

MINUTES
FOX FIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
Village Hall Meeting Room
April 27, 2023 - 4:30 PM

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Boito called the Work Session to order at 4:30 PM.
2. **Members Present:** Councilmembers, Janice Gregorich, Janet Nauman, Don Nelson, and Gary Samuels
3. **Others Present:** Mary Gilroy, Leslie Frusco, Barbara Okula, Kathy Steranka, Ed Gaito, and Sandy Cameron

4. Items for Discussion:

Councilmember Nauman removed *Implementing Policy for Missed Council Meetings* from the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem added *Budget Amendment #2023-05* for adoption to the agenda.

- **Swimming Pool**

Councilmember Nauman provided status updates on Village pool repairs, drain cover replacements, and opening inspection requirements.

A pre-opening facility cleaning and set-up day is scheduled for May 13th at 9:00AM. A request for volunteers will be posted to the Village website.

Eight pool monitors were hired by USA Pool Management. A staff orientation and training meeting is scheduled for May 2nd at the pool, Nauman will attend.

Season Passes will be available for purchase this year. Nauman asked the council to assist with selling passes during the week of May 15th. Two-hour timeslots will be scheduled each day for residents to purchase passes.

Since the Village no longer manages the pool, operational hours are set at 6 hours per day. Opening and closing times will fluctuate throughout the season to accommodate residents.

- **Police & Fire Update**

Councilmember Nauman reported some concerns with the electronic speed limit signs. Some were not working properly because of lack of sunshine or dirty solar panels. Signs were cleaned and relocated in areas of the Village.

Overgrown brush and bamboo were trimmed back on the fire truck access road next to the Village offices.

- **Budget Amendment #2023-05**

Mayor Pro Tem Gregorich presented *Budget Amendment #2023-05* which transfers \$400,000 to Street Reserve and \$100,000 to Employee Compensation Fund from the General Fund.

Councilmember Nelson made a **motion to adopt Budget Amendment #2023-05** and the motion was carried unanimously.

- **Review 2023-2024 Budget**

Mayor Pro Tem Gregorich provided the council with a sheet containing budget review notes. The current budget without revenue from motor vehicle or property taxes is estimated to be \$766,700. A large part of the budget comes from sales tax revenue which we estimate to receive \$523,000. Once we put expenses into the spreadsheet, we end up with a deficit of \$842,150. This amount will guide us in deciding the mil rate. Expenses are typical except for those funded through reserves, \$84,000 for the playground equipment and trail refurbishing. Gregorich continues providing details of the proposed budget and discussion ensued on setting the mil rate. **After discussion, all council members agreed to recommend a mil rate of .29 cents.**

Mayor Boito added a Citizens Participation Meeting will be held at the beginning of the May 25th work session. This will allow for citizens input on the 2023-2024 Budget.

- **Update of Neighboring Municipalities Support Against Affordable Housing Bills**

Mayor Boito provided an update on his communication with neighboring communities about the recently enacted bills. Boito and Gregorich will meet with representatives of the Village of Whispering Pines to garner their support in opposing HB409 and SB317 as well as others coming up. Brief discussion followed.

- **Slides for Council Retreat**

Mayor Boito provided the council with copies of slides from a previous retreat to use as a guide. Boito is creating slides for the Long Range Plan.

- **Blood Pressure Station**

Mayor Boito reported a representative from First Health has offered as part of a program through a grant, a blood pressure station to be placed in the Administration office lobby. The station will consist of a blood pressure cuff and literature. Pictures of stations set in other locations were available for viewing. No decision was made.

- **Signs**

Mayor Boito pointed out the general store installed two illuminated OPEN signs on the front and side of the building. The store owner was contacted and asked to submit a permit for the signs and advised the signage could not be flashing or intermittent. He was receptive. Mayor Boito suggested Planning & Zoning review the sign ordinance and address some gray areas.

5. Public Comments

Kathy Steranka – 46 Richmond Rd asked the council to continue designating one hour on Tuesday and Thursday of each week for water aerobics. She is not asking for additional hours to the schedule, just for the first hour to be designated. She provided information on previous years' water aerobics hours to use as an example. Councilmember Nauman replied if the Village could be assured that residents could still swim laps and use the pool during an adult swim hour, the Village would designate the first hour on Tuesday and Thursday as adult swim only.

Leslie Frusco – 7 Hillside Drive commended the council for their work in the budget, especially during a revaluation year. She suggested the council consider a .30 cent mil rate instead of .29 cents and provided her reasoning behind this. Discussion followed.

Beth Vieira – 37 Woodland Circle is concerned the pool hours of operation and increased fees is not accommodating to families. She suggested keeping the pool open until October.

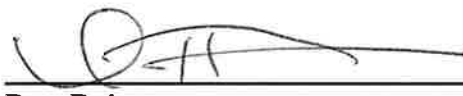
Barbara Okula – 4 Foxhill Circle asked if a season pass was the only option available. Nauman replied that a daily walk-in fee of \$5.00 at the pool is available.

6. Adjournment

Councilmember Nauman made a motion to adjourn. The vote was called, and motion carried. The Work Session adjourned at 5:23 PM.



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



Don Boito
Mayor