

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
VILLAGE OF STOCKHOLM
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
STOCKHOLM VILLAGE HALL**

6:00 PM Thursday, 09/06/2018 at the Village Hall

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

At the last Board meeting the idea of the Board of Trustees meeting as a Committee of the Whole was discussed. This is a committee made up of the Village Trustees. *“The committee of the whole is used to allow more free-ranging discussion than may be allowed under rules of the governing body”*.¹

This is an Open Meeting and members of the public are invited to engage in discussion with the trustees on current Village issues. Members of the public can be heard at the meeting. The committee of the whole debates Village issues and makes recommendations to the Village Board. The report of the committee of the whole is submitted to the Village Board. The following is an excerpt from the League of Municipalities Handbook for Wisconsin Municipal Officials.

“Action on recommendations of the committee of the whole on these matters may be taken by the council or board at its next regular meeting under suspension of the rules. A public hearing conducted by the governing body itself may be legally required on some questions. In that case, following the hearing the governing body may take one of several courses of action: it may either reach a final decision, refer the matter to a special board or commission for further investigation, or refer the matter to the committee of the whole.

“Ordinarily, the clerk will keep less detailed minutes of the committee of the whole meetings than of the regular meeting of the governing body. Detailed committee minutes are not essential, principally because the statutes do not require publication of committee proceeding.

*“The committee of the whole makes a report to the governing body at its regular meeting. The report usually consists of recommendations as to action to be taken on matters previously referred to the committee of the whole. These recommendations take the form of resolutions adopted by majority vote and when the resolutions are accepted or rejected by majority vote of the governing body, the report of the committee of the whole becomes duly authorized action, except on matters requiring extraordinary votes. A trustee may request ‘separate action’ on any one item included in the report. On such matter, if the board permits it, the debate can be a duplicated of that of the committee of the whole meeting and could result in two long meetings without action being taken.”*²

Asking Village Board members & the Public to attend another Village meeting is not something to be done without a good reason. It is apparent from the last public hearing that there is a need for better public and board communication. Notwithstanding the constraints of the state Open Meeting Law, a committee of the whole should allow better citizen participation in the governance of the Village. This alone is reason enough.

Even though this is a less formal and a more open meeting; those attending need to stay on topic & address the specific issues being discussed. Both committee of the whole members and the public need to respect the limited time we all have for Village business and should limit comments to make the process as efficient as possible.

AGENDA

1. Committee of the Whole: discussion of the purpose and objectives of the Committee of the Whole.
2. Review agenda for the next Board Meeting
3. Adjourn meeting

John Myklebust
President of the Board of Trustees

¹ Handbook for Wisconsin Municipal Officials 02/17- p 164 (2) Committee of the Whole

² Handbook for Wisconsin Municipal Officials 02/17- p 165 (2) Committee of the Whole