

**MINUTES
FOX FIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Village Hall Meeting Room – September 12, 2023-4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order: Mayor Boito called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM
2. Members Present: Mayor Pro Temp Janice Gregorich, Councilmembers Janet Nauman, Don Nelson, and Gary Samuels
3. Others Present: Mary Gilroy-P&Z Chair, and several members of the public.
4. Moment of Silence: Mayor Boito requested those present to pause for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Approval of the September 12, 2023, Regular Meeting Agenda

Mayor Boito added *Recombination on Wedgewood, SMPO Funding Formula, and Candidate Forum* under New Business.

Councilmember Nauman made a motion to adopt the September 12, 2023 agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

All items listed below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and without discussion.

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - August 8, 2023 Regular Meeting

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment Period
None

8. Zoning Administrators Report - Lisa Kivett

Currently a total of Fifty-six (56) homes are under construction or in the beginning stages of lot clearing. One (1) is located within the ETJ.

Five (5) Single Family Residence Application:

Woodland Circle
Birdie Ct.
Brassie Lane
Vista Ridge East
Porterfield Lane

Six (6) Certificate of Occupancy were issued:

Cardinal Drive
Forest Ridge
Vista Ridge W
Reynview Ct
Richmond Rd.
Tufts Vista ETJ

Other Permits Issued:

Four (4) Fence
Two (2) Pool
One (1) Propane Tank

Permits Denied:

One (1) Accessory Building

Received a Request for Variance to Ordinance, Article VIII, Sec. 21-8-1, "Accessory Buildings". A Board of Adjustment Hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Gregorich asked for a status on the Golf Course maintenance building. She noticed they were storing equipment inside the building. Boito replied they were approximately 6 weeks out on a Certificate of Occupancy. Councilmember Samuels who serves as the Village Liaison with the golf course will follow up on this issue.

9. Council Member Reports:

A. Public Safety – Don Nelson

▪ Fire Department Update – Chief Stromberg

Chief Eric Stromberg reported the new pumper/tanker was delivered and fire department staff are in the process of mounting equipment on the vehicle. For ISO purposes, the pumper/tanker is being called an “engine” as ISO requires WEFD to respond to all fires with two engines. The new engine #654 will be kept in the Foxfire substation and Stromberg hopes it will be in service by the end of September.

Stromberg reported that WEFD received a Class 3 ISO rating that went in effect in July. He urged residents to contact their insurance company to confirm they are listed as Class 3. This could result in some cases, a significant savings in their home-owners insurance. Stromberg provided details on the ISO rating.

Stromberg reported WEFD was consistently busy and on pace to answer upwards of 1050 calls this year. Calls consist of fire, rescue and EMS. Stromberg provided details on call types, and information on Moore Counties Reverse 9-11 phone system. He suggested residents visit the County website for information on receiving the alerts.

▪ Police Department Update – Chief Shue

Chief Shue reported due to computer issues he was unable to print off copies of the August call sheet. However, he did email copies to each council member. The department was busy most of the month with the Aleshia Watts murder case. The case was very complex and involved multiple agencies.

Shue reported the grant is no longer available and the department will be about \$6,000 short on the funding for equipment this year. Over the past five years, the department was able to purchase over \$125,000 of equipment using grant funds. Shue will reach out to his grant writer to see if any other federal or state side grants can be applied for. Mayor Pro Tem Gregorich cautioned Chief Shue about applying for federal grants due to the administrative burden it poses.

The department is ramping up its participation in the Governors Highway Safety Program with checkpoints in the area. The checkpoints have resulted in several arrests and citations over the past 30 days. With the arrests and citations, the department earns points that translate into dollars to be used to purchase equipment. The department is on track to be able to purchase \$10,000 of equipment by the end of the year. Councilmember Nauman added to be clear, the police department is not required to notify the public about the checkpoints. Shue replied yes, with the exception of a DWI purposed checkpoint. Nauman pointed out the checkpoints are a benefit in many ways, they can be used to check for unregistered vehicles, driving without a license or insurance, outstanding warrants, drugs, and weapons. Shue replied yes, and they have found all of these while doing a checkpoint however, his department classifies its checkpoints as “license checkpoints”. Officer Judge’s car is in the shop. It was thought to be a rear-end issue but now involves transmission. The vehicle is still under warranty.

B. Finance – Janice Gregorich

▪ Financial Report

Mayor Pro Tem Gregorich reported receiving the North Carolina Capital Trust Prospectus and Annual Report. She asked the report to be maintained by the Village Clerk as public record. The Village is currently earning close to 5% from that fund.

Gregorich added the Village is currently earning cash balances as of August 31st. The general fund balance is \$2,321,327 of which \$1,478,239 is reserved. The water fund balance is \$1,370,906 of which \$471,076 is reserved. The total cash on hand is 3,692,233. The Village has 1.95 million in the capital trust account for the general fund and \$835,000 in the water fund. Interest earned on these accounts for August is \$12,334. These accounts have the potential to earn \$150,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

Property tax bills were mailed out. If anyone has questions about their tax bill, they should contact Sharon at the Village office.

Gregorich met with the auditor and the audit started for the previous year. The auditor sees no issues and has all the information he needs to continue with the audit. Gregorich will begin cost benefit analysis on several items of the Long-range Plan.

C. Streets and Park – Janet Nauman

- Lending Library

Councilmember Nauman reported the first of two “Lending Library” structures was installed at the Village Park near the bulletin board. Mick McCue built, donated, and installed it. The second structure will be placed at the Village Hall by the end of the month. Councilmember Samuels recognized George Wahl for initiating the project.

- Park Update

The trench at the park was filled-in and the landscaper will put down pine straw later in the week. The FPOA Carnival is scheduled for September 23rd. The entire park’s sidewalks, pavilions, buildings, and fascia board were power washed by PCS paving. The broken concrete parking lot bumper was replaced, and volunteer Ron Nauman reinforced the fascia board. The entire grass area of the park was treated for fire ants.

- Village Pool

The “Pool Day” to put away furniture was cancelled due to rain. Nauman rescheduled it for September 23rd at 9:00 am. She asked for volunteers to assist.

- Streets

The paving project on Bobolink is now complete. The rocks placed at the corner of Woodland Circle and Hoffman Road are working as a deterrent for people driving off into the dirt.

D. Water Department - Gary Samuels

Councilmember Samules reported the recent severe thunderstorm that came through Foxfire caused some significant damage to the water infrastructure specific to regulating the amount of water going into the tank. Originally thought to be a lightening strike was really just a power surge. It was found almost by accident when the internet company needed access to the tower to reset their equipment. Jesse went in to open the gate and while there conducted a check finding the tank was down to 90 feet. The tank level should be maintained at 115 feet. Jesse conducted an investigation finding significant damage to the boards and monitoring equipment. Parts were replaced and we are functioning now at 100%. All is functioning well with the exception of the alerting system that will be replaced. The extent of repairs is at least \$2,000 and we have reached out to the insurance company who will send out an adjuster. Mayor Boito added the toxicity report should be received by the following week.

10. New Business

- Recombination on Wedgewood

Boito provided the council with a draft agreement for a recombination of parcels owned by Mr. McSwain on Wedgewood. Gregorich raised concerns on verbiage about easements. Boito will wait until Lisa Kivett returns from vacation and then contact attorney Brady Herman regarding the verbiage.

- SMPO Funding Formula

Mayor Boito received an email from Whispering Pines Mayor Bernhard who suggested Foxfire join them in offering to pay the same annual amount of \$5,000 as all other municipalities. This might help the argument for 1 vote per participant instead of the potential for weighted votes. Boito asked the council to discuss. The council previously agreed to support the weighted vote structure and pay the

\$800.00 to participate in the SMPO. Extensive discussion ensued.

Councilmember Nauman made a motion to recommend the one vote and to pay \$5,000 to participate in the SMPO. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Candidate Forum

The council discussed scheduling a Candidate Forum for the upcoming election. A list of questions was sent to each of the four candidates and their responses will be published on the Village website. Councilmember Samuels pointed out the previous election had many candidates, and the forum was helpful. In his opinion, a forum is not needed this time as the questions submitted have the necessary answers to guide residents in making a decision. Other council members concurred.

11. Old Business
None

12. Public Comments:

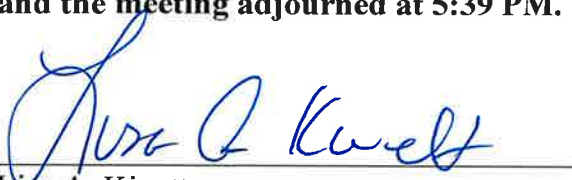
Mary Gilroy commented on the SMPO weighted vote and agreed it was a good idea at this time. Gilroy suggested that Foxfire be involved in the Steering Committee for the County Land Use Plan. She will contact Debra Ensminger about being involved.

Barbara Okula asked what the \$5,000 was for. Boito replied for administrative costs and payable once per year.

Warren Morgan suggested Mick McCue be asked to assist the Village since he was now on the County Planning Board. Mr. Morgan thanked the council for the recent upgrades to the playground.

13. Adjournment

Councilmember Nauman made a motion to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.



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



Don Boito
Mayor