, exactly in the middle in unemployment. When looking at Counties, FdL was 36 out of 72, right in the middle.

(Skipped to **New Business** for presentation by the Canadian National Rail.) Tammy Keller introduced Kevin Soucie from Canadian National (CN). She said they have been very generous in their contributions to the main event of the evening for North Fondy Fest. Mike Streetar explained that usually main entertainment bigger name band, used to be around \$1,500. This year, again, with larger name band. Extension on concession stand due to income from North fondy Fest. Cost about \$11,000 materials only, and all the labor was donated. We do appreciate your support. Kevin Soucie said we have been part of this community for a very long time. Says they plan to be here for a very long time, and appreciate the partnership they have with this community. Presentation of a check for \$4,000.

2. Discuss a waiver of fees or an alternative fee schedule for operator's licenses for persons who will work with the Outdoor Recreation/Village Park concession stand as their only use of an operator's license in the Village, and other possible circumstances, with Board approval. Donna Richards expressed that there was a request for a break in licensing fees for Outdoor Recreation, as their funds are used to do improvements in the Village. As this is a license for anywhere in the Village, we probably need to have a condition that they cannot use this license at other establishments in the Village. Mike Streetar explained that there has been turnover, and a new group of people will become operators for Outdoor Recreation. Darren Pautsch explained that there is a cost for each license, to do the criminal history check. Amount is \$5 cost per background check. Chuck Hornung said we would absorb this cost. Mike Will suggested that we limit the numbers of people who would be able to get these reduced fee licenses for Outdoor Recreation. Mike Streetar says its hard to get people to do this work, so he doesn't foresee too many people wanting to do this. They have to get the training first. Keith King also stated that it is hard to get volunteers, even if they get paid \$20 to sell soda. He doesn't think we will have many people doing this. We could revisit this as needed. Jim Scharf said maybe we could limit it to 20 people. Chuck said let's revisit this at another time.

CONSENSUS with conditions.

3. Discuss Ordinance O-2009-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 24.05 PENALTY PROVISIONS (1) GENERAL PENALTIES, increasing municipal fine limits from \$500 to \$1000. (Firdt Reading.) Darren Pautsch explained that the maximum is currently \$500 in the Village, but was changed at the State level to \$1,000 maximum. May have to handle more cases locally that would have otherwise been prosecuted by the State (County Court). Several people require more of the Police Department's time. If limits are increased, we will likely be more in line with the rest of the State. Mike Will asked about fines along with court costs, which may be \$500 plus \$150 in court costs, for example, currently.
4. Discuss National Police Week May 10-16, 2009, the week for the nation to honor police officers killed in the line of duty. A Resolution was passed in the Village of North Fond du Lac in 1998. We honor fallen officers by flying the flag at half-staff and by wearing black memorial bands on our uniforms during the week. Charles Hornung explained the history of the day, and the honoring of fallen officers. May 15 is Memorial Day, with flags at half-staff.
5. Discuss Non-intoxicating Beverage License for Outdoor Recreation, Inc., for the period May 4, 2009-June 30, 2010. Donna Richards explained that we are playing catch-up, want to start selling soda this coming weekend. Fee is \$5 and has been paid.

CONSENSUS.

B. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

- D. NEW BUSINESS.** Mike Streetar asked the results of the sale of the Police vehicle. \$3,600 paid for the vehicle. Also, discussed reasons for separate COW and Board. May revisit this, if the board wants to. Mike Will said it would help with flow, but he also likes the President chairing the Board meeting, and experience rotating facilitation. Jim Scharf was interested in having Board members going through the ordinances, and decide on needed changes. Mr. Scharf thought it would be good to have the Board as a whole involved. Take a look, ask questions, get input. Should some changes be made? Donna Richards suggested that changes be discussed with staff first, to understand the background or State requirements when possible changes are considered. That would save Board meeting time for a more informed discussion. Chuck mentioned a proposal from B.C.I. Burke and Company to us that would provide a chance for a good price on play equipment. In exchange the company would be allowed to take promotional pictures of installed equipment.

CLOSING OF MEETING at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Scharf, Village Trustee