

MINUTES
FOX FIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL
Monthly Work Session Agenda
April 25, 2024 ~ 4:30 PM
Village Hall Meeting Room

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Janice Gregorich called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
2. **Members Present:** Mayor Pro Temp Janet Nauman and Councilmembers Mary Gilroy, Warren Morgan, and Don Nelson
3. **Others Present:** Residents of the Village
4. **Discussion Items:**

Mayor Pro Temp Naman added *Meeting with Pinehurst Zoning Director* to the agenda.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Gilroy and carried unanimously.

- A. Mayor Pro Temp Nauman
- Meeting with Pinehurst Zoning Director

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and Mayor Gregorich met with Pinehurst Zoning Director, Alex Cameron to discuss stormwater drainage and how the Village can combat issues before they happen. Mr. Cameron provided a lot of useful information, including copies of Pinehurst permits used, information from the EPA, and offered to assist with inspections on new constructions. Nauman and Gregorich will review everything provided and come up with a process.

- B. Mayor Gregorich
- SMPO Update

Mayor Gregorich was informed that non-voting members of the SMPO must also sign the required ethics agreement and provide financial disclosures. The Village has officially exited the SMPO and will instead be represented by the County. We still have the ability to be vocal at meetings and express our desires and concern to County Commissioner Frank Quis.

- Village Pool

Mayor Gregorich and Mayor Pro Temp Nauman provided an update on the pool. A second quote for pool repairs was received, coming in \$26,000 higher than Danny Jackson's quote for the same scope of work. An assessment will be completed to determine the remaining lifespan of the pool. However, this cannot be done until mid-May and it will take several days to receive the final report. If we move forward with repairs, it will be into the month of July before they are completed, leaving roughly four weeks for the pool to be open. Due to these circumstances, Mayor Gregorich suggested the council make an announcement that the pool cannot be open this season.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to not open the Village pool this season, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

- C. Councilmember Don Nelson

- Fire and Police Update

Councilmember Nelson and Councilmember Gilroy met with Fire Chief Eric Stromberg on the 16th. The Fire Department is asking for a \$99,000 increase which is 30% higher than the previous year's budget. Eric was told that would not work and his reply was they might have to cut services. Nelson asked him to come back with a proposal on what they can do to bring it down to an affordable range. Mayor Gregorich added that as of now, the fire department takes one third of our ad valorem tax revenue. Nauman questioned the justification of the increase and Gilroy suggested they provide details on where the money is spent.

Nelson reported that Officer Chris Judge's last day is May 5th, leaving the department with one and a half officers at this time. An interview is scheduled with an officer from Carthage. Nelson called the Dodge service department, but the service manager was not there. The police vehicle has been sitting there for over eight months.

- Auxiliary Officers

There are currently two unpaid auxiliary officers on the roster, Jeremy Blake and Michael Badour. The Village pays \$600 yearly for each officer's workers comp coverage. Jeremy Blake is no longer interested in serving as an auxiliary officer. Mr. Badour will remain on the roster and work the required 96 hours per year, recording his hours with the Village Administrator, Lisa Kivett.

- Salary Schedule

Councilmember Nelson prepared a brief salary schedule for the police department and provided copies to each councilmember. The council discussed the rank structure and salaries proposed for each. Chief Amezquita participated in the conversation about ranks and salaries.

D. Councilmember Gilroy

- 2024/2025 Budget

Councilmembers continued discussion on their respective departments for the upcoming 2024-2025 budget.

5. Public Comments – Items Listed on Agenda Only

Kathleen Heine 41 Richmond Road commented that she felt that obtaining a second quote for pool repairs was pushed and it played a part in the pool not being able to open this year. She would like the Village to make the pool more important so it can be opened next year. Ms. Heine also asked if the County Sheriff's Department responded to calls if no Village police were on duty. The reply was yes, they do respond.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to recess the Work Session at 6:14 PM, seconded by Councilmember Nelson and carried unanimously.

6. Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a)(6) *To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee*

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to open the Closed Session, seconded by Councilmember Nelson and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to close the Closed Session and return to the Work Session at 6:39 PM, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

7. Adjournment

Mayor Gregorich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Nelson and carried unanimously. The Work Session adjourned at 6:40 PM.



Lisa A. Kivett, MMC, NCCMC, CZO
Village Clerk



Janice Gregorich
Mayor