

**CITY OF ELKHORN**  
**Committee of the Whole Minutes**  
**Common Council Chambers, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

February 12, 2018

Committee of the Whole was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Reynolds followed by roll call.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Howie Reynolds, Aldermen Tim Shiroda, Frank Boggs, Cathy Bensaid, Bruce Lechner, Scott McClory, Tom Myrin.

Also present: Administrator Sam Tapson, Finance Director James Heilman, City Clerk Cairie Virrueta, Fire Chief Rod Smith, DPW Operations Manager Matthew Lindstrom, Police Captain Jon Anzalone, Kellen Olshefski

**Fire/EMS Staffing: Discussion of Future Services**

Administrator Tapson said the Council needed to decide a direction for the Fire/EMS Department. If this goes to a referendum in 2018 it needs to be determined soon. Volunteer, paid-on-call was used previously. Currently Fire/EMS is paid on premise contracted 24-7/365. The new program has improved response times and seems to be working. Currently this costs about \$580,000 yearly, if the City goes to the full-time Fire/EMT combination the cost goes to 1.3-1.5 million, which is only for staff. The current program can be maintained for 3-5 years, based on maintaining the status quo. Administrator Tapson believes it is better to wait until 2020 for a referendum. Towns need to be involved in the process. Fire Chief Smith said he is losing the paid-on-call staff which supplements the current program. He said the full-time staff won't be created immediately, but gradually at about 2 people a year. The full-time program would need 6-8 people per shift. Mayor Reynolds asked if sleeping quarters would need to be added; Fire Chief Smith said they already have it but it would need to be updated. Administrator Tapson suggested a plan be created to implement the full-time program. No other municipalities in the area are doing this and it needs to be determined ahead of time. The Fire/EMS department covers 103 square miles. Alderman Myrin suggested a committee be formed to look at it. Mayor Reynolds said the towns need to be included. Administrator Tapson referenced S. Milwaukee's referendum and a public survey and advertising they did for it. He suggested a survey be done to gauge public sentiment. He said the City needed a solid plan to add to the property tax which is not popular among residents. Alderman Myrin asked why a referendum was needed; because state law requires it to exceed the levy. Alderman McClory would like to see what similar communities are doing with Fire/EMS; Fire Chief Smith can get that information. After discussion it was decided to have the Public Safety Committee continue discussion on Fire/EMS staffing. It will meet and discuss how to approach the towns to minimize confusion.

**Babe Mann Park: Discussion re makeup of Planning Ad-Hoc Committee and Agreement with Teska Associates, Inc.**

The Planning Ad-Hoc Committee would be comprised of Aldermen McClory, Lechner and Myrin, the Rec Director plus one person for the Rec Board. Administrator Tapson obtained a professional services agreement with Teska to facilitate the parking planning process. Alderman Lechner questioned why the City couldn't reexamine and use the 2005 plan. He felt the money spent on Teska could be used towards improving the park path instead. He also questioned whether the City was in a position to spend money on the park with the other projects it has to do. Finance Director Heilman said when the Council created its Capital Improvement Plan it prioritized the Public Works building, new City Hall and streets; Babe Mann was towards the bottom of the list. If the Council wanted to do Babe Mann sooner, it would need to take something out. It might be able to be done in phases. Mayor Reynolds felt the streets were a priority. Alderman Lechner asked when the City could afford to do Babe Mann; after 2021 or 2022. **Motion (Lechner/Bensaid) to not engage Babe Mann Park plans this year and to set it aside.** Alderman Myrin asked if any funds were available to do anything in 2019; Finance Director Heilman said it is not in the CIP plan however the City could explore options but it would need a plan to do that. Administrator Tapson suggested that the Council change the priority for the park or accept the impacts to do it. He suggested

that the City may need to do an update on the City's financial management from Ehler's . Alderman McClory said he didn't want to do the park in pieces and supported doing it after DPW and City Hall. Alderman Lechner said he supported the park improvements but with all the upcoming projects, he felt it needed to wait. **Alderman Lechner called the question. Roll call vote: Lechner, yes; Bensaid, yes; Myrin, yes; Shiroda, yes; Boggs, yes; McClory, yes; advisory votes: Fink, yes; Chapman, yes. Motion carried.**

#### **Westlawn Avenue: Decision re Sidewalk Extension**

DPW Manager Lindstrom said the City's Sidewalk Plan requires sidewalk installation when streets are reconstructed, however at Westlawn there would be a conflict with trees, landscaped areas and retaining walls. There would also be drainage concerns. Administrator Tapson asked if the sidewalk could be integrated with the curb. DPW Manager Lindstrom said the alignment could be changed to avoid some conflicts, but drainage concerns remain. Alderman Shiroda noted that some of the driveways are very short and could result in truck owners parking on the sidewalk. Mayor Reynolds said sometimes following the City's plan is not practicable and the DPW Manager or City Engineer needs the option to not put in sidewalks in these areas. Alderman Shiroda said the bottom line is that the sidewalk doesn't lead anywhere such as a park or school, it could create drainage problems and upset property owners. **Motion (Shiroda/Bensaid) to eliminate sidewalks from the Westlawn reconstruction project. Voice vote: Myrin, no; rest, yes; motion carried.**

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion (McClory/Shiroda) to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Voice vote, all approved, motion carried.**

Cairie L. Virrueta  
City Clerk