

**VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE LAKE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

President Nedrow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Scott, Nedrow, Sienkiewicz, Dumont, Duff, Yourke, Malek

Absent: None

Others: Administrator Smith, Treasurer Kondek and four members of the public

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public had any discussion for the Work Session

DISCUSSION ON ALTERNATIVE FUNDING OPTIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, LAKES AND CANALS, ROAD PAVING AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Administrator Smith talked about the things Council might discuss this evening. He reported Chief Ellsworth has a good plan for the Police Department for 5 years out. Nedrow noted to start out, Council needs to get a look at what the expenditures down the road could be and to plan for it. Scott asked if the paving schedule should be stretched out. Scott noted the Park and Recreation Master Plan is being worked on heavily.

Scott asked Kondek what he sees in the next five years. Kondek stated that the Village has been able to build up the fund balance over the last decade. There isn't ample resources in highway funds for road work. There are some structural items starting to concern him. Scott asked if the general taxable value reached or exceeded where the Village is. Kondek said it took a huge drop in 2008 and 2009 and the Village is just now ahead of that. It's about a 4% increase for 2018/2019. The panhandle development is under appeal with the tax tribunal right now. When Kondek started, the millage rate was 9.573. There is excess capacity in the millage rate. It could be rolled up. It's a revenue source that is available for potential funding sources.

Sienkiewicz asked if Council is planning to get the Finance Committee together? Nedrow said that makes sense. Sienkiewicz knows paving needs to be done, but would like to be frugal on other items. Nedrow would like a long range plan and then see how the Village can fund it and what grants may be available.

Malek asked about the millage increase, if it was done now, when could it be done again. If the Village did that, we're still not putting a big burden on the taxpayers. What would it create on the average household? Kondek could calculate that number quick enough. Just this year alone there could be

\$200,000 in capital outlay. Malek feels that residents get a lot for what they pay for in taxes in the Village.

Sienkiewicz stated that there is not a lot of base in the Village roads. The Village could be on the right path to start with the best and work down. Malek stated that Council always prioritized keeping the roads up.

Scott said that Council should move this discussion into the Finance Committee. Nedrow asked Smith how Clawson attacked this kind of situation? Smith said they dipped into their fund. Kondek stated that all cities have capital improvement plans. Smith stated that they did a park improvement bond in Clawson.

Duff would like to get back on track to discuss alternative funding. For the parks, Council would like to figure out what the Village is doing and then possibly get grants for it. Sienkiewicz asked Treasurer Kondek in his professional opinion, what is the most palatable way? Council needs to come up with solid, hard costs and put it before the voters in a bond issue. Scott noted that Council still has to talk about what these forward costs are going to look like. Kondek stated that Council would identify it as a capital improvement bond, just general. Dumont asked if everyone is in favor of a bond. Council would have to get the numbers first.

Nedrow wanted to point out that the Village has put a lot of money into the lake over the years, but not into the parks. If the Village can stretch road funding out down the road, it's a possible way to go. He would like to stretch and equal out those expenditures during the ups and downs of the budget. What is the best way to involve the whole Village in the upkeep of the parks.

Nedrow stated that Council needs to get a long range road funding plan from Mike Powell with alternative funding. Council needs to assemble these costs. Maybe the Village needs to increase this mileage to keep up with costs such as MERS.

DISCUSSION ON THE WEBSITE REDESIGN RFP

Smith reported that he has drafted a RFP for the website redesign.

MOTION by Duff, seconded by Yourke, to go out for a RFP on website design. Motion carried.

Council discussed hiring a harvester operator; the Village needs to get someone into that position soon.

MOTION by Duff, seconded by Scott, to post for a harvester operator at a rate of \$20 per hour. They can be trained by DPW Leader Andy Stone. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Smith asked if Council would prefer to have the seal in color to post in Village Council Chambers and upstairs and Council would prefer color. Smith asked the Commerce Township Fire Chief about burning the phragmites and he provided the name of two companies who could burn them and said he could have a fire truck on hand.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Duff, seconded by Malek, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Michael Smith, Clerk
Sherri A. Ward, Recording Secretary

Brian Nedrow, Village Council President

PRELIMINARY